



THE Lights of LIBERTY

Downtown Bristol was aglow Saturday night as the annual Lights of Liberty Christmas Parade went through town. Phil and Bonita Deck, shown above, was selected as this year's Parade Grand Marshal. Bonita is a ballet teacher with many students who take part in programs at Veterans Memorial Civic Center. See more of the parade inside on pages 16 and 17. DANIEL WILLIAMS PHOTO

INSIDE

Man charged with child abuse of grandson...2

Stolen flat screen found hidden under blanket...2

Letters to Santa

Find out what kids want this year and see the directions they give Santa so he's sure to find their home!

PAGES 23, 24, 25 & 30

THE CALHOUN-LIBERTY JOURNAL

Volume 31, Number 50

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011

CLJ News .com



Even after winning \$1 million, Earl Hunt says he's going to continue to operate his repair service in Altha. Hunt and his wife are shown below after their win was confirmed. JOHNNY EUBANKS PHOTO

Altha mechanic wins \$1 million with scratch-off lottery ticket

by Teresa Eubanks, *Journal Editor*

After a morning of working in his repair shop on Main Street in Altha, Earl Hunt heads down the road to the Southern Express convenience store for lunch, where he buys a drink, a pack of crackers and a couple of lottery tickets.

That's his daily routine.

But last Wednesday was anything but routine when he won the biggest jackpot of his life.

"When I first scratched it off I thought it was \$100,000," he said, explaining that he failed to scratch all the numbers off the Florida Millionaires Club ticket. He handed it over to the clerk who put it in the machine to verify his winnings but instead of giving a total, the machine directed him to contact the lottery office.

After another look at the ticket, he realized he had won a million dollars.

It wasn't long before he got up with his wife and stepdaughter and the three of them headed to the lottery office in Tallahassee to claim his winnings.



They left in a 2006 Chrysler Dodge Caravan but his stepdaughter had to drive back alone. Earl and his wife, Betty, stopped by a car dealership and picked up something sporty to drive home: A \$48,000 black 2012 Camaro with red stripes.

See ALTHA MILLIONAIRE continued inside on page 28

Altha man charged with causing wife's death in vehicle crash

by Teresa Eubanks, *Journal Editor*

An Altha man has been arrested for driving while license revoked and causing a death in the June 7, 2011 crash that killed his wife.

Robert Eugene Keith, 51, was charged with the third-degree felony on Monday. He is being held on \$10,000 bond in the Calhoun County Jail.

Keith's wife, Bonnie Keith, 50, died at the scene when the minivan he was driving overturned off Hwy. 71, south of J.P. Peacock Road at 11:30 a.m. on June 7.

Others on the road that day noticed Keith's 2002 Chevrolet Venture traveling erratically just before the wreck. Tommy Varnum of Bristol

reported that the van had passed him at about 65 mph. He was forced to slow down to let Keith pull in front of him due to traffic in the oncoming lane.

The van drove up quickly behind another vehicle and appeared to nearly hit it before pulling out to pass, Varnum said.

He said the front right door of the van opened as it was still traveling and the passenger's head and leg were sticking out. The door slammed shut just before the van began swerving, went across the road and crashed.

When the van went toward the shoulder of the road, Keith overcorrected in an effort to return to his lane. The van skidded across the road, hit

a pine tree, spun around and overturned onto its roof.

His wife was killed and Keith was taken to Bay Medical Center with critical injuries. Neither of them had their seat belt on.

Keith later told investigators with the Florida Highway Patrol that he and his wife had been arguing. He said she had tried to jump out of the van and grabbed the steering wheel, causing him to lose control.

Keith was previously convicted on two counts of DUI and one count of driving while license suspended or revoked. All three charges occurred in Liberty County.



ROBERT EUGENE KEITH



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ARREST REPORTS

compiled by Journal Editor Teresa Eubanks

57-year-old grandfather arrested for abusing grandchild in Altha

A 57-year-old Altha man is being held on \$5,000 bond in the Calhoun County Jail after being arrested for child abuse.

Relatives say William "Bill" Aguiar was "very intoxicated" Friday evening when his four-year-old grandson was taking a breathing treatment at his home. Family members said Aguiar held the mask on the child's face until he started to choke.

When the boy was sent to bed for the night, his grandfather followed him into the room and grabbed him, squeezed him and held his hand over his mouth as the youngster screamed for his daddy. He reportedly told the boy, "I'm going to win this battle."

The boy's father, Joshua Aguiar, got



WILLIAM AGUIAR

the child away from Aguiar, which led to an altercation between the two men.

As the two struggled, Aguiar fell to the floor and attempted to reach for a shotgun kept behind the front door. His son was able to keep the door closed against the wall to prevent him from removing the weapon.

Aguiar's wife grabbed the two grandchildren and ran outside to their truck. She later told deputies she feared her husband would have fired the gun if he could have reached it.

She also stated that since he had been laid off from work he had started drinking heavily.

Aguiar was taken into custody that night.

Man on house arrest charged with stealing flat screen

A Blountstown man living under house arrest is facing several charges after a family friend's flat screen t.v. that went missing was found covered by a blanket on his bed.

When Bradon Ladonna Kimbrel returned to her Altha home around 4 p.m. Dec. 7, she found her front door unlocked and her Wii game console sensor on the front porch. She walked in and saw that her Wii and stereo were still there but realized that her 32" Emerson black flat screen t.v. was gone.

Tosha Webb, 32, who lives with her parents and her brother, Gerald



GERALD THOMAS WEBB

Thomas Webb, 28, told a deputy that when she and her brother stepped outside one evening to smoke a cigarette, he told her, "I'm gonna go get my flat screen t.v." She recalled his comment when she later went to visit Kimbrel and learned

her flat screen had been stolen.

Deputies went to the home of Gerald Thomas Webb's mother, Mary Folsom, and asked her son about the theft. He denied knowing anything about it. His mother allowed deputies to search the home and they came up empty-handed, but as they left, they noticed Webb coming out of a storage building north of the home.

After getting permission to search that building, deputies discovered the missing flat screen lying on a bed, covered by a black blanket that did little to disguise the outline of

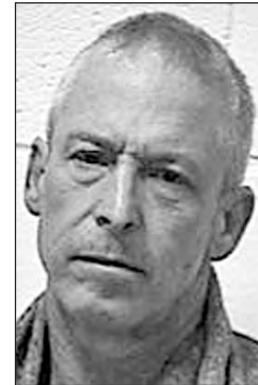
Man charged with battery on wife

A Calhoun County man who got angry when his wife said she was too sick to take him to a doctor was arrested for domestic battery after he reportedly pushed her down in their yard and grabbed her by the throat.

Richard Flanders, 47, became angry when his wife, said she was sick with the flu and couldn't take him to have his injured foot checked on around 12:30 a.m. Sunday.

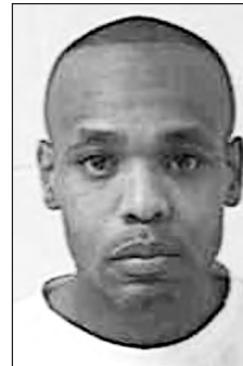
Instead, she called a friend to her home to come pick her up, but when her friend arrived, she felt she was too ill to leave.

Flanders was charged with domestic battery and taken into custody that night.



RICHARD FLANDERS

Two charged with drug paraphernalia, intent to sell marijuana near church



REGGIE THOMAS



SABRINA ALLEN

Two people were arrested at Lot #12 on Rock Bluff Road in Bristol after members of the Calhoun-Liberty Drug Task Force served a narcotics search warrant.

Task Force members entered the home through the unlocked front door after announcing their presence and knocking on the front door at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 7, according to a report from the Liberty County Sheriff's Office.

Found inside was Reggie Thomas, 32, and Sabrina Allen, 28. They were brought to the living room while the home was searched.

A purple bag containing 16 small plastic bags of marijuana was found in Thomas' bedroom. He told investigators the marijuana was for his personal use. Nearby was a set of digital scales with residue later identified as methamphetamine.

Another set of digital scales was found on top of the central heating unit.

Both were charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell marijuana within 1,000 feet of a church and possession of methamphetamine. They are being held without bond.

**See ARREST REPORTS
continued on page 3**

SHERIFF'S LOG

CALHOUN COUNTY

Dec. 05

- Clarence Reed, *non-support*, CCSO.

Dec. 06

- Bradley Allen Pitts, VOP, CCSO.
- Clifton L. Stevens, III, *child support*, CCSO.

Dec. 07

- Nicholas Rance Tucker, possession of cannabis m/t 20 grams with intent to sell, CCSO.

- Gerald Tommy Webb, *burglary of a structure, larceny over \$300, VOP, damage to property, criminal mischief over \$200*, CCSO.

Dec. 08

- Joshua Crawford, *child support*, CCSO.

Dec. 09

- Aaron Burkes, VOP, CCSO.
- William Aguiar, *child abuse*, CCSO.

Dec. 11

- Richard Flanders, *battery (domestic violence)*, CCSO.

- Jose Ruiz-Garcia, *no valid driver's license*, CCSO.

- Wilber Murray, *driving with license suspended or revoked*, CCSO.

*nal mischief, LCSO.**•Albert Marshall, littering, LCSO.***Dec. 06***•Charles Over, serving seven days, LCSO.**•Jonathan Petty, failure to appear, LCSO.***Dec. 07***•Reggie Thomas, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell marijuana within 1,000 feet of a church, possession of methamphetamine, LCSO.**•Sabrina Allen, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell marijuana within 1,000 feet of a church, holding for CCSO, LCSO.***Dec. 09***•Lisa Ammons, holding for CCSO, CCSO.***Dec. 10***•Johnnie Petty, *burglary of a conveyance, domestic battery, resisting arrest without violence.*, LCSO.*

Listings include name followed by charge and identification of arresting agency. The names above represent those charged. We remind our readers that all are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Blountstown Police Dept.

Dec. 5 through Dec. 11, 2011

Citations issued:	
Accidents.....	00 Traffic Citations.....10
Special details (business escorts, traffic details).....	65
Business alarms....	01 Residential alarms.....01
Complaints.....	26

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LIBERTY COUNTY

Dec. 05

- Calesta Manasco, *escape, crimi-*

Hosford man charged with domestic battery, burglary and resisting arrest

A 26-year-old Hosford man was arrested on domestic battery charges after his girlfriend was injured in an altercation in the yard of their Cannon Branch Road home Saturday.

Witnesses reported seeing Johnnie Petty in his yard hitting the 27-year-old woman before running from the scene.

When Liberty County Deputy Jonathan Gentry arrived, he saw that the victim's face was bloodied and her right eye was bleeding. While waiting for EMS to arrive, she told Gentry that Petty got angry and started punching her in the face.

The victim's brother, who lives next door, ran to help her when she called out for him. He stated that he saw his sister on her back on the ground with Petty on top, holding her down, with his fists clenched.

When he started yelling, Petty got off of the woman.

A second witness reported hearing the victim scream. He said he ran outside and saw Petty attempting to beat up the woman.



JONATHAN PETTY

With both men yelling at him to stop, Petty left the area on foot, going toward CR 67A.

After receiving medical attention, the victim gave details of what led up to the attack. She said she had been asleep in her bed when Petty, who had been drinking and passed out, woke up on the couch. She said he started yelling at her and when she failed to respond, he kicked the bedroom door open and started cursing at her. He then jumped on her and she grabbed the phone to call her brother, she said. She stated that Petty told her he was going to kill her if she tried to call the law.

The woman said she managed to kick him off of her and ran out the back door, screaming for her brother. She said Petty caught up with her, slammed her to the ground and started hitting her in the face.

Petty left when the two men emerged from next door.

A BOLO (be on the lookout) was issued for Petty,

who had disappeared.

About an hour later, a couple on Cannon Branch Road called the Liberty County Sheriff's Office to report a loud noise coming from an abandoned residence next door to their home.

When the deputy went to investigate, he found a camper behind their home where a window had recently been broken. The camper door was locked. When Gentry announced "Sheriff's Office" at the window someone inside replied, "I'm in here."

He ordered the man to come out and found it was Petty. As the deputy was getting his handcuffs, Petty took off. Gentry grabbed his jacket, which peeled off as Petty ran toward a fence. Gentry tackled him and then handcuffed him.

Petty told the deputy he knew the sheriff's office was looking for him and that he was in trouble.

In addition to the domestic battery charge, Petty is also facing charges of resisting arrest without violence and burglary of a conveyance.

He is being held on \$2,500 bond.

Vehicle collides with bear crossing CR 12

A Dec. 2 collision with a bear resulted in approximately \$5,000 in damages to a 1999 Chevrolet Blazer, according to a report from the Florida Highway Patrol.

FHP Trooper Ronny Snipes said Lawrence Lorenzo Dawson, 50, of Bristol, was traveling south in the southbound lane of CR 12, approaching SR 65, when a medium-sized black bear entered the roadway.

The bear was traveling in a westerly direction from the northbound grassy shoulder of CR 12 and then crossed the northbound lane into the southbound lane, into the path of the Dawson's vehicle.

The front of the Blazer struck the right side of the bear. The animal landed in the southbound ditch. The vehicle came to a controlled stop on the shoulder of the road. Dawson was not injured. The bear was killed.



The damaged truck is shown after the Friday night crash.

DANIEL WILLIAMS PHOTO

Hosford teen sustains minor injuries in crash

A 19-year-old Hosford resident who was not wearing a seatbelt escaped serious injury in a Friday night wreck that totaled a 2004 Ford pickup.

Cody Michael Kimball was westbound on SR 20 around 11:21 p.m. when he lost control of the truck and left the road. He managed to drive back toward the center line of 20 but then overcorrected with a hard right turn, which sent the truck into a counterclockwise spin before it overturned and came to rest right-side up, according to FHP Trooper Dennis Revell.

The crash happened just east of Dempsey Barron Road.

Revell said the driver was "bruised up but very lucky. He was sitting on his seatbelt." Kimball was taken to the emergency room at Calhoun-Liberty Hospital to be checked out.

The trooper said that charges are pending. "He appeared to be intoxicated and there was alcohol in the vehicle," Revell said. He is awaiting blood test results to determine if there will be any charges in the Dec. 9 wreck.

**The Calhoun-Liberty
JOURNAL**

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FROM

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

CHRISTMAS MUSICALS/PLAYS

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH—On Dec. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Corinth Baptist Church will be presenting "A Song in the Air Christmas Cantata."

