

CCHS sets up fund for Haiti

The Cleveland County HealthCare System has set up a dedicated fund through Cleveland HealthCare Foundation to provide earthquake relief in Haiti.

"We have received a number of calls from the community and staff asking what we are going to do," said Brian Gwyn, president and CEO of the system. "They know our history of giving and how we have assisted others."

During Hurricane Katrina, CCHS donated several tons of goods and medical supplies as well as cash. "We decided the logistics of contributing medical supplies to a foreign country would be too complex," Gwyn said. "We believe cash donations will be the best."

"The Foundation is interested in assisting organizations that are focused on specific needs of the citizens of Haiti and the surrounding region," said Dotty

Leatherwood, VP and Executive Director of Cleveland HealthCare Foundation. "We are working with Dr. Mike Barringer and his personal contacts in Haiti to identify those organizations that can assure our hard earned dollars go directly to the people."

Dr. Barringer, a surgeon and CRMC's Trauma Medical Director, surgeon Doug Hobson, MD, cardiologist Doug Boyette, MD, gynecologist Dawn Martin-Herring, MD and a team of CRMC CRNAs and nurses along with others from our community, returned on Jan. 17, from a medical mission trip in the Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbor.

The team was less than 100 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake, but red tape and other factors kept them from traveling to Haiti to help. For many years, Dr. Barringer has traveled to both countries and made numerous

contacts with agencies that will directly aid the truly needy in Haiti.

"There are so many needs, both short term and long term," Dr. Barringer said. "Whether it is feeding kids or assisting with the rehabilitation needs of those who have been injured, I have met some remarkable people in remarkable organizations that assure every penny goes directly to the people they serve."

The Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization and contributions to this fund will be tax-deductible.

To contribute, make checks to Cleveland HealthCare Foundation and mail it to: Cleveland HealthCare Foundation, c/o CCHS Haiti Relief Fund, Dotty Leatherwood, VP, 201 E. Grover St., Shelby, NC 28150.

"The needs of the people of Haiti are so overwhelming that all we can do is send them our prayers and our contributions," Gwyn said.

P&Z board looks at sweeps ordinance

Kings Mountain Planning Board members took their first look at a draft text amendment that deals with ordinances regulating amusement video game arcades, including internet cafes and sweepstakes gaming machines, Tuesday night.

Planning Director Steve Killian distributed copies of the proposed draft during a staff report and said the discussion will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Killian said the board probably won't ask city council to set public hearing

on the matter until the zoning board's April meeting. The public hearing by city council could possibly be scheduled in May.

A temporary moratorium on the issuance of zoning permits for internet cafes and retail businesses with sweepstakes gaming machines and the like is in effect in Kings Mountain until June 15, 2010 by vote of City Council Dec. 15, 2009. The moratorium gives time to gather facts and development of a plan for dealing with land use that has created a concern about its impact on the public.



Left to right, Junior Constant, Daniel Constant, Maggie Constant and Jean Constant in Haiti.

HAITI

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evidence, no police report to back up their testimony, their petition for political asylum was denied.

They appealed. The appeal was denied. Jean, Maggie, Junior and Daniel Constant were deported back to Haiti on Nov. 18, 2004.

On Jan. 12, their home in Port-Au-Prince was severely damaged after a 7.0 earthquake ripped through the

land. They have been living in a tent on the street ever since.

Potter remembers the first time he met Mr. Constant. Jean was kicking around a soccer ball with his son Junior in a Kings Mountain field. They started talking and soon became friends.

Jean coached with Potter at the high school in 2002 and in 2003. Although he had to return to Haiti in 2004, he and Potter have kept in touch.

"I was worried. I hadn't

heard from him for three days after the earthquake," Potter said.

But Jean finally found a way to send an email. He asked for help for his children.

Potter kicked off efforts at Kings Mountain High School to raise money for visas, which will allow the Constants to return. They plan for their sons to stay in Kings Mountain and attend school here until the situation improves in Haiti.

