

INSIDE



Christopher Still to be named to artist guild

5A

Group hopes to plant potatoes in county to feed hungry  
Randall recovering from stem cell transplant

7A

4A

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# Kings Mountain Herald

Volume 122 • Issue 3 • Wednesday, January 20, 2010

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Moratorium

## Grover asks county for a timeout

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

Cleveland County Commissioners Tuesday night indicated they will consider Grover's request for a moratorium on sweepstakes businesses at a February workshop. Commissioners said they were sympathetic with what county Attorney Bob Yelton termed a "hot topic" regarding sweepstakes businesses that are popping up all over the county.

Commissioners Ronnie Hawkins and Johnny Hutchins questioned a change in an ordinance that could affect the whole county. Grover Mayor Robbie Sides said that town council would impose a \$1,000 privilege license fee and commissioners indicated this may be the route to take.

In his request to the county planning board and county manager, Sides also asked the county board to consider upping the fee for zoning violations from \$25 a day to the state maximum fee of \$200 in order for the town to try to curb the influx of sweepstakes businesses.

"A change in the ordinance would affect the whole county and I am personally not ready to vote and would like to see Grover pursue other avenues until the state does something about gaming," said commissioner Ronnie Hawkins prior to the meeting.

Yelton said he would research the matter further.

County Manager David Dear said that Grover sweepstakes operations are currently located in the current zone, general business, but that in order to operate they must obtain a conditional use permit per county zoning ordinances. Sweepstakes are games offered for free to customers who either purchase Internet time on computers or phone time

See MORATORIUM, 8A.

ON THE WAR FRONT

## Michael Jordan shares war stories at First Baptist

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

War-time reporter and Savannah, GA, freelance journalist Michael Jordan, 36, formerly of Kings Mountain, has a passion for telling the story of military troops overseas.

"We're extending self-government a world away. This is a tough time and what you can do is pray for our soldiers," he said.

He shared his fascinating report of trips overseas as a TV news anchor with Georgia National Guardsmen, in a program at First Baptist Church last Wednesday.

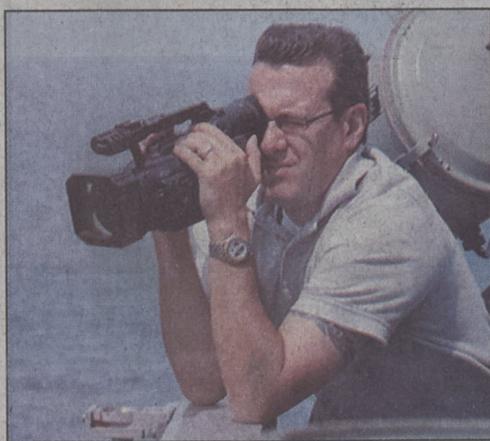
"Don't look to the past for our heroes," he told the group. "Our heroes are now and they are serving in harm's way putting their lives on the line for us every day."

Jordan was introduced by his father, Rev. Morris Jordan. "Our son has never been in service but the Lord gave him love for military person-

nel and he had the passion to tell their story and I think you will agree that he gives us all a new appreciation for our troops."

Jordan spent August 2009 with hundreds of Georgia Army National Guard soldiers serving in Afghanistan. His reports, which aired on Fox 28/WJCL-TV in Savannah and CBS Atlanta News, are being compiled into a series of half-hour TV specials titled, "A Call to Arms."

The 1991 graduate of Kings Mountain High School - who ranked No. 1 scholastically in a class of 265 seniors - obviously likes what he does. He has been to Afghanistan twice and covered Georgia military units,



MICHAEL JORDAN

traveling several times to the Middle East and Europe and going on sea aboard numerous

See WAR, 3A

Keeping the dream alive



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD

William Montgomery recites a soulful rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech.

## MLK - right prescription at right time

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff writer

The legacy of slain Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was that he had the right prescription for our country at the right time, said Rev. Raymond Gardin, Jr., Youth/Children's Pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, at the annual community-wide tribute Monday night.

When 200,000 civil rights marchers - black and white - gathered at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the nation's capitol on Aug. 28, 1963, they expected to hear strong words from their spiritual leader, but what they did not expect was a speech of such heartfelt passion and poetic eloquence that it echoes still in our memory.

The "I Have a Dream" speech was presented in a stirring rendition by William Montgomery as a large crowd in Joy Per-

See DREAM, 4A



EMILY WEAVER/HERALD  
Octavia Gill dances to a lyrical movement at the Joy Theatre Monday night during the city's "Keeping the Dream Alive" ceremony for MLK.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

CHUCK LUTZ gives out candy to children in Haiti during his first mission trip with other "missionaries" from the Family Worship Center Church of God.

## Missionaries anxious to get help to Haiti

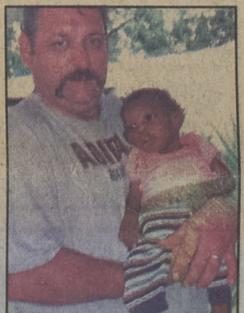
By ELIZABETH STEWART  
staff writer

In response to the tragic earthquake in Haiti, four tractor trailer truck loads of relief items have arrived at Port-au-Prince from Kings Mountain's Family Worship Center Church of God partnering with Operation Compassion.

"There's good news coming to us in emails that the 90 children in the orphanage we support are safe," said Jim Smith, who led a mission team to Haiti last March and most recently in October and is getting another team together to go to Haiti at the end of February or sooner.

Smith said the rock wall surrounding the New Life Children's Home in the heart of Port-au-Prince collapsed as well as a portion of the roof. The children, from infant to 18 years of age, are handicapped, he said, and are currently sleeping outside in a courtyard. There is a well on the property with clean water and back-up generators for power.

The orphanage has to be guarded because of looting,



TERRY HOFFMAN holds 6-year-old Milynn in his arms in New Life Children's Home in Haiti.

he said, and medical supplies, food and clothing are waiting to be distributed to Haitians.

"They are advising us not to come into Haiti now because it's impossible for vehicles to get on the streets," Smith added.

Last spring the local mission team built and established a school at the orphanage and hosted a summer gathering where children from other orphanages came for the programs. Art

See HAITI, 4A

MONEY IN THE BAG

## It's official! City to collect \$250K grant

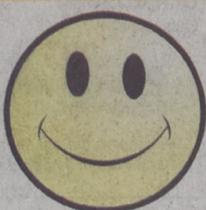
It's official. The City of Kings Mountain has received a quarter-of-a-million dollar grant from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the 2009 Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance Program.

"We are happy to support small business expansion and entrepreneurial advancement efforts for the citizens of the City of Kings Mountain," Joseph D. Crocker, Assistant Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Division, wrote Mayor Rick Murphrey Jan. 7.

Stipulations of the grant are that project funds may not be obligated or spent until certain grant conditions are met. Crocker said that the Division of Community Assistance (DCA), which administers the CDBG program, will be contacting the city further and will assist the city in implementing the grant.

Three downtown businesses, Hometown Hardware & Garden Center, AFAB Promotions and Majors Wellness Center are the three project companies.

See MONEY, 3A



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