That night at 5 p.m. the children and youth will present a Christmas program/drama.

We would love to have you come and watch these presentations and worship the birth of Christ with us.

If you have any questions please call 379-8016.



ALTHA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — The Altha First Baptist Church invites you to worship with them in their upcoming choir presentations.

This Sunday at 6 p.m. the Children's Choir will present their musical, "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen."

"Christmas is Jesus" is the title of the Sanctuary Choir's cantata they will present on Sunday, December 25 at 10 a.m.

The Altha First Baptist Church building is located at 15660 Northwest Chipola Street in Altha.



TELOGIA BAPTIST CHURCH — Telgoia Baptist Choir and our RA's & GA's Children and Children Church will be performing Sunday morning Dec. 18 at 10:45 a.m. the "Voices of Christmas Cantata."

Please come and enjoy this special celebration message of Christ Jesus' Birth.

We will have a covered dish dinner with a visit from a ministry person after dinner. We will not have an evening service that day.



ST. LUKE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST — The St. Luke Church of God in Christ Sunshine Band and Puritan class will be hosting a Christmas play on Dec. 22 at Veterans Memorial Civic Center beginning at 7 p.m. (ET). The theme is "It may be Christmas but we still need to follow the rules."

For more information call Pastor Elder D. Reed at 643-6400 or 674-4189.

TOY GIVE-AWAY

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH — This Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 to 11 a.m., Hillcrest Baptist Church will be handing out toys to families that need to have some help to give Christmas to their children. We have had new and used toys given to us to distribute to families from our area. There will also be children's clothing available as well.

We are located on CR 274, five miles west of Shelton's Corner.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

CONNECTIONS FELLOWSHIP — In an effort to help families achieve their financial goals, Connections Fellowship will be hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University beginning Jan. 11 starting promptly nightly at 6:30 p.m. at the Hosford School Cafetorium. Childcare will be provided for children and youth. This 13-week course combines commonsense principles with God's principles for handling money.

There are lessons on saving, eliminating debt and relationships and money. You don't want to miss this life changing course!

If you are interested in signing up for the course or if you would like more information, please contact Michael Murray at 447-4115 or micmurray@comcast.net.

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Community Calendar

Wednesday, December 14

TODAY'S MEETINGS

- **Rotary Club**, noon, Calhoun-Liberty Hospital
- **AA**, 7 p.m., Calhoun County Old Ag Bldg. east door, in front of jail
- **Boy Scouts Troop 200**, 6:30 p.m., Mormon Church, Bristol

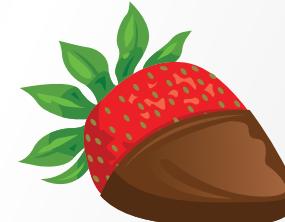
Thursday, December 15

TODAY'S MEETINGS

- **AA**, 7 p.m., basement of Calhoun County Courthouse
- **Mossy Pond VFD**, 7 p.m., Fire House
- **Alzheimer's Project support group**, 4 p.m., Calhoun Liberty Hospital



Friday, December 16



NATIONAL *Chocolate Covered-Anything* Day

Saturday, December 17

TURKEY SHOOT



7:30 a.m.
at Scotts
Ferry
VFD

BIRTHDAYS
*Johnny Eubanks,
P.J. Wheetley
& Kira Adkins*

Adult Dance, 8-12 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Blountstown

BLACKSMITH

CLASSES
8 a.m. at
Pioneer
Settlement



Sunday, December 18

BIRTHDAYS

*Joanna
Martin*

*Attend the Church
of your choice
this Sunday*



Monday, December 19

TODAY'S

MEETINGS

- **Boy Scout Troop 206**, 7 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park Civic Center



Tuesday, December 20

TODAY'S MEETINGS

- **Altha Boy Scouts**, 7 p.m., Altha Volunteer Fire Department
- **AA**, 6 p.m., Altha Community Center
- **Calhoun Chamber of Commerce**, noon, Senior Citizens Center
- **Calhoun Commission**, 5 p.m., Ag. Bldg., Conference Room across from Courthouse
- **Mossy Pond VFD Auxiliary**, 6 p.m., Fire House
- **Dixie 109 Masonic Lodge**, 7 p.m., Dixie Lodge in Blountstown
- **Hosford-Teloga VFD**, 7:30 p.m., fire house



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Winter Wonderland Express resumes Dec. 16 in Bristol

Christmas in the Park with the Winter Wonderland Express Trains opened Sat. Dec. 10 following the Lights of Liberty parade. Over 150 people rode the steam train and 250 people rode the red/white/blue diesel replica.

Winter Wonderland Express will continue on Friday, Dec. 16 through Tuesday, Dec. 20. The steam train will run again on Saturday Dec. 17 and Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Tickets for the red/white/blue train are \$3 and the steam train is \$5 per ticket.

For information call 643-6646 or 643-5491.

Turkey Shoot at Scotts Ferry set for Dec. 17

A turkey shoot and pancake breakfast will be held at the Scotts Ferry Volunteer Fire Department on Dec. 17. The pancake breakfast will begin at 7 a.m. and will be \$3.50 per plate. The turkey shoot will begin at 8 a.m. and will be \$3 per round. All proceeds will go to the Kinard and Scotts Ferry Volunteer Fire Departments.

Come win a turkey or ham for Christmas and have lots of fun.

The Scotts Ferry VFD is located 13 miles south of Blountstown on Hwy. 71.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Serenade to be held in Marianna on Dec. 16

The Marianna OCR Chapter 14 presents an "Old Fashioned Christmas Serenade" on Dec. 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Confederate Park Gazebo downtown Marianna. Come see people in 1800s period dress clothing and share hot chocolate and a variety of cakes and cookies.

Bring your lounge chair, a warm blanket, your family and a friend!

5,377

That's how many copies of *The Calhoun-Liberty Journal* were distributed last week, ensuring plenty of coverage for your community announcements and great response for our business advertisers!

JOURNAL STAFF

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Angie Davis.....Production Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F,
Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

A note from Santa

Saturday, Dec. 3 was open house at the Calhoun County Public Library's Blountstown Branch. The library had a great turnout and lots of fun visiting with our patrons on this festive day. The library received a note from Santa regarding his visit to our library we are happy to share it.

Dear Children,

You know Mrs. Claus and I were at the Blountstown Public Library this past week. We saw lots of wonderful families. I was delighted to see all of your smiling faces, and enjoyed listening to all of your Christmas wishes. It was a special time for me to be able to enjoy seeing each of you get to pick out your own special book, courtesy of the library. I also took notice of how well behaved all of you children were. I am looking forward to seeing you all again next year at the Library's Annual Christmas Open House. Mrs. Claus and I are wishing you each Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas.

HO, HO, HO, Santa Claus

The staff at the library is really grateful to all who came out to the open house. We also had a wonderful time with all who stopped by the Shiloh School to enjoy the story telling and puppet show at the Pioneer Settlements Old Fashion Christmas. Thanks so much.



Women's Club collects gifts for students

Each year, the Liberty Women's Club helps a family from the Tolar School and the Hosford School fulfill wishes on their Christmas list. Pictured above are members of the club with some of the gifts. From left: Eileen Bramblett, Yvonne Watson, Joyce Hosford, Janel Johnson, Elly Paulin, Shirley Wingate, Anita Gouge and Dee Tutton.

Visiting author to be at the Blountstown Public Library Saturday

The Blountstown Public Library invites you to a book signing by local author Stephen Ayers on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. He will be in the Adult Reading Room, located to the right of the front desk, complete with cookies and coffee!

Stephen, who goes by STAY (STephen AYers), is an emerging poet and artist who lives in Blountstown. His major poetic influences are William Blake, Walt Whitman, and Edgar Allan Poe. "A Room With No Walls" is a collection of twenty original

poems and illustrations contemplating the individual's desire for autonomy and freedom within society.

This small book of poetry is an eclectic mix: unabashedly romantic, at times whimsical, always thought-provoking, and

often dark. Accompanying illustrations will serve to further illuminate the underlying subject matter of each poem and give the reader a closer peek into "A Room With No Walls."

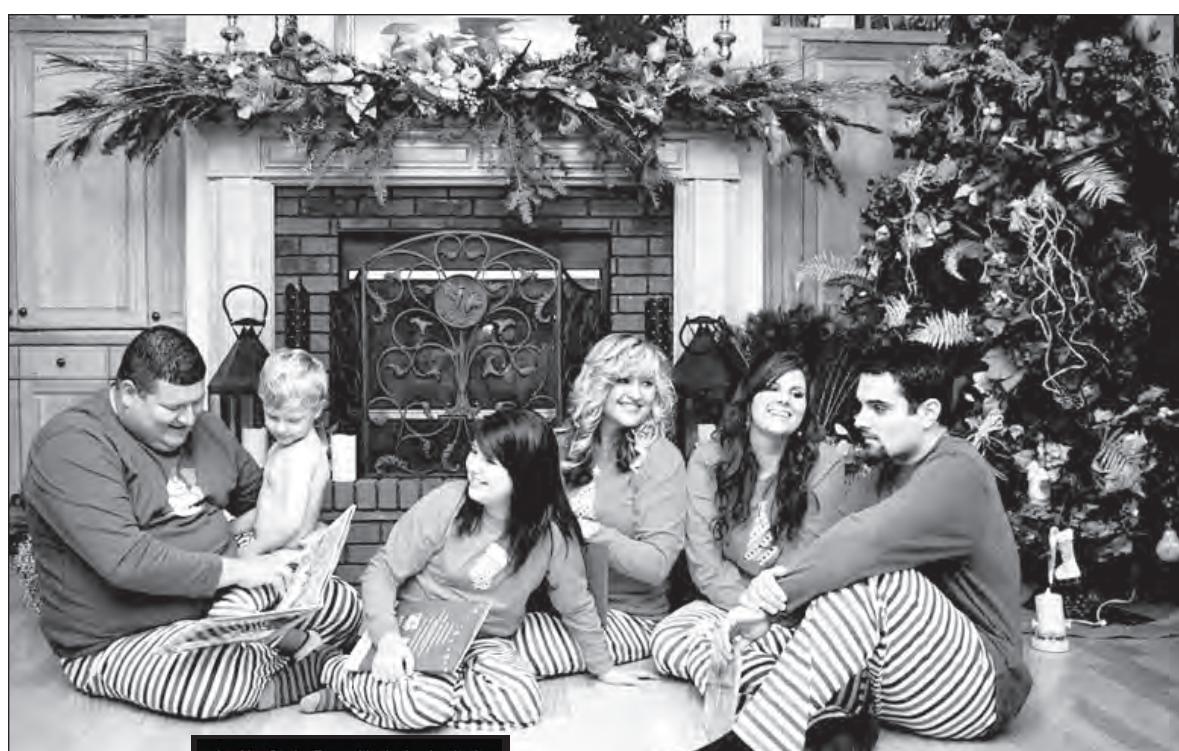
Stephen has been involved with the Calhoun-Liberty Writer's

Guild that meets here at the library the fourth Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Come meet the artist and listen to him do readings throughout the morning. Books will be for sale and you can have them signed by the author. Join us!



In times like these we are especially grateful for the loyalty and support of people like you and would like to express our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you.



A
N
D



Lake wins \$100 in groceries

The Liberty Women's Club recently held a raffle to raise funds for the club. The winner of the \$100 Piggly Wiggly gift certificate was Dawn Lake. Pictured here from left: Elly Paulin, Shirley Wingate, Dawn Lake and Anita Gouge.



STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO

WANTS YOU!!!

SWAT is making a strong effort to have a presence here in Calhoun County. **SWAT** recognizes the negative effects of using tobacco products and actively works to encourage our youth, young adults and adults to never become involved with this addictive influence through education, prevention and fun activities.

If you are a teen between the ages of 12 and 17 years, and would like to join the **Calhoun County SWAT program**, please see our **SWAT** Advisors listed below and help us make a positive change in Calhoun County.

- ★Kennesse Dew – Altha School
- ★Jonathan Alford – Blountstown Middle School
- ★Carylee Sewell – Carr School
- ★Carmen Overholt – Blountstown High School
- ★John Michael Henson – Altha Church of God
- ★Geraldine Sheard – Prayer Chainers
- ★Michele Futch – Blountstown First Baptist

**If you have any questions, please contact
Pamela McDaniel (850) 674-5645, ext 236.**

Late Night Laughs

A RECAP OF RECENT OBSERVATIONS
BY LATE NIGHT TV HOSTS.