Right now, education and

even basic sanitary living conditions are not considered top priorities.

With visas, Jean and Maggie will be able to visit when they can, but they plan to stay in Haiti to help their neighbors.

Since Daniel, now 7, was born in America, he will not need a visa, but rest of the family will. Each visa will cost \$545, but money for other fees and expenses, like plane tickets, may also be needed.

In the past couple of weeks, KMHS has raised \$800 through donations and lunchtime snow cone sales.

"The kids have been very giving," Potter said, adding that some of them have come to him with pocketsful and handfuls of change. "Every bit of this counts."

If we would all just give our extra change it would make a difference, he added.

KMHS has planned to have a hat day, when students will be able to wear a hat to school if they bring a dollar to donate, and a blue jeans day, which will allow teachers to wear denim this Friday for a donation.

"These are great people, I'm just trying to help them out," Potter said.

To make a donation, bring checks or money to the front office of Kings Moun-

tain High School or mail checks to Kings Mountain High School, 500 Phifer Rd., Kings Mountain, NC 28086 for the "Jean Constant fund".

Potter contacted Congressman Patrick McHenry's office and Rep. Tim Moore, asking for help. McHenry responded saying that he will do what he can, but most of the Haitian immigrants being allowed into the states right now are through child adoptions.


America's cry for immi-

grants (tired, poor, homeless, tempest-tossed and huddled masses yearning to breathe free) has changed over the years. Political upheavals and other events often affect the possibility of citizenship.

When the Constants first came, 9-11 shook the nation to its core. Now, a shaking of the ground in Haiti makes it even harder for foreigners.


Immigrants to the United States must wait five years after being deported to apply for another visa.

coffee hit my lap.
i hit the mailbox.




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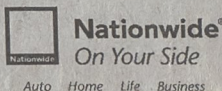


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RACE

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Incumbent county commissioners Jo Boggs (D) of Fallston and Eddie Holbrook (D) of Shelby, filed for re-election to the two seats up for grabs on the board.

Dwight Tessneer of Kings Mountain filed for re-election as county coroner and Mitzi Johnson of Shelby filed for re-election as Clerk

COMPANY

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tained the extremely large, specialized machinery and equipment Solaris would need to manufacture the steel tubing. She added that "because of the relationships we have now established with the French-Canadian principals of this company, it has created a window of opportunity for us to aggressively target other potential Canadian companies who are interested in possibly relocating or establishing a presence in the United States."

"We look forward to partnering with Solaris," said EDC Partnership chair Scoot Dixon.

Said county commissioner Eddie Holbrook on behalf of county commissioners, "We are focused on creating jobs for our citizens and we know Solaris will be a great corporate addition to Cleveland County and welcomed by our work force."

of Superior Court. Both are Democrats.

Pearl Burris-Floyd (R) filed in Gaston County for re-election to the 110th N.C. House Seat.

Primary filing ends Feb. 26 at noon and the Primary Election is May 4. The general election is Nov. 2.

Sheriff Raymond Blanton, who has served two terms and who has been battling kidney disease, has not announced intentions to run. The rumor mill has not ground out any names of Republican contenders for Sheriff but the sign up period is several weeks away.

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FREE

the **Big day**

Friday, February 12

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900 South Post Road, Shelby NC 28152



HALLELUJAH ACRES
www.hacres.com

10:30 am – Café ribbon cutting and appetizer-sized menu items (thru 2pm)*

11:30 am – Food demonstrations every half hour (thru 4pm)

12:00 pm – Rev. Malkmus' birthday celebration (yes, there's cake!)

SEE YOU THERE!

*Complimentary appetizers replace the regular Café menu on February 12.

For a complete schedule of "The Big Day" events go to: www.hacres.com/big-day

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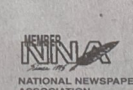
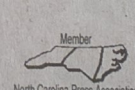
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