Many voters feel that Mitt Romney is out of touch with real Americans after he tried to make a bet with Rick Perry for \$10,000. When asked to comment, Mitt said, "I'm sorry, but that's all I had in my pocket at the time." — CONAN O'BRIEN

Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was sentenced to 14 years in prison. This is the most disgraceful thing to happen to an Illinois governor since their last governor. — JAY LENO

A lot of packages this time of year get lost. That's awful. You're promised something great. You wait and wait and wait. But nothing good ever comes. It's like voting for Obama. — CRAIG FERGUSON

There was an embarrassing moment for Rick Perry. He announced that it was the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Jam. — JAY LENO

Rod Blagojevich is going away for 14 years in prison. His barber got the death penalty. — DAVID LETTERMAN

The former governor of Illinois Rod Blagojevich got 14 years in prison. He will probably get time off for good hair. — CRAIG FERGUSON

Herman Cain dropped out. Our writers and I were despondent. But sometimes when God closes a door He opens a window. And standing outside that window is a circus peanut wearing a badger. Donald Trump will moderate a Republican debate Dec. 27. Thank you, Jesus. — JON STEWART

Now that he's back home Herman Cain's wife has a huge to-do list for him. 1. Clean out the garage. 2. Go live in it. — JIMMY KIMMEL

Rod Blagojevich was convicted of trying to sell Barack Obama's vacant senate seat. If he had waited a few years, he could probably sell it back to Barack Obama. — CRAIG FERGUSON

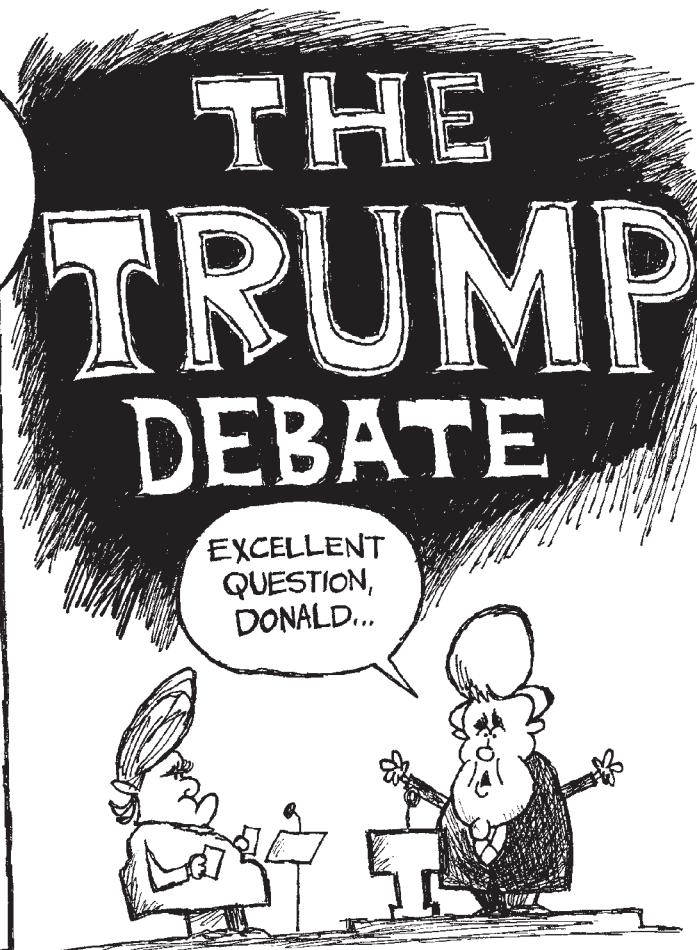
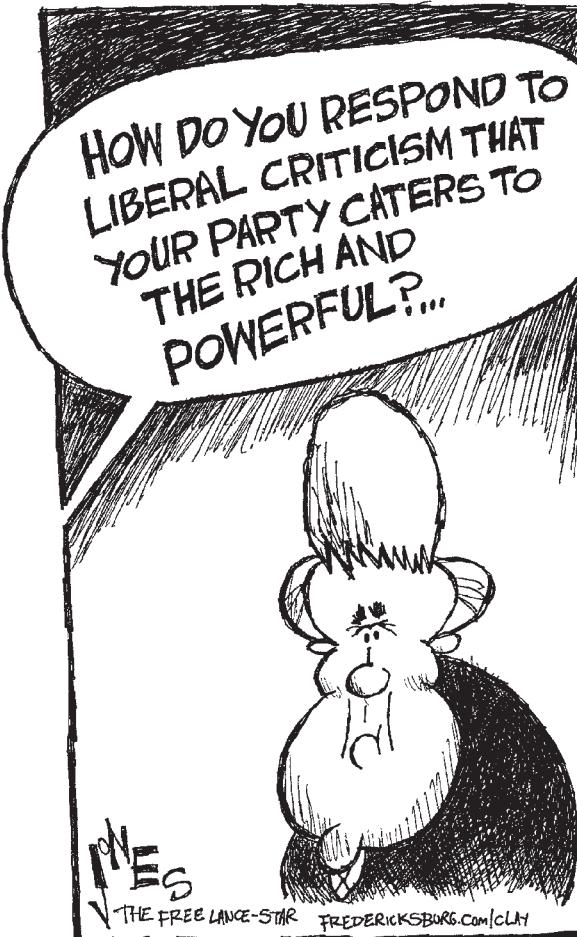
The Library of Congress has partnered with Twitter to store every tweet ever posted in their archive of historical documents. So, this is what Congress is doing? — JIMMY KIMMEL

I'm so excited, Christmas season is finally here. ... A new survey found that two of the most popular holiday songs are "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." The LEAST popular Christmas song: "I Saw Mommy Kissing Herman Cain." — JIMMY FALLON

An upcoming Republican debate will be moderated by Donald Trump. It will take place in the Trump Forum for the Future of Democracy and Casino. — CONAN O'BRIEN

Cain blames a conspiracy by powerful Democrats who are intent on destroying him for these various allegations. I don't think you can blame the Democrats. I'm pretty sure they were rooting for him in this particular case. — JIMMY KIMMEL

In Hawaii last weekend someone stole Lindsay Lohan's purse with \$10,000 in it. This was the second time the purse was stolen if you count the first time Lindsay grabbed it, you know. Luckily, she got the purse back, but the \$10,000 was missing. It turns out the guy who stole it needed the money to pay off a bet with Mitt Romney. — JAY LENO



Gingrich blasts it out of the park!

by Roger Simon

Roger Simon is a writer for Creative Syndicate

The Bambino stands in the center of the stage, untouchable, uncatchable, unbeatable. He is Newt Gingrich, and he has become the Sultan of Swat.

It is Saturday night at yet another Republican debate, and — wham! wham! wham! — Gingrich keeps blasting them out of the park.

Mitt Romney claims he should be president, because, unlike Newt, Romney is not a "career politician."

"Let's be candid," Newt replies. "The only reason you didn't become a career politician is that you lost to Ted Kennedy in 1994."

Wham!

Newt, like the real Bambino, Babe Ruth, is a man of appetites. For food and for women, to name just two.

But when the moderators at the Yahoo/ABC debate in Des Moines ask all the candidates whether "marital infidelity" is important as an issue, the new Bambino does not quiver or quail. He does not flinch. He does not duck the pitch even though he has had three wives and admits to having been an adulterer.

"It is a real issue," Newt says firmly. "People have to look at the person to whom they are going to loan the presidency."

Loan the presidency! A wonderful phrase that lingers in the mind. And now the Bambino steps into the pitch.

"I have said upfront, openly, I have made mistakes at times and had to go to God for forgiving," he says.

Whammo! It is out of here!

It is an answer that is perfectly acceptable to almost all Christian conservatives. Who can be against redemption? And do we not love the sinner more than the saint, because who amongst us has not sinned? (Only the media, that is, who constantly cast the first stone.)

In earlier debates, Newt has appeared haughty and above it all. But with that answer he returns to earth. He has feet of clay like the rest of us and asks the Almighty to forgive him. And so the fidelity question does not destroy him, but makes him.

And, make no mistake, what he is doing this Saturday night is difficult.

Mitt Romney, who had done so well at staying above the fray in previous debates, crashes and burns in this one.

Romney lets Rick Perry get his goat. Rick Perry, who has as much chance of getting the Republican nomination as Luke Perry! Or Perry Como!

When Perry insists that Romney has changed his position on something or other, Mitt angrily sticks out his hand and says, "Rick, I'll tell you what, ten thousand bucks? \$10,000 bet?"

Way to go, Mitt. Remind America that \$10,000 is chump change to you.

And when Michele Bachmann says that Mitt and Newt are just clones, Mitt decides to be cute. It is a mistake.

"I know Newt Gingrich," Romney smirks. "And he is a friend of mine. But we are not clones."

Yes, Mitt, you are tall and handsome standing there next to Newt. We can all see that. Newt looks like a sack of doorknobs compared to you.

But what does that get you, Mitt? How does that make you presidential?

Newt eyes Romney like the Bambino used to eye a high fastball. He will soon get his chance to whack another one.

Gingrich, a historian, has called the Palestinians an "invented people." Nobody asks him whether Americans "invented" themselves in 1776, however.

Instead, Romney says that Gingrich has gone too far and that he should let Israel negotiate for itself.

Newt stabs the lectern with his finger as he roars back. "These people are terrorists!" he says. "They teach terrorism in their schools! It's fundamentally time for someone to have the guts to stand up and say, 'Enough lying about the Middle East!'"

The audience, as audiences do, goes wild.

If it were four years ago, I would be writing that as soon as Newt wins an actual caucus or primary, the Republican establishment will rise up and stop him. But, today, there is no Republican establishment. It has been washed away by the tea party.

And the tea party likes a long-ball hitter.

Saturday was Newt's night. A few more nights like this — and a few actual victories at the polls — and it could be his nomination.



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

by Douglas Cohn and Eleanor Clift

Send in the Donald

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump had his 15 minutes in this election cycle when he pretended earlier this year that he was running for president, but was really promoting his television show. That's when he got all worked up about President Obama's birth certificate, claiming he had investigators in Hawaii and would produce new information. That never came to pass, and Obama had great fun at the White House Correspondents Association dinner lampooning Trump's stunt.

Now Trump is back once again trying to grab attention by hosting a Republican debate in Iowa two days after Christmas. So far he's only got two takers — newly minted frontrunner Newt Gingrich and back-of-the-pack Rick Santorum. Jon Huntsman turned Trump down, declaring he would not kiss his ring "or any other part of his anatomy." Mitt Romney took a pass as well, though he was polite about it.

One by one, the others declined too, though Michele Bachmann is still thinking about it. It's as though a collective realization has suddenly taken hold that the Republican nominating process is coming across more like a reality show than a legitimate effort to find the most credible candidate to challenge Obama. Karl Rove, still the GOP's premiere strategist, has been in the forefront decrying the Trump-moderated debate, predicting it will have the lowest ratings of any of the candidate encounters.

Rove has also questioned Trump's legitimacy as a moderator, noting that the real-estate tycoon promises to endorse one of the GOP candidates after the debate, and that he is still holding out the possibility that he might run himself as an independent. "This is not a newsman. This is not somebody who's gonna sit down and meticulously prepare for this," Rove said, raising the specter that Trump might use the occasion to resurrect fringe concerns over Obama's birth certificate, or push the candidates to support some of his radical ideas, like a 25 percent tax on imports from China.

Rove makes a good point about Trump not having a news show or a talk show. He's no Rush Limbaugh, yet most of the candidates have made a pilgrimage to meet with him as though his blessing matters. Exactly which groups he would count as his constituency is a mystery — millionaires and billionaires? The GOP has those folks nailed down without Trump's help.

Judging by the poor turnout for his debate, Trump may have worn out his welcome on the campaign trail. The race has taken so many interesting turns it doesn't need Trump to hype a debate in the midst of the holidays when even caucus goers in Iowa need a break.

If he has an impact, it will most likely be on Gingrich, who may regret aligning himself with Trump, or on Huntsman, who may get a second look now that Gingrich's surge in the polls has scrambled the race.

Ideologically and temperamentally, Trump is closest to Gingrich, and the two are talking about a junior apprentice show that would incorporate Gingrich's idea about introducing poor kids to a work environment. Gingrich was rightfully assailed for making sweeping statements about the poor having no work habits when the plight of the working poor is often more about holding down multiple jobs and not earning enough to support a family.

Huntsman was first out of the box to refuse Trump's debate invitation, and his salty language may have won him some votes in New Hampshire, where he is poised to take a nick out of Romney in the January 10 primary. With or without Trump's antics, this primary season has offered plenty of surprises, and who knows, the almost universal negative reaction to the Trump debate may force The Donald to reconsider.

DOE: Florida students graduate in record numbers

from the FL Dept. of Education

TALLAHASSEE – Florida's graduation rate has risen to its highest level ever, continuing a six year upward trend despite a challenging budget year.

According to results released from the Florida Department of Education, Hispanic and African-American students continue to graduate at higher levels, with Hispanic students increasing graduation rates 13 percentage points since 2006-07, and African-American students increasing 11.5 percentage points during the same timeframe.

Overall, the Sunshine State's graduation rate rose more than one full percentage point to 80.1 percent, up from 79.0 percent last year and up nearly 10 percentage points since 2006-07.

"I want to commend Florida's teach-

ers, students, parents and school leaders for their dedication to helping their students learn and earn their high school diplomas," said Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson.

"As educators, we each play a significant role in helping our students achieve academic success, and graduation is one critical step toward the path to college and career."

This year's graduation rate for Hispanic students is 77.3 percent, up two percentage points from last year, and African-American students remained steady from 2009-2010 with a graduation rate of 68.4 percent.

White students' graduation rate rose to 86.8 percent, up 1.4 percentage points from last year.

DROPOUT RATE CONTINUES TO DECREASE

Following the upward progress in graduation rates, Florida's dropout rate also declined for the sixth straight year to 1.9 percent. This is the first time the state's dropout rate has fallen below two percent, and the rate represents a decline of 0.1 percentage points from last year and a decrease of 1.7 percent since 2006-07.

The graduation rate approved by the State Board of Education uses a formula recommended by the National Governors Association (NGA), which includes standard and special diplomas as graduates but excludes all GEDs (General Educational Development). The NGA rate replaces Florida's previous calculation method that included GEDs. Florida's

graduation outcomes, calculated using the federal uniform rate required for federal accountability reporting purposes beginning in 2011-12, will be released in January 2012. This rate is based only on standard diploma graduates.

Since 1998-99, Florida has used a data collection method that ensures an accurate calculation of the graduation rate by following every student from ninth grade to graduation. The calculation defines the group of students on the same schedule to graduate and measures the percentage of these students who graduate within four years of their first enrollment in ninth grade.

To view the state and district graduation and dropout rates, please visit [www.fl DOE.org/eias/eiaspubs/pubstudent.asp](http://fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/pubstudent.asp).

Liberty County High School graduation rate 84%; Dropout rate 0.5%

from Sue Summers, Liberty County
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Florida Department of Education has released the State and District graduation and dropout rates.

The rate is determined by taking the number of first time ninth graders as the denominator and using all students earning a standard or special diploma in four years as the numerator.

This year the state will be reporting the graduation rate using two different methods. One method, from the National Governor's Association, does not include students that received a GED as graduates; while the Florida method does include students that received a GED as graduates.

Liberty County High School's graduation rate as calculated by the National Governor's Association for

2010-2011 is 84%, which is slightly higher than the state rate of 81%. However, the district graduation rate which includes three (3) DJJ facilities is only 64%. In looking at the data from across the state, many districts that have DJJ facilities have lower graduation rates for the district, while their high school graduation rates are within range of the state average.

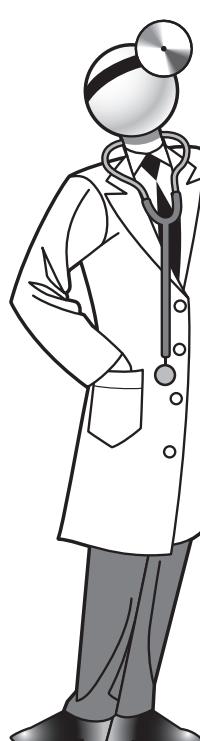
Many of the students in the DJJ facilities do not remain in the district to receive a diploma and those that do usually receive a Florida GED diploma which is excluded in the calculation for the graduation rate. While the district rate does not look good in comparison to the other districts in the state, Liberty County High School's graduation rate is higher than the state average.

We are proud to report that our District dropout rate

is below the state average and we are continuously seeking ways to have our students stay in school and graduate. We offer credit recovery, virtual classes, and WEB to provide opportunities for students to catch up and graduate with their class.

The state dropout rate is 1.9% while Liberty County's district dropout rate is only 0.6%. Liberty County High School's dropout rate is a respectable 0.5%.

The data reflects that our district is successful despite the funding deficits, changes in standards and increased accountability. Liberty County is blessed with great teachers, leaders, parents and community members who support and believe in the value of education. We are proud of where we are, but refuse to settle for anything less than 100% of our students graduating and zero dropping out.



Calhoun Liberty Hospital Primary Care Clinic

*Gerald Skipper, MD • Part Time Provider
Teressa (Bruner) Todd, ARNP • Full Time Provider*

**We will be taking CHP effective January 1, 2012.
All CHP patients must call their CHP insurance to request a change of Provider to Dr. Gerald Skipper.**

If you have any questions please call 237-3000, ext. 242; Aimee will be happy to assist you.



Calhoun Liberty Primary Care Clinic

20370 NE Burns Ave., Blountstown • Telephone (850) 237-3000



Local, state and federal officials met recently in Blountstown to assess flood risk mapping and planning.



Joel Lanier (National Weather Service) and Robin Hatcher (City of Bristol) assess flood mitigation.



David Richardson (Gulf County) and Dowling Parrish (Calhoun County) discuss flood planning resources.

Water District hosts meeting in Blountstown to reduce flood risks

HAVANA—Reducing flood risk to life and property is the focus of recent meetings hosted by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. District employees have introduced local, state and federal officials to the Map Information Portal, which features clickable property reports, revised flood risk information and predicted depths of flooding.

“The District, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), hosts Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning (MAP) discovery meetings to increase community awareness of improved flood hazard maps, flood mitigation and resilience,” said Executive Director Doug Barr. “Draft discovery maps for each major watershed will be created following these Risk MAP meetings.”

After review and refinement, the maps will be finalized and released to the community. The process includes identifying and assessing risk through community input and flood studies, communicating risk by increasing awareness and preparedness, and reducing risk and informing development decision.

“The goal of our stakeholder meetings is to get to know the community better, especially their views of the flood protection measures and assets they have,” said Ron Bartel, Director of the District’s Division of Resource Management. “We also want to obtain new flood hazard information, plans and data and share updated flood maps and protection measures. We want to build on existing maps and flood protection assets and plan for the future.”

During a recent Apalachicola River and Bay meeting in Blountstown, District staff demonstrated how the online flood portal allows users to review preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) as they are developed. This permits them to offer feedback or reduce risks before the maps



Christy Crandall (US Geological Survey) and Dick Stanley (Liberty County) discuss flood planning wishes with Paul Thorpe, one of several District facilitators.

are finalized.

Since 2003 the District has received over \$18.5 million to update and modernize the old printed Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). It has used digital aerial photography and detailed Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data to produce the DFIRMs, which detail depths of flooding for individual parcels, risk of flooding over a 30-year mortgage and risk of flooding as one moves away from the 100-year flood hazard boundary. In some communities this is the first FIRM update in 10 to 20 years.

District map makers have also completed a detailed coastal study of Franklin County as part of their continuing study of the Big Bend. The draft coastal maps are expected soon as DFIRMs. Coastal studies for Gulf County continue and will be merged with updated riverine and coastal studies to the east. This includes two dimensional flow models of the Apalachicola River basin.

Apalachicola basin participants met in pairs to discuss what other resources stakeholders have, what could be improved and what else was needed. The

results were then posted as “Assets” “Values” and “Wishes” and discussed by the whole group.

Assets included real-time stream gaging and rainfall data; flood forecasting; local comprehensive plans that include zoning, planning, shoreline buffers and wetland protection; clean water and water quality improvements; reduced storm impacts through public land purchases; conserved forest timber and floodplain areas; preserved historical resources and interagency cooperation.

Values included protecting people and their homes; protecting wildlife habitat and reducing property damage through public conservation lands that provide open spaces and clean natural environments for work and recreation; a proposed northwest Florida greenway; balanced growth.

Wishes included reducing homeowner flooding; increased common sense and fewer rules; accurate floodplain elevations throughout the watershed; shared resources among agencies; accurate mapping and an online flood risk database; concern for the consumer; maintaining the extent of floodplains and natural landscapes; enhancing community ecozones; reduced insurance rates; educating residents about flood prone areas and creating healthy estuaries.

Also, counties can provide local flood studies and apply local knowledge to regulate floodplain development and other mitigation policies. Local committees can be created to improve existing maps and flood hazard information about water quality impacts from septic tanks.

District staff will incorporate comments in a discovery report that includes assistance the District can provide, such as mitigation planning, technical assistance, communication and outreach.

Nov. 8 regular meeting minutes of the Liberty School Board

Official minutes from the Nov. 8 regular meeting of the Liberty County School Board as recorded by the board secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kyle Peddie. Members present at the meeting were Darrel Hayes, Logan Kever, Tommy Duggar, Roger Reddick, Kyle Peddie and Superintendent Sue Summers.

The prayer was offered by Darrel Hayes. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Reddick.

HEAR FROM PUBLIC

Kevin Williams spoke to the Board regarding a monthly service contract with Mowrey Elevator. The contract ended in July but Mowrey has continued servicing the Elevator in Hosford School. Williams asked the Board if they would like for him to continue the contract. The Board asked Williams to continue negotiations with Mowrey and get back with them with a contract if possible.

Davis Stoutamire spoke to the Board regarding the Liberty County Health Department and the situation with Dr. Charbonneau. He urged the members of the School Board to contact by email or phone the Congressman, Senator and Representative.

Michael Richter reported to the Board that the renewal is in place and all looks good. He is going to meet with Aetna in January and will report back to the Board after the meeting. Richter also informed the Board that Flu Shot Clinics had been set up through the Liberty County Health Depart-

ment at the schools for all Aetna members to get a flu vaccine free of charge.

Motion was made by Hayes, seconded by Reddick and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda.

Motion was made by Duggar, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve the following consent items:

- A. Approval of Minutes
October 11, 2011
- B. Principals Reports for October, 2011
- C. Financial Statements for October, 2011
- D. Budget Amendments – 110-01, 420-01, 434-01
- E. Bills and Payroll for October, 2011

ACTION ITEMS

Motion was made by Reddick, seconded by Duggar and carried unanimously to approve agreement with Leonard Dietzen for legal representation in negotiations with Liberty Educational Association, the teacher's union.

Motion was made by Reddick, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve Daimler Truck Financial Approval and Commitment Letter for the three (3) new Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner School Buses.

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Duggar and carried unanimously to approve four (4) year contract (December 1, 2011– November, 30, 2015) between the Liberty County School District and Energy Education, Inc.

Motion was made by Reddick, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve Products and Services Agree-

ment between Liberty County School System and CenturyLink Sales Solutions, Inc. dated October 24, 2011.

Motion was made by Duggar, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve 2011-2012 Liberty County School Board Organizational Chart.

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Duggar and carried unanimously to approve the use of TEACH Method by the Liberty County School District: Techniques for Effective Adolescent and Child Handling for use within the school district by trained personnel.

Motion was made by Reddick, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve contract with Performance Matters (Local Instruction Improvement System) to be paid from Race to the Top Funds.

Motion was made by Duggar, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve request for permission to amend Liberty County School Board Policy No. 2.90 Tobacco Use in District Facilities.

PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Reddick and carried unanimously to approve April Faircloth teaching out of field for 2011-2012 school year.

Motion was made by Duggar, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve recommendation of Stacey Vowell for 21st CCLC Site Coordinator at W.R. Tolar School effective October 21, 2011 for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion was made by Reddick, seconded by Duggar and carried unanimously to approve recommendation of Jessica Bennett for 21st CCLC Site Coordinator (part-time)

at LEAC effective November 2, 2011 for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve the following individuals as 21st Century Community Learning Center employees for the 2011-2012 school year:

Activity Leader/Paraprofessionals 9100-150 \$12.00/hr
0041 - Karen Dudley (effective October 31, 2011)

Student Leaders 9100-750 \$8.00/hr.
0041 – Brooke Sessions
0031 – Aaron Black
0081 – Courtney McGhee

OLD BUSINESS

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Reddick asked Kevin Williams if he had an idea when the heat in the High School would be ready. Williams updated the board of the status of the heating and cooling system for the High School.

Motion was made by Hayes, seconded by Duggar and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Superintendent Sue Summers and Chairman Kyle Peddie

Minutes from the November 22 Liberty County School Board organizational meeting

Official minutes from the Nov. 22 organizational meeting of the Liberty County School Board as recorded by the board secretary

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Sue Summers. Members present at the meeting were Tommy Duggar, Darrel Hayes, Logan Kever, Kyle Peddie and Superintendent Sue Summers. Absent: Roger Reddick.

SUPERINTENDENT

Sue Summers
P.O. Box 384
Bristol, Florida 32321
Term Expires: November, 2012

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Logan Kever
5083 NW Boykin Road
Bristol, Florida 32321
Term Expires: November, 2012
District I

Thomas W. Duggar
P.O. Box 205
Bristol, Florida 32321
Term Expires: November, 2012
District II

Darrel L. Hayes
P.O. Box 190
Bristol, Florida 32321
Term Expires: November 2014
District III

Brandon Kyle Peddie
22404 NW Highway 20
Hosford, Florida 32334
Term Expires: November, 2014
District IV

Roger W. Reddick
25018 NE Whitehead Road
Hosford, Florida 32334
Term Expires: November, 2014
District V

The prayer was offered by Kyle Peddie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Logan Kever.

Duggar nominated Kyle Peddie for School

Board Chairman of the Liberty County School Board for 2011-2012 and Darrel Hayes as Vice-Chairman of the Liberty County School Board for 2011-2012. Duggar made a motion, seconded by Kever and carried unanimously to appoint Kyle Peddie as School Board Chairman. Duggar made a motion, seconded by Kever and carried unanimously to appoint Darrel Hayes as Vice-Chairman of the Liberty County School Board.

Summers turned the meeting over to Kyle Peddie, newly elected School Board Chairman.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Duggar and carried to set time and place for regular School Board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Liberty County Education and Administrative Center.

Motion was made by Duggar, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve Cadence Bank as the Official Depository for 2011-2012.

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve Expenditures Statement Format for 2011-2012.

Motion was made by Hayes, seconded by Kever and carried unanimously to approve the revised School Board Members and Superintendent Salaries for 2011-2012.

Motion was made by Kever, seconded by Duggar and carried unanimously to approve Contract with Ardor Health Solutions for Speech Language Pathology Assistant Services, beginning October 17, 2011 through December 21, 2011, 35 hours per week, \$59.00/hour.

Motion was made by Duggar, seconded by Hayes and carried unanimously to approve Letter of Agreement from Accelyfy, LLC d/b/a Educational Services & Products, LLC ("ESP"), beginning January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.

Motion made by Hayes, seconded by Kever and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

*Superintendent
Sue Summers
Chairman, Kyle Peddie*

NOTES OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the prayers and support from each of you who found so many ways to show love and concern during the passing of our loved one.

We were touched to see and hear from so many of our friends and family members which helped to make this loss a little easier to bear.

The family of Queen Ester Brown Askew

The family of Danny Hayes would like to thank everyone who came by, brought food, sent flowers, or just had us in their prayers. Your thoughtfulness during the loss of our father, brother and friend is appreciated beyond words, it means so much to all of us.

The Danny Hayes family

The families on 7th Street in Sumatra want to thank the Liberty County Commissioners and all who helped to put the speed bumps down. We greatly appreciate it. Thank all of you again. God bless all of you!

Wayne Jenette Holland

Recently Corinth Baptist Church had a turkey shoot to help the youth raise funds for a summer youth camp. We want to say thank you to all who participated in any way. Thank you to Brad and Wanda Peddie for the use of your property, Marlon Peavey for donating ammunition, and each and every one who took time to shoot. We hope you all had fun and make plans to join us next time!! The youth are currently selling Fun Station Fun Cards for only \$12. Call Beckie Black at 556-4270 for more details.

Corinth Baptist Church

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Kenny Griffin of the Chipola Regional Workforce Board earns statewide recognition with award

Kenny Griffin, Business Services Coordinator for the Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board, was recognized as the winner of the Leadership Ambassador Award by the Florida Workforce Development Association at the group's annual Workforce Academy Dec. 9.



Griffin was nominated by his local workforce board in recognition of his dedication and service to the employers and job seekers in Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington counties. Griffin was selected from nominations made by 23 of Florida's 24 workforce development boards. The award is given each year to one individual that best exemplifies a commitment to strengthening Florida's workforce development system

through their dedication to excellence as demonstrated by their actions.

After receiving the award Griffin said he was humbled to have been selected given the high quality of workforce professionals in Florida and he also gave thanks to his co-workers for their dedication to serving employers and job seekers in the region.

"It is an honor to be recognized for performing a task that I truly love doing and that is working to assist the citizens of the Chipola workforce region," Griffin said. "It is not

often that an individual has an opportunity to really make a difference in someone's life and the Chipola Regional Workforce Board has given me this opportunity."

CRWDB Board Chair Darrin Wall of Chipley said, "The board of directors is excited and proud that our own Kenny Griffin received the Florida Workforce Development Association Leadership Ambassador Award. Kenny was selected as the winner for the entire state because of the leadership skills he exhibits to execute successful programs that help our clients get jobs." Wall continued, "We are fortunate to have staff members like Kenny Griffin working hard every day to help our residents and our employers."

Griffin said that after his nomination he was interviewed by the selection committee and during the interview he stressed his commitment to helping make the right con-

nctions between employers and job seekers so that local employers can become more productive and profitable and our residents can get the jobs they need.

"I'm proud to say that commitment is not only one that I've made, but one that all of the staff here in our five counties have made," Griffin said.

The CRWDB provides oversight and direction for the Workforce Investment Act, Welfare Transition and other state and federal programs designed to help our residents obtain and maintain employment, as well as have opportunities for career advancement. Primary services are provided at our three One-Stop Career Centers located in Blountstown, Chipley and Marianna. We also work with local educational institutions, economic development organizations and local employers to promote our goal of having a highly skilled and competitive workforce.

ASK
THE

OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC



What is the meaning of alarm, as in a three-alarm fire?

-F. V., Redding Ridge, Conn.

An alarm is a warning, signal, or call to action. It originated as a call to arms – "All'arme!" ("To arms!") in Old Italian. As used by fire departments, the signal is preceded by a number, which alerts the dispatcher to the magnitude of the fire and the response required. The numbers represent pre-established assignments of apparatus and manpower and allow the dispatcher to know instantly how much equipment and how many firefighters will be needed to do the job. The higher the number is, the more of each will be required.

Is there any truth to the idea that colors such as "institutional green" are depressing?

-H. L., Ennis, Tex.

It's called chromotherapy, the idea that certain colors can exert psychological, or even physical, influences upon us. To put a positive spin on it, green is often used to aid balance and create peace in a situation of, shall we say, emotional upheaval. It's often used in dormitories, hospitals, and, well, yes, mental institutions for its reputed calming influences.

Yellow has positive influences over the intellect, we're told, so if there's a yellow tint to that green, it may be a

DEC. 12, MONDAY — Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones accepted knighthood from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace, 2003.

DEC. 13, TUESDAY — St. Lucia. Mercury stationary. Philadelphia Mint began stamping Susan B. Anthony dollar, 1978. A barking dog is often more useful than a sleeping lion.

DEC. 14, WEDNESDAY — Ember Day. First U.S. president George Washington died, 1799. National Velvet, featuring Elizabeth Taylor, premiered, New York, 1944.

DEC. 15, THURSDAY — Bill of Rights Day. Halcyon Days begin. Battle of Fredericksburg ended in defeat of union troops by Confederate General Robert E. Lee, 1862.

DEC. 16, FRIDAY — Ember Day. American patriots dressed as Native Americans dumped British tea overboard in Boston Harbor, 1773. Author Philip K. Dick born, 1928.

DEC. 17, SATURDAY — Wright Brothers Day. Ember Day. Moon on equator. Conjunction of Mars and the Moon. Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" premiered, St. Petersburg, Russia, 1892.

DEC. 18, SUNDAY — Fourth Sunday of Advent. Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prohibiting slavery, went into effect, 1865. Beware the pogonip.

good choice for the academic year.

Blue is cooling and relaxing, good for sleeping, but maybe not so good for studying.

Orange has been called "the wisdom ray" and is supposed to counteract prejudices (if only it were so simple), open the mind (ditto), encourage new ideas, and boost confidence.

Don't swing too far from orange to red, however.

Red is active and motivating, yes, but a trifle off-balance, perhaps, for some tastes.

Is there a way to politely decline the gift of a fruitcake?

-G. M., Grosse Point, Mich.

If so, we've yet to hear of it. Traditionally,

fruitcakes are considered to improve with age, so instead of serving it, perhaps you could claim that you're still aging it properly. As it happens, holding off on fruitcake

has a broad history. One story has it that Queen Victoria was given a fruitcake for her birthday. To demonstrate her great restraint (or so she said!), she waited a year before

partaking of the loaded sweet. Whether her good taste surpassed that of the well-aged cake, we can not say. The tradition of putting a piece of wedding cake under your pillow for good luck also stems from the fruitcake. This dark, very rich, and nutty cake, drenched with liquor, was often the wedding cake of choice in England. Perhaps that pillow ritual was really a young bride's attempt at the politeness you describe. Poll any of your friends and neighbors, and you are likely to find that there are more people who give fruitcakes than eat them.

Unfortunately, today's fruitcakes usually contain dyed, dried citrus bits in all shades of red and green, instead of the pomegranates and pine nuts and fragrant spices of fruitcakes years ago.

Plum cakes, a near relative, elicit a similar response from many people, although some hearty souls consider the plum cake a good excuse to indulge in hard sauce, that sweet, buttery accompaniment.

In England, plum cakes were once restricted by law to certain holidays and events, such as Christmas and Easter, and weddings, for example. The ban probably came about as a result of the strong liquor the cake was soaked in, but who knows?

Maybe it was an early attempt at squelching this questionable dessert altogether.

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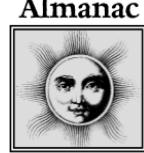
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THIS WEEK WITH

The Old Farmer's Almanac



December 12-18

DECEMBER 12
Last quarter Moon



DECEMBER 14, 16, 17
Ember Days

Seeing the Light

December 13 marks the anniversary of two women who were "bright lights" in their small communities. It is the **feast day of St. Lucia**, patroness of blindness. Also called St. Lucy's Day, it is celebrated in Sweden, with young girls parading through the towns, wearing crowns of candles, and delivering cakes and coffee. December 13 also marks the day on

which "Grandma Moses" died, in 1961. She was a farmer's wife who did not begin to paint until she was in her seventies. Her painted "primitives" of country scenes became popular and were exhibited the world over.

Swedish Spritz Cookies

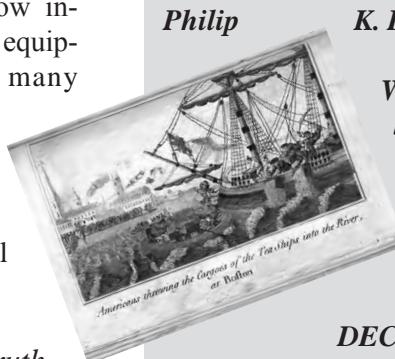
In a large bowl, cream the butter. Add the sugar, 2/3 cup sugar, 3 egg yolks, 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract, 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour. In a large bowl, cream the butter. Add the sugar, 2/3 cup sugar, 3 egg yolks, 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract, 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour.



- If in December a robin sings on the barn, the weather will be very warm.
- Use lemon oil in place of furniture polish.
- On December 15, 1978, Superman, starring Christopher Reeve, premiered.



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Americans throwing the cargoes of the Tea ships into the River.

Eight ideas for American-made holiday gifts

WAVERLY, IA—As you build your holiday shopping list this year, does it contain items that are American-made? Buying products made in the USA will have a positive impact on small American companies and could make the difference between their survival and demise.

With each dollar you spend on locally made items or services, you support the well-being of many workers and their families. Whether it is an individual running their own craft business or a small family-owned company, buying from them also increases the health of their communities. If their products and services are selling well, they'll have money in their pockets to spend in their hometowns.

Here are a few gift ideas to consider:

1. Pamper someone. Buy gift certificates for local services such as a massage, haircut, car detailing and bicycle or computer tune-up.

2. Give handmade craft items. Shop local craft bazaars or visit the workshops of local crafts people. Jewelry, pottery, hand-blown glass, wooden toys or furniture, paintings, woven rugs or baskets, hand-knit sweaters or scarves, handmade doll clothing, metal or concrete yard décor, hand-dyed silk scarves, fabric purses, aprons... if you want an item, you can usually find it from artisans who craft it with love and amazing skill. Often, you can special-order the right size, color or pattern.

3. Crafting supplies. For do-it-yourselfers on your list, purchase American-made supplies, such as locally spun wool from alpacas or sheep, raw wood ready to be carved, hand-made beads or unique cookie cutters and molds. Then add a project book filled with step-by-step directions, such as Cookie Bouquets (for making edible centerpieces).

4. Sweet treats are sure to please! Visit the local cupcake

shop, bakery or confectionary for fancy cupcakes, favorite bear claws and cookies or hand-dipped candies and fudge. Gift certificates for a monthly treat would make anyone smile.

If you love to bake, create your own treats for gift-giving, using locally purchased ingredients.

5. For the person who likes to cook, give hand-thrown pots filled with fresh herbs that can be grown on a windowsill and used all winter to season homemade dishes. Toss in a book about cooking with herbs and your gift

will be complete. (Try A Guide to Fresh Herbs, produced and published by CQ Products in Waverly, Iowa.)

6. For the gardener, buy a gift certificate to a local nursery that can be used in the spring to purchase seeds, flowers, starter plants or mulch for the garden. It's local and green.

7. Entertainment, anyone? Give tickets to an event such as a play, concert or comedy show at a local theatre or hot spot, and tuck them into a card created with hand-crafted paper.

8. Food is always a hit. You

can't beat the taste of fresh honey from local hives or jam, jelly and salsa from locally harvested produce. Arrange a few jars in a handmade basket lined with a cross-stitched cloth.

If you like to preserve your own harvest for gift-giving, the cookbook Freezer Jams & Refrigerator Pickles is filled with easy recipes to help you.

You don't have to buy gift items made in other countries to create a memorable Christmas this year. Come home for the holidays with American-made products instead.



Yon to celebrate retirement Dec. 21

The family of Judy Yon invites all to join us in a celebration of her retirement on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. (CT) at the Main Street Restaurant in Blountstown.



**SELENA ROSE
OVALLE-MIRANDA**

Selena Rose Ovalle-Miranda celebrated her first birthday on Dec. 12. She is the daughter of Margie Swearengin and Emilio Ovalle-Miranda of Blountstown. Her grandparents are Kelli Odom of Blountstown, Candela Ruiz-Miranda and Alfonzo Ovalle-Sanchez, both of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Her great-grandmother is Jeanne Roberts. Selena enjoys playing with her big brother Miguel, going to her nana's, loving on her mommy and daddy, going to see Uncle Josh and playing with her cousins, Randy, Calvin and Emily.

BIRTHDAYS



BRADDOCK HOBBS & RYLAND MARTINA

Braddock Hobbs celebrated his 11th birthday on Nov. 17 and Ryland Martina will celebrate his seventh birthday on Dec. 18. Braddock is the son of Mary and Randal Martina of Bristol and Bo and Hale Hobbs of Ocala. His grandparents are Nicky and Faye Phillips of Bristol, Alicia and Charles Odom of Sumatra, Derek and Shawna Martina of Eastpoint, Janie Hobbs of Altha, Otho and Clara Hobbs of Sneads and Charlie and Jeanine Wood of Carrabelle. His great-grandparents are Lillian Shepard of Bristol and Maxine Hand of Clarksville. Ryland is the son of Randal and Mary Martina of Bristol and Miranda Murray of Eastpoint. His grandparents are Alicia and Charles Odom of Sumatra, Derek and Shawna Martina of Eastpoint, Nicky and Faye Phillips of Bristol and Richard and Debbie Murray of Eastpoint. His great-grandparents are Annette Martina of Apalachicola, Myrle and CL Odom, Julia Smith, Robert and Diane Tucker, all of Eastpoint and Harry Murray of Carrabelle. The boys enjoy hunting, fishing and aggravating their two sisters, Kirsten and Molly.



**JAYLA RENEE
STRENGTH**

Jayla Renee Strength will celebrate her second birthday on Dec. 14. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Terra Strength of Bristol. Her grandparents are Jimmy and Darlene Strength of Altha, Renee Shuler of Fountain and the late Tim Shuler of Bristol. Her great-grandparents are Moses and Dolores Shuler of Bristol, William Maloy of Marianna and Lodean Tate of Altha. Jayla enjoys swinging outside and helping mommy and daddy around the house.

WEDDINGS

Garcia, Payne to wed Dec. 17

Rosendo and Sharon O'Bryan Garcia of Bristol are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Jessica Nicole Garcia to John W. Payne Jr., son of Ann and the late John W. Payne Sr. of Bonifay.

Jessica graduated from Liberty County High in 2003. She received an AA degree from Chipola College in Musical Performance and an AA degree in Forensic Investigations from the University of Massachusetts. She is currently attending Washington-Holmes Technical Center where she is seeking her nursing degree. Jessica is employed by ARC of Holmes County.

John graduated from Holmes County High in 1998 and is employed as a correctional officer at Holmes County C.I. in Bonifay.

Jessica's maternal grandparents are Beverly and the late Tommy O'Bryan of Bristol. Her paternal grandparents are Bentura Garcia-Gasper and the late Ynez M. Garcia, Sr. of Greensboro.

The couple will be married Dec. 17 at 3:30 p.m. (ET) at the Chapel in the Pioneer Settlement in Blountstown. The reception will follow at the Clubhouse. An after party will be at the home of Tommy D. and Katie O'Bryan in Bristol. All friends and family are invited to attend.





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Scotts Ferry Annual Redneck Christmas Parade



The road was filled with camouflage, deer mounts and tractors making their way through the heart of Scotts Ferry during Saturday's annual Redneck Christmas Parade. Parade participants tossed out plenty of candy and beads along the parade route to those standing by to watch the unusual and spirited procession.

ANGIE DAVIS PHOTOS



Santa will be arriving at the Calhoun Liberty Employees Credit Union (the Blountstown Branch) on **Friday, December 16** from 2 to 4 p.m. (CT)



*There is still time for a Christmas Loan
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Don't stay inside this winter, count birds!

One, two, three, four: cardinals, finches and chickadees. How many birds can you count in your backyard this winter?

While you may not hear their boisterous whistles and tweets like you do in spring, birds are still in your backyard. Your yard may look gloomy and dull this time of year, but there are bright spots, or feathers, to see! In fact, many species of birds are just arriving from as far away as Canada. It is migration season, when many of our feathered friends travel to the warm state of Florida to escape the frozen, snowy north.

What might you see bustling and flitting around your yard? Well, you might set your sights on a yellow-bellied sapsucker, a migratory woodpecker that gets its name because of the holes it bores into trees to "suck" the sap out of the bark.

Or you might see an American goldfinch or chipping sparrow. Although their colors are duller in the winter, goldfinches are still easy to spot through bare branches and brown leaves because of their yellow feathers, black wings with white markings and cone-shaped bill. The chipping sparrow is a robust little bird with a rust-colored "cap" on its head. It must love to be heard because it sings loudly from high, outer limbs of trees. Chipping sparrows like feeders too, if you have one.

Counting and viewing birds is as easy as walking



out your back door and looking in your trees, bushes or at your feeder. Make it a family event and take mom or dad outside with you.

Things to have handy: binoculars, bird guides and checklists to keep track of the kind of birds you see and how many you count. If you plan to be outside for a long period of time, take a blanket to sit on and a cup of hot chocolate!

You can also join the FWC's Wings

Over Florida program or become a Junior Birder by visiting FloridaBirdingTrail.com and selecting "Birding Resources" in the left-hand menu; then click on "Wings Over Florida." That is where you can learn about the Junior Birder Program and download a copy of the Bird Detective checklist.

Another opportunity to count birds in your backyard happens Feb. 17-20, 2012. The yearly Great Backyard Bird Count is the largest bird count in North America. This event helps scientists learn things, like how winter weather influences bird populations, how this year's migration compares with last year's, and what kinds of birds are in cities and rural areas. For information about this upcoming event, visit bird-source.org/gbbc.

So don't become part of the gloomy winter season, Get Outdoors Florida! and go count birds!

Service Times:
8:00, 9:30, 11 am in Blountstown
11 am in Marianna

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LIBERTY COUNTY NOTICE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

The Elections' office in Liberty County is busy preparing for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) to be held on January 31, 2012. This is the first of three elections to be held in 2012.

Please note that the Presidential Preference Primary is a Republican primary only. This means that only those voters who are registered as Republican will be able to vote on this Presidential Preference Primary ballot.

If you need to register, update your address/registration information or wish to change your political party on your voter registration in order to vote in the PPP it must be done before the registration books close on January 3, 2012. Always remember that registrations and party changes can only be made up to the 29th day prior to an election. You can attain a voter registration application form to make any of the above changes to your registration at:

*Our office at the Liberty County Courthouse located on SR 20 in Bristol.

*Our website at libertyelections.com, then click on Voter Information at the top of the page. The form can be completed online but the form must be printed, signed and mailed to our office for it to be valid.

*Public libraries, *Post Offices, *Thompson Store, *Sumatra Grocery

SPECIAL NOTICE—Due to the small number of Republican voters (<12) in two of our precincts, 101.001 F.S. allows us to combine those precincts with a neighboring precinct for those voters wishing to vote at the polls. The other alternatives are to early vote (see Election Calendar) or request an absentee ballot, which are now available. All voters affected by this change will be notified by mail and the change will be for the Presidential Preference Primary ONLY. The change is as follows:

Precinct No. 1—Rock Bluff temporarily moved to Precinct No. 3—Bristol (City Hall)

Precinct No. 7—Sumatra temporarily moved to Precinct No. 6—Telogia (Next to Thompson's Store)

**If you have any questions, please call our office at 643-5226.
We are looking forward to an exciting election year!**

Marcia Wood, Liberty County Supervisor of Elections



Chipola College student raises \$20,000 for Hearts of Promise
Chipola College student Hillary Saunders recently raised \$20,000 for the Hearts of Promise Foundation. Pictured from left, are: Wayne Saunders, Carolyn Saunders, Hillary Saunders, Dr. John Mayer, Candace Saunders-Turner and Carol Saunders. The foundation was established in honor of Hillary's cousin, nine-year-old Holly Turner, who has a congenital heart problem.

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- One free directory listing;
- One free white page telephone directory;
- Free toll blocking for qualifying low-income customers;
- Free access to the telephone relay service; and
- Free access to the business office.

*This is a state and federally funded program, which provides discounted service to low-income residential customers who meet the eligibility rules that have been established. Includes discounted basic service rates, discounted one-time installation charges or change charges, and free toll blocking. All this is made available to those who qualify for LifeLine Telephone Service.

For additional details on any of the services, please contact our business office at 1.800.400.5568.

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Calhoun County voters inconvenienced by closures and mergers of voting precincts

To the editor,

I was surprised and shocked recently when I received a letter and new voter registration card from the Calhoun County Supervisor of Elections. Upon checking on this, I was told I will no longer be voting in my district as the voting site at Henderson Mill (near Sunnyhill

Church at Altha) has been closed and we will now be voting in District One at the W. T. Neal Civic Center in Blountstown.

I listen to the local news daily and read the local papers each week so I was alarmed that decades of tradition had been ended with no public knowledge. My neighbors, local poll workers, fire station attendants had also not been made aware of these changes until after the fact. There was a public hearing notice posted in one local paper around Oct. 5. The public hearing was held at the County Commission meeting Oct. 18 with no one speaking concerning this.

Because of the action of the Supervisor of Elections Margie Laramore and County Commissioners, Henderson Mill and Pine Island voters will now be traveling to Blountstown to vote. Three precincts in Blountstown (Scout House, Extension Office, and Public Library) will

SPEAK UP!

WITH A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Write: The Calhoun-Liberty Journal
 P.O. Box 536, Bristol 32321

also be voting at the civic center on 2 or 3 voting machines. The Scotts Ferry precinct has also been closed and those voters moved to Kinard. We have never had five precincts voting in one place and I feel this is a set up for confusion, mistakes, and delays worse than we have ever known before.

At a time when voter apathy (not to mention the cost of transportation) results in low voter participation, why would you move the location causing more inconvenience? This action also weakens the importance of community interest. We have been relocated out of our communities. Voters within two miles of Altha will now have to travel 10 miles farther to vote. Many will just say "Why bother?"

This item is on the agenda of the County Commission meeting on Dec. 20 at my request. I want to express my opinion that the Commissioners and Supervisor of Elections has not allowed the public to be involved in this decision and they have also made a bad decision with their action. Anyone with concern or support may contact me or attend the meeting, which starts at 5 p.m.

Concerned Voter,
 Volena Barfield

Voters reminded there is no limit on how many times you can change party affiliation

To the editor,

Are you aware that 71% of Liberty County voters voted for the Republican candidate on the Presidential ballot in the 2008 General Election?

However, the number of people registered as Republicans only amounts to 10% of registered voters in Liberty County.

This means that a large number of those who are registered Democrats voted for the Republican candidate. Many people conclude that the reason they are registered Democrat (although their views are more aligned with Republicans) is to be able to vote in the local elections. What you may not realize is that when there is not a Republican on the ballot (and no qualified write-in candidates),

registered Republicans still get to vote for a Democrat in local Primary Elections.

Do you want to protect your views of self-reliance and gun rights this year? Has the economy impacted your business? If so, then you may wish to vote for a specific candidate in the Presidential Primary this January so that the best candidate is chosen to run on the Republican ticket in November's General Election. However, only those who are registered Republican can vote in the Presidential Primary to help choose a candidate.

Therefore, we challenge you to go to the Supervisor of Elections office before Jan. 3 and change your voter registration to Republican. Help us choose the next President. If you

wish to change your voter registration again after the Presidential Primary in order to vote as a Democrat in the local Primary Elections, remember there is no limitation on the number of times you may switch your party affiliation.

In addition, we encourage everyone to donate a jacket (youth or adult) and toy to the Calhoun Liberty Ministry Center to help the needy families this Christmas season.

We hope that you will make your vote count in the Presidential Preference Primary on January 31, 2012.

Donnie Phillips, Greg Prichard, Selina Potter, Will Potter, Hannah Causseaux, Troy Lollie, Alfreda Lollie, Ryan Faircloth and Ricky Mayo



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The Lights of Liberty ...roll through Bristol Saturday night

Saturday's parade brought out the creativity in float builders as they added lights and decorations to ensure their entry wasn't missed by the judges awarding this year's trophies. Parade winners are listed at right. Despite chilly temperatures, spirits were high as participants laughed, waved and threw out lots of candy to onlookers lining the streets.

Lights of Liberty Christmas Parade winners

GRAND PRIZE: Twin Oaks Juvenile Facility

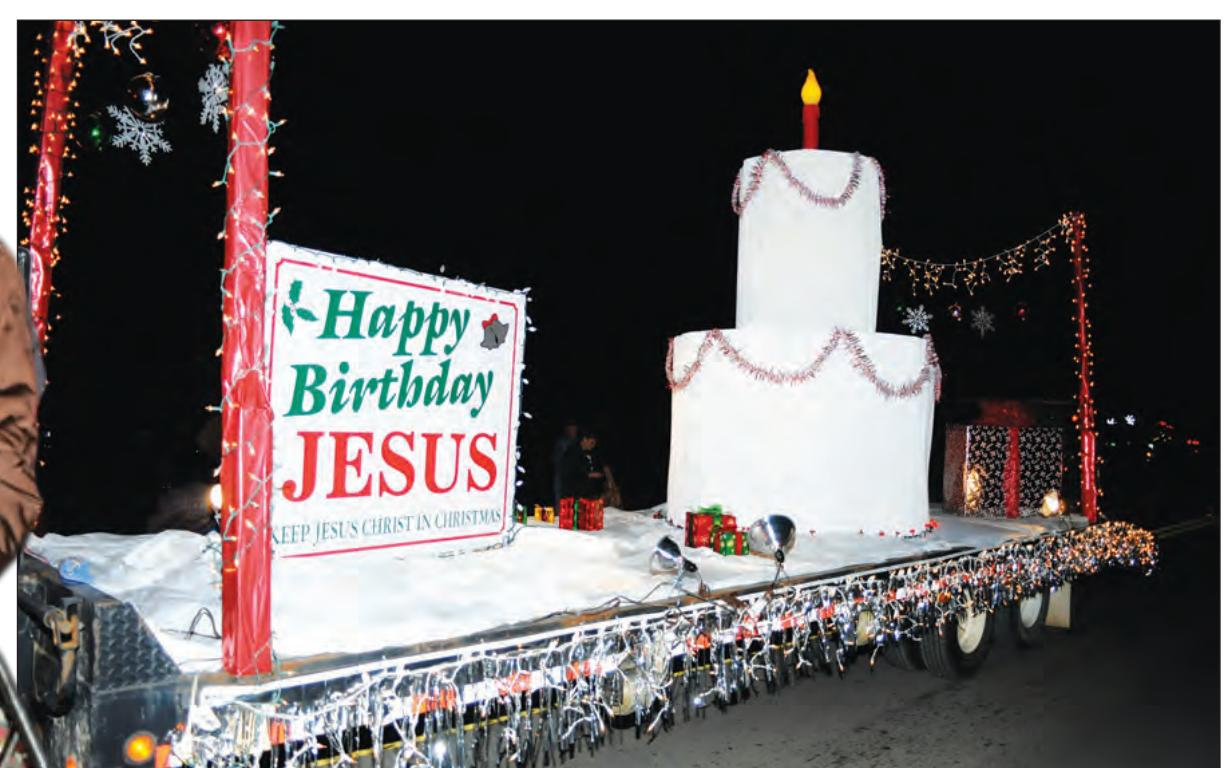
BEST USE OF LIGHTS:
Danny Ryals' Christmas Bus

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
1st place: Lake Mystic Baptist Church
2nd Place: LCHS Music & Art Department
3rd Place: Bristol Pentecostal Holiness Church

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
1st Place: Bristol Youth Academy
2nd Place: Rock Bluff Vol. Fire Dept.
3rd Place: The Stan Brannon Family

BUSINESS
1st Place: Calhoun-Liberty Hospital
2nd Place: Ramsey's Piggly Wiggly
3rd Place: Buy Rite Drug Store

DANIEL
WILLIAMS
PHOTOS



Altha's Jr. Beta sends 10 boxes to Operation Christmas Child

by Hannah Register

Our Jr.Beta was busy working on shoeboxes to send to Operation Christmas Child, which is sponsored by Samaritans Purse.

The national collection week was November 15-22. Operation Christmas Child is an organization that collects shoe boxes filled with Christmas presents from all over the nation, to send overseas to less fortunate children. Jr.Beta members brought in an assortment of different items to place in the shoeboxes.

Mrs. Tracy Basford and Mr. Albert Blackburn, our Jr.Beta sponsors, are proud to announce that this year we had the opportunity to send 10 of these boxes.

Our Jr.Beta wishes all the receivers of their boxes a Merry Christmas. We are looking forward to their responses!



FCCLA District competition held Dec. 6; four move on to state competition in March

The FCCLA District Competition was held at the Altha Church of God on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Successfully four out of five who competed will continue to the State Competition in March.

Chelsea Murphy received a gold medal for her "Recycle and Redesign" project, and Christian Bay competed in a talent competition in which he played a drum solo and came out with a gold medal.

Katie Cox also competed in the talent competition for her singing and received a silver medal.

Meagan Mantacon won a silver medal for her "Recycle and Redesign" project.

Finally, Kayla Gay won a bronze medal

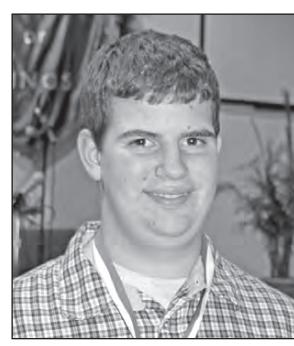


for her "Career Investigation".

Congratulations to all of the students who participated on Tuesday. The next competition will be on January 10 in Bethlehem.

BLOUNTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Justin Terry represents BHS bringing home silver medal at FCCLA District Competition Dec. 6 in Altha



JUSTIN TERRY

FCCLA had their first day of competitions on Dec. 6 in Altha.

Justin Terry competed in Job Interview.

Job Interview is an individual event and recognizes participants who use Family and Consumer Sciences and /or related occupations skills to develop a portfolio, participate in an interview, and communicate a personal understanding of job

requirements.

Participants must prepare a portfolio, be prepared to fill out a job application, and express their communication skills and job knowledge through an interview.

Justin came home with a silver medal and will represent Blountstown High School at the FCCLA state leadership conference in Orlando in March.

Congratulations Justin on a great job!



sual Culinarian, The Cutting Edge, Slow Food, and Desserts: The Last Impression.

In these sessions, the students learned knife skills, plate presentation, how to make mousse and tulip paste.

BHS culinary students travel to Gainesville for a culinary skills day sponsored by Johnson and Wales University

On Friday, Dec. 2 two culinary students traveled to Gainesville for a culinary skills day. This event was held at East-side High School and sponsored by Johnson and Wales University.

The students were broken into four groups to rotate through the stations that were lead by chefs from Johnson and Wales University.

The four stations were The Vi-

As the students were working the educators were in their own session led by Chef Wagner.

The educators learned how to reduce our carbon footprint, what a modern day induction kitchen looks like, and about child hunger.

It was a day enjoyed by all and the culinary students are looking forward to another culinary skills day in January focusing on seafood.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Wednesday, December 14, Semester exams

*Thursday, December 15, Semester exams

*Friday, December 16, Semester exams; Weight-lifting Showcase 9:49 a.m.; FCA Tailgating Party 3:30-5:30 p.m.; JV/V Basketball vs. Ponce DeLeon 5:30/7:00 p.m.

*Saturday, December 17, JV Basketball vs. North Bay Haven Charter 5:00 p.m.; V Basketball vs. Rocky Bayou Christian 6:30 p.m.

*Monday, December 19-23, Christmas Holidays

*Tuesday, December 20, JV/V Basketball at Vernon 6:00/7:30 p.m.

*Thursday, December 29, JV/V Basketball at Blountstown, 6:7:30 p.m.

*Tuesday, January 3, 2012, Teacher Evaluation Day

*Wednesday, January 4, Students return to school



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Friday, December 15, Early Release - 12:45; Boys Basketball in Bainbridge @ 2:30 P.M.

*Saturday, December 16, Cheer Regional Competition in Jacksonville; Boys Basketball in Bainbridge @ 2:30 P.M.

*Tuesday, December 20, Girls Basketball vs. Cottondale- Away @ 4:00 P.M.; Boys Basketball vs. Cottondale-Away TBA

*All breakfasts include a choice of assorted cereal with buttered toast whole wheat and juice

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU



Dec 14-20, 2011

CALHOUN

Wednesday

BREAKFAST: Grits with ham cubes and a sweet potato muffin.

LUNCH: Meatball sub, baked potato wedges and diced pears.

Thursday

BREAKFAST: Waffle with syrup and sausage patty.

LUNCH: Beef tacos, corn and diced peaches.

Friday

BREAKFAST: Ham and cheese biscuit and potato tots.

LUNCH: Hot dogs, french fries and fresh fruit.

Monday & Tuesday



WINTER BREAK BEGINS!

*All breakfasts include a choice of assorted cereal with buttered toast whole wheat and juice

LIBERTY

Wednesday

BREAKFAST: Grits and scrambled eggs.

LUNCH: Hamburger steak or chicken snack sandwich, rice and gravy, green beans and chilled peaches. (2nd & 3rd grade pizza)

Thursday

BREAKFAST: Cinnamon roll and sausage patty.

LUNCH: Chicken nuggets or ham and cheese sandwich, mashed potatoes, peas and applesauce.

Friday

BREAKFAST: Pancakes and sausage patty.

LUNCH: Meatball sub or ham chef salad, french fries, broccoli or peaches. (4th grade pizza)

Monday

BREAKFAST: Breakfast pizza.

LUNCH: Spaghetti with meat sauce or buffalo chicken wrap, tossed romaine and spinach salad with dressing and peach crisp. (kg & 1st grade pizza).

Tuesday

BREAKFAST: Ham and cheese biscuit.

LUNCH: Hot dog on bun or chicken noodle casserole, coleslaw, corn and orange.

*All breakfasts include a choice of assorted cereal with buttered toast whole wheat and juice

MENUS SPONSORED BY:



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BES 5TH grade performs 'A Penguin Christmas' Dec. 9

The 5th graders at B.E.S. presented the musical "A Penguin Christmas" on Friday, December 9.

The audience was entertained by Santa, Mrs. Claus, the reindeer and elves and the penguins who tried to take over the North Pole!

There was also singing and dancing by all!



Chipola College's automotive technology program selected as finalist for Bellwether Award in Workforce Development division

MARIANNA—Chipola College's Automotive Technology program recently was selected as a finalist for a Bellwether Award in the Workforce Development division. Chipola instructors John Gardner and Chase Vlieg will present an overview of their innovative program at the Community College Futures Assembly set for January 2012 in Orlando.

The Chipola Automotive program utilizes an industry-based curriculum in partnership with local dealerships, shops, and an advisory committee to provide students with the competitive edge in this ever changing high-tech training environment. The Chipola program also was named a Bellwether runner-up in 2006 and Florida's Best Business & Education partnership in 2004.

Chipola's automotive technology program is centered on today's students. Instructor John Gardner says, "Today's technologically savvy students grew up with computers, cell phones and video games. If we want a successful program in today's 'I want it now,' microwave society our programs must evolve as well. In order to do so we had to reinvent the wheel."

Gardner said outdated training videos and materials with voice over and slow animation were not holding the students' attention. He and his assistant Chase Vlieg formed a partnership with the entertainment industry to create a new fast-paced "Infotainment" training system. Infobase Learning, Films Media Group agreed to work with Chipola, ACI and film experts Brenton Productions to produce an ASE Automotive Training Video Series. Brenton produces several successful TV shows, including Two Guys Garage, Truck Universe, Hi Rev Tuners, Shadetree Mechanic, Crank & Chrome and Wounded Worrier Series.

The Chipola instructors starred in the new training series with help from industry partners Auto Value and A-Tech Automotive Training Systems. Gardner says, "We created the first ever ASE Certification series written, scripted, and on screen talent by two practicing automotive technology instructors with over 22 years of combined experience earning the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) stamp of approval."

Each segment contains: Hands on Demonstrations, Parts Identification, Theory of Operation, Professionalism Dialogue, Motivational Tips, ASE Preparation & Five ASE Style Questions. The no fluff informative videos are 3-10 minutes each, and designed to be utilized on



Chipola instructors John Gardner (left) and Chase Vlieg are pictured on the set during filming of their ASE Automotive Training Video Series. The instructors present an overview of their innovative program at the Community College Futures Assembly set for January 2012 in Orlando.

internet based programs or stand alone DVD's. Gardner says the series was strategically scripted and produced to meet the needs of today's automotive students, instructors and technicians. All videos are quick and to the point, with multiple shots at different locations, positive, bright and upbeat. The DVD's/curriculum package was designed to meet the needs of all three types of learners: visual, audio and kinesthetic. All content includes animation and graphics, close ups of components and parts labeling, ASE questions with highlighted answers, demonstrations explained verbally with all parts labeled. All live demonstrations with tools and equipment involve the audience in the learning process.

Any institution can implement the DVD's into their

current program. ASE and NATEF correlations are an integral part of the curriculum package. Students and instructors can learn theory together and then reinforce the content technically with hands-on experience.

Gardner says the impact of the DVD series has been nationwide. Automotive publishers Infobase Learning, Films on Demand Goodheart-Wilcox, Delmar, Cengage Learning and Pearson are currently developing their automotive curricula with this system, either by emulation or direct utilization.

Gardner says, "Our goal is to train tomorrow's workforce in a relevant and applicable way meeting the needs of present and future industries with teaching methods that reach today's students."

Information on the DVD series is available at filmsmediagroup.com

For information about Chipola's Automotive Technology program, call (850) 718-2306, or visit www.chipola.edu



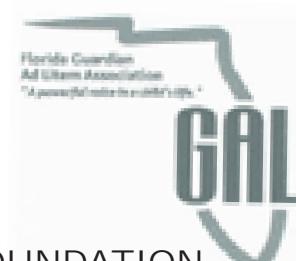
Chipola Ford helps Auto Tech Program donating a 40th Anniversary Mustang

Chipola Ford recently donated a 40th Anniversary Mustang and thousands of dollars worth of automotive parts to the Chipola College Automotive Technology program. Here, Will Rogers of Chipola Ford (center) presents the Mustang to Chipola Automotive instructors John Gardner (left) and Chase Vlieg.

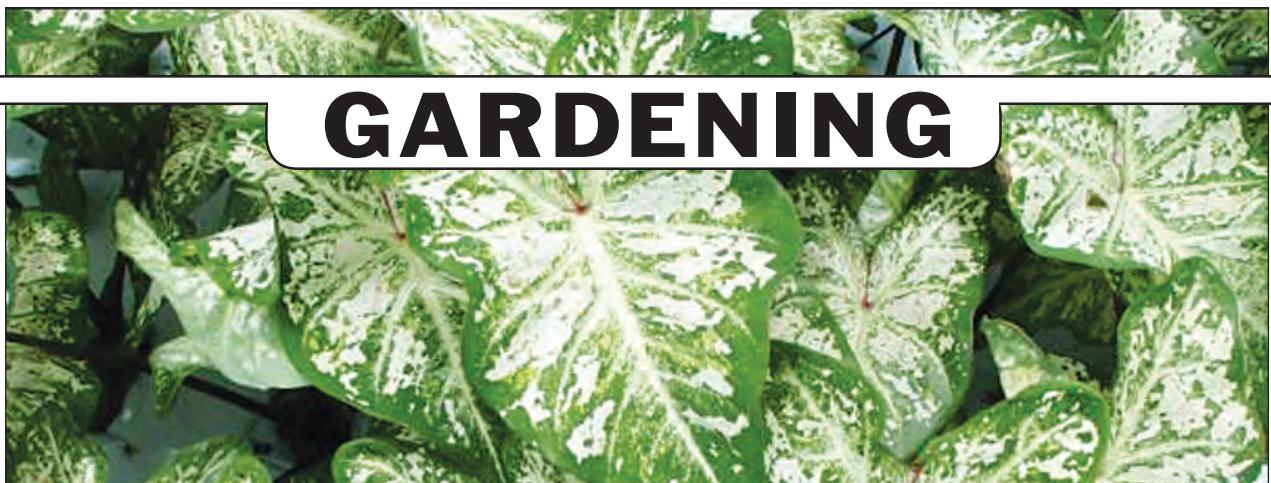
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GARDENING

Add a little frostiness to your Florida landscape with four decorative plants

In Northwest Florida, the temperatures have been a bit warmer than some would like during a holiday season. If you have dreams of Jack Frost nipping at your nose or seeing your good friend Frosty the Snowman, take heart. Today's article will bring visions of winter wonderlands to your Florida garden.

DIAMOND FROST® - EUPHORBIA GRAMINEA

Diamond Frost Euphorbia is a jewel of a plant and one of the shining stars in the horticulture industry. Home gardeners will love the non-stop color, versatility and ease of maintenance this plant offers.

From spring until fall frost, Diamond Frost Euphorbia produces clouds of dainty white bracts (colored leaves). It grows 6 to 12 inches tall and 20-plus inches wide. Its sprawling growth habit cascades over the sides of containers or fills in spaces within landscape beds. It also gives a dramatic solo performance in hanging baskets, engulfing them with spherical mounds of color that look like snowballs in the summer landscape.

The leaves of Diamond Frost Euphorbia are tiny, gray-green and masked by the colorful bracts and tend to fade into the background.

Diamond Frost Euphorbia prefers morning sun, afternoon shade and moist, well-drained soil. It is self-grooming in that the old flowering bracts will wither and drop off, so they don't have to be removed by hand to

by Theresa Friday,
Horticulture Extension Agent,
Santa Rosa County



maintain a neat appearance. Diamond Frost is moderately salt tolerant - it can withstand the amount of salt encountered when planted 30 feet or more from the source of the salt.

This plant is a member of the poinsettia family and produces a sticky latex-like sap when cut. Most people will have little or no reaction due to sap exposure. However, people with sensitive skin or latex allergies should be cautious when handling euphorbias. If you have ever experienced a skin irritation due to contact with poinsettias you should be cautious with all euphorbia.

Although Diamond Frost Euphorbia is a summer annual, containerized plants can be over-wintered indoors in a bright, sunny location and then taken outside again after the last spring frost.

ICEBERG ROSE

Looking for that wholesome white rose to add to your landscape? This pure white floribunda rose was introduced in 1958 and remains in the nursery trade.

Its long pointed bud opens into a medium sized, ruffled flower with about 25 petals. Flowers form in large clusters typical of floribunda roses and are scented with a honey-like fragrance.

This vigorous upright grower has light green leaves and grows to about three to five feet tall and wide.

SNOW WHITE TOMATO

True tomato lovers enjoy trying new varieties although growing them can be challenging in our Northwest Florida environment.

If you crave a different-looking small tomato that delivers a big punch of sweetness, try the Snow White tomato. It is a cherry tomato but turns from white to pale yellow as it matures. They are just the perfect size for snacking or salads.

FLORIDA BLIZZARD CALADIUM

Caladiums are ornamental plants that display a wide diversity of leaf shapes, colors, and vein patterns that are rarely found in other cultivated plant species. Their colorful leaves rival many flowers, and the plants grow well in summer heat and shady conditions.

Developed by the University of Florida caladium breeding program, Florida Blizzard is an attractive addition to the white fancy-leaved cultivar group with its unique foliar color pattern. Released in 2001, it has white veins, large white blotches, and dark-green margins.

These are just a few of the "coolest" plants around. So if Santa drops a gift card in your Christmas stocking this year, put a little frostiness in your Florida landscape.

Florida winter strawberry season now in full swing

PLANT CITY/DOVER – Near-perfect weather conditions allowed Florida strawberry growers to kick off the harvest in late October. Thanksgiving weekend is typically the launch date of the winter picking season.

"Acreage this year is estimated at 11,000 - about 1,000 acres over last year. Florida's cool nights and warm days have made the berries particularly sweet and the shipping quality is excellent," said Ted Campbell, Executive Director of the Florida Strawberry Growers Association (FSGA).

Florida strawberry growers are hopeful for mild weather through the season. Harvesting is underway.

"The size so far is medium to large and the berries are bright red, juicy and delicious. Demand for the ever-popular Festival variety is strong, but a newer, early variety-Radiance-is performing well. Volume will increase in mid-December. Baring a severe winter, we expect the season will run through March," Campbell continued.

"Greater production this year necessarily requires enhanced marketing efforts to create awareness and increase sales. One of the ways we're taking on the challenge is by reaching out to chefs in Florida and nearby geographical areas to showcase our industry," said Sue Harrell, Director of Marketing for the Association.

"We will provide industry contacts to make sourcing our berries seamless. A Chefs Advisory Board comprised of high-profile chefs will help us communicate product attributes to consumers and foodservice professionals.

Establishing relationships with executive chefs, research and product development experts and chef instructors teaching in accredited culinary academies is the best way possible to spread the word about our special strawberries.

We're focusing on educating both seasoned chefs and the chefs of tomorrow about our industry from the farm to the table. Establishing and nurturing these valuable relationships is an integral program designed to develop new markets today and maintaining them in the future.

"One of my favorite new ways to enjoy Florida strawberries for Super Bowl celebrations is to dip them in chocolate and decorate them to look like footballs. Log on to www.strawberrysue.com to learn more about the health benefits of strawberries and much more," Harrell continued.

States east of the Mississippi are target markets for Florida strawberries. The industry is also exporting Florida strawberries to buyers in Europe and Canada.

After experiencing two consecutive years of freezing temperatures and heavy rainfall, growers are optimistic that mild weather will continue through the harvest season.

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TALLAHASSEE — During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is important to remember the people in our lives who fill each day with joy. Covenant Hospice's Tree of Lights offers a time to reflect and celebrate our loved ones while giving a meaningful gift in their honor or memory.

Covenant Hospice invites all members of the Tallahassee community to a celebration of life at Publix at Village Square, located at 3521 Thomasville Rd. Keepsake ornaments in memory of a loved one are available for a donation to Covenant Hospice and they may be taken home or displayed on the Tree of Lights during the holiday season. A remembrance ceremony with a message of renewal and hope will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3:30 p.m. in Publix Apron's Cooking School. Following the ceremony, Publix Apron's will provide refreshments and guests are invited to socialize and share in the joy of the holiday season.

The annual tradition of Covenant Hospice's Tree of Lights holds a special place in the hearts of families and friends of Covenant Hospice patients and supports the funding of our chaplains, bereavement services, indigent care, and other unfunded programs. Covenant Hospice is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization committed to providing comprehensive, compassionate end-of-life care to our patients and their families in Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla counties.

For more information call 850-701-0137 or email LydiaClaire.Brooks@CovenantHospice.org.



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OBITUARY

JOHN ILMARI LUUKKO

BLOUNTSTOWN — John Ilmari Luukko, 65, of Blountstown passed away Friday, Dec. 9, 2011 in Panama City. He was born in Finland on June 30, 1946 to the late Ilmari and Maire Luukko. He loved to exercise and won many swimming awards as a boy in Finland. He lived in Blountstown for the last thirty years and worked as a carpenter.

He was preceded in death by a son, Richard Luukko.

Survivors include his daughter, Michelle Hicks and her husband, Tom of Sherman, CT; his companion, Britta Norrholm of Blountstown and her sons, Robert and Ralph Norrholm; a sister, Annelli Luukko of Finland; and eight grandchildren, Ashley, Tyler, and Ava Hicks and Ashley, Jake, Robert, Jr., Michael, and Kyle Norrholm.

No services are planned at this time. Memorialization will be by cremation.

Adams Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to adamsfh.com.

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Kinard VFD got their first brand new fire truck delivered to the firehouse on Friday, Dec. 2. The 2012 Freightliner tanker/pumper built by Pierce is top of the line and meets all the new NFPA standards. It can carry up to 2,500 gallons of water, which is good news to the rural area Kinard VFD serves. Jody Daniels and Chase McClellan applied for the FEMA grant

and was awarded \$273,000, which allowed them to purchase the new truck. One of the conditions of the grant is the fire department must supply 5% of the awarded amount of the grant. This was paid with funds raised at their annual Halloween carnival. Pictured above from left: (back row) Dan Davis, Chase McClellan, Lucious Rushing, Doyle Daniels, Nancy Newsome, Tammy Rushing, John Pace and J.K. Newsome; (front row) John Wesley Newsome, Jody Daniels, Jennifer Fullington, Johnny Skipper and Ryan Flowers. BELOW: Jennifer Fullington checks out the interior. LEFT: Fire Chief Doyle Daniels looks over the storage bin. BELOW LEFT: Chase McClellan and Dan Davis familiarize themselves with the pump controls.

ANGIE DAVIS PHOTOS



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Minutes from the Nov. 10 Liberty Commission meeting

Official minutes from the Nov. 10 regular meeting of the Liberty County Commission as recorded by the board secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Johnson. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Kevin Williams, Davis Stoutamire, Dexter Barber, Albert Butcher, Attorney Shalene Grover, Clerk Robert Hill and Deputy Clerk Charla Pearce.

Prayer was led by Dick Stanley.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Sue Roth.

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular and emergency meeting held Oct. 6 and special meeting Oct. 20, 2011 was made by Barber, seconded by Williams and carried.

Motion to add Deborah Belcher and Road Department discussion concerning Pat Alfonzo was made by Butcher, seconded by Stoutamire and carried.

Motion to approve Ordinance #2011-01 repealing Ordinance #86-04 and #87-02 and any other ordinance provisions that pertain to any regulation of firearms was made by Williams, seconded by Stoutamire and carried.

Motion to approve Ordinance #2011-02 requiring payments for collection services for unpaid garbage and water bills was made by Stoutamire, seconded by

Williams and carried.

Debra Belcher gave an update on the Energy Grant.

Motion to approve Proclamation declaring month of Nov. "Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" was made by Stoutamire, seconded by Butcher and carried.

A letter from Doug Thomas requesting permission to remove scrap metal from the old dump site at Neal Subdivision was read. No action taken.

Motion to approve closing streets for the Christmas Parade on Dec. 10, 2011 starting at 6:30 p.m., starting at the football field, come up Hwy. 12 to Hwy. 20, Hwy. 20 E to Myers Ann Street, South on Myers Ann Street to football field was made by Butcher, seconded by Barber and carried.

Motion to advertise for a used mechanic service truck for the Road Department was made by Butcher, seconded by Stoutamire and carried.

Motion to give the Road Department two hours for attending the mandatory meeting was made by Butcher, seconded by Barber and carried.

Pat Alfonso addressed the Board with her concerns of being written up by the Road Superintendent.

Motion to terminate Pat Alfonso was made by Barber, seconded by Butcher,

carried by Williams, and Johnson. Stoutamire voted no.

Motion to appoint Dexter Barber as the new Chairman was made by Butcher, seconded by Williams, and carried.

Motion to re-appoint Kevin Williams as the Vice Chairman was made by Butcher, seconded by Stoutamire and carried.

Motion to pay the bills was made by Williams, seconded by Barber and carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Stoutamire, seconded by Barber and carried.

Warrant List & Numbers

Operating Fund...4584 - 4604
Weatherization Fund...3689 - 3876
Payroll Fund...32338 - 32494

Robert Hill, Clerk of Court
Jim Johnson, Chairman

Nov. 3 special meeting minutes from the Liberty Co. Commission

Official minutes from the Nov. 3 special meeting of the Liberty County Commission as recorded by the board secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Johnson. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Kevin Williams, Davis Stoutamire, Dexter Barber, Albert Butcher, and Deputy Clerk Charla Pearce.

Prayer was led by Commissioner Davis Stoutamire.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Albert Butcher.

Supervisor of Elections, Marcia Wood presented a five year contract for eight AutoMark Voter Assist Terminals with Election Systems and Software, LLC. The rental payment is \$490 for each machine with a total of \$3,920 per year will be made from her budget.

Also Election Systems and Software will buy back old equipment at \$250 each for 11 units, a total of \$2,750.

Motion to approve two contracts, one for rental and one for buy back, was made by Stoutamire, seconded by Butcher and carried.

Motion to combine Precinct #1 with #3 and #7 with #6 for the Republican Ballot for the Presidential Primary for this election only and to notify each Republican voter by mail was made by Stoutamire, seconded by Barber and carried.

Re-districting needs to be done by 2013. Mrs. Wood requested that the Board not start this process until after the elections.

Motion to adjourn was made by Butcher, seconded by Barber and carried.

Charla Pearce, Deputy Clerk
Jim Johnson, Chairman

Nov. 11 emergency meeting minutes

Official minutes from the Nov. 11 emergency meeting of the Liberty County Commission as recorded by the board secretary

was given by Chairman Barber. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Stoutamire.

Robert Hill, Clerk of Court
Dexter Barber, Chairman

Road Superintendent Jim Shuler recommended to the Board that Pat Alfonso be reinstated to her position at the Road Department. Motion by Butcher, seconded by Stoutamire and carried to reinstate Pat Alfonso.

Motion to adjourn by Johnson, seconded by Williams and carried.

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Liberty Commission holds executive session Nov. 22

Official minutes from the Nov. 22 executive session of the Liberty County Commission as recorded by the board secretary

missioner Williams.

The meeting was recessed for executive session.

The meeting was reconvened by Chairman Barber. Motion by Stoutamire, seconded by Williams and carried for Clerk Hill to represent the Board in mediation of the Odom lawsuit.

Motion to adjourn by Stoutamire, seconded by Johnson and carried.

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Clerk of Court
Dexter Barber,
Chairman

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- Free access to emergency 9-1-1 and 800 or 800-like toll free services;
- One free directory listing;
- One free white page telephone directory;
- Free toll blocking for qualifying low-income customers;
- Free access to the telephone relay service; and
- Free access to the business office.

*This is a state and federally funded program, which provides discounted service to low-income residential customers who meet the eligibility rules that have been established. Includes discounted basic service rates, discounted one-time installation charges or change charges, and free toll blocking. All this is made available to those who qualify for LifeLine Telephone Service.

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Carr School's fourth graders share their Christmas wish list with Santa

Dear Santa,

All I want is Skyland Spyro's Adventure and Jesus to have a happy birthday. The reason I deserve Skylands is because of my good deeds, like helping my dad work on a house. The way Santa will find my house is by following the smell of cookies and carrots and even tootsie rolls.

— JAY T.

Dear Santa,

How are you? I hope you aren't sick of cookies because your gonna be stuffed after you leave my house. For Christmas I want a boom box so I can play all my CDs on it while I play with my toys. I also want a Petra CD so I have more of their collection. I deserve the gifts I want because earlier in the year I helped my Pepa clear out a little of the woods in his side yard. You will find my house by looking for a fox hole in a yard.

— ALIYAS ATHAM

Dear Santa,

I want a soft pink rug for my room. I also would love a pink-zebra rhinestone phone cover for a chocolate touch. I think I deserve them because I have done extra chores around the house. You can find my house at 231 drive.

— KARAH LEE

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is a handmade knife, a 20 gage pump shot gun and last but not least I want 30 acres of land to go hunting on. I deserve these gifts because I wash the dishes every afternoon. You can find me by listening to me fall out of a tree and climb back up it over and over again.

— CHRIS FINCH

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like a sock monkey, a phone, a laptop, and a guitar. The reason I deserve these gifts is because I haven't got any dots (a way of discipline). Santa you will find my house by the smell of cookies and the sound of snoring.

— BREANNA VARNUM

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is a Xbox 360 game called Call of Duty, World at War. I also want for Christmas a paint ball gun and helmet. Also I want a four wheeler. I have vacuumed and helped people when they fall. I help them if there hurt or lonely. How you will find my house is by going to the Frink sign in Clarksville, Florida and look for a address that has 48876013 on the mail box.

— GAGE BOND

Dear Santa,

I want a Blackberry for Christmas. I deserve this gift because I do what my mom and dad tell me to. Plus one day I forgot to clean my room so I got in trouble. The things I did this past year is helping in the yard and clean the bathroom. The way you will find my house is sniff the air for the delicious cookies.

— CAYLEE RATLIFF

Dear Santa,

I would like a phone. I should deserve this gift because I made A's and B's at school. You will find my house in Kinard (the small city). I know you will find my house be-



from the students in
Sybil Plazarin and
Jessica Hill's classes

cause you will smell the cookies a mile away and you know you will have to have some milk to wash it down. Merry Christmas and don't forget it's Jesus' birthday.

— SYDNEE PASS

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is the Skylanders Spyro's Adventure video game, a few extra Skylanders (example: Cynder, Camo and Whirlwind) and just a bit of money (and Happy Birthday to Jesus of course). I have said yes ma'am, yes sir, no ma'am, no sir, I've done well in school and I've done what my parents have told me to. If you have trouble finding me, just look for a dirt road with trees all around and in an opening inside will be my house.

— JAMES ANDREW NICHOLS

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is some money please. I need money because well me and my parents are broke. I do not know if Santa will find my house but anyway I hope Santa finds my house.

— COLE

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I want a new 12 gage shotgun or four wheeler mostly an Xbox 360 or you can get me anything. Or you can get me nothing cause on my report card I had made FDDC. I deserve these gifts because I washed the car, done laundry, and hauled tons of lumber. You will find my house because you will see a small dog and big dogs.

— TRENTEN

Dear Santa,

May I have a Miley Cyrus CD, guitar, boots, fingernail polish set, cowgirl hat. I deserve things because I took out the trash, wash the dishes, went to sleep without playing, didn't play in the car. I was good while we're going off too. You will find my house because you are magical. You know where everybody's house is. This is why I love Christmas!

— CARRIE HANNA

Dear Santa,

I would love to have a new dog. I want a dog because they are playful and loving and really easy to take care of. The reason why I deserve a new dog is because I have been good all year. I have got out of bed on time and I have helped

with some of the chores. Last I have done all that my mom has asked me even take pictures in a purple dress. That is why I think that I deserve a dog. Also Santa this is how you will find my house I will scream and yell "Santa over here!"

— BRITTELY SANGSTER

Dear Santa,

I would like a set of Legos for Christmas it would be so cool. I have been good, I took out the trash, washed the dishes, feed my dog, helped my brother with his homework and have not back talked my parents. I will stand on my roof and have red glow sticks so you can find my house.

— CECIL BRYANT

Dear Santa,

How are you? Christmas is coming soon. I think I know what I want it is a iPod. I think I deserve this I have been good a lot and I have did all my chores. If you don't know were my house is then look for a brick house at the county line and my house is lit up so I don't think it is going to be hard to find. If I was you I woud not go down the chimney!

— ASHLEY BRAMBLETT

Dear Santa,

I know you are not real but I would want for Christmas is a new bike, a real monster truck, bow and arrow and a new rifle. I deserve these things because I do dishes, clean room, clean bathroom and clean the yard. You have to get through the door because I do not have a chimney. I will be on the ceiling and have glowsticks and when I see you, I will make you be surprised.

— JAKE PATERSON

Dear Santa,

I wrote to tell you what I want for Christmas. I would like a DSI and a game to go with it. But I deserve these things because I help my little sister with her homework so I was good most of the year. I shouldn't have to tell you where I live. You were there last year.

— HANNAH TYLER

Dear Santa,

I don't really want anything for Christmas but one thing. That one thing is to celebrate with my family. That would be the best thing ever. Then I could remember the time I got all of the family over. I deserve this because I have been good plus we haven't had the family over four at least a month. You will find my house with your navigation.

— JONI SMITH

Dear Santa,

I know it's not Christmas but, Merry Christmas anyway. What I want for Christmas is an air hogs remote controlled jet. I heard they can be tons of fun. I don't really care what color you get me so you don't have to ask me. I don't think I deserve it though because I've been getting into trouble lately. Not at school but at home. Well maybe you'll change your mind. If not, then it's okay, besides I've been saving money just in case. But the only way you'll probably ever find my house is if you look at a map. And I don't have a chimney.

— ALEX DEGOLYER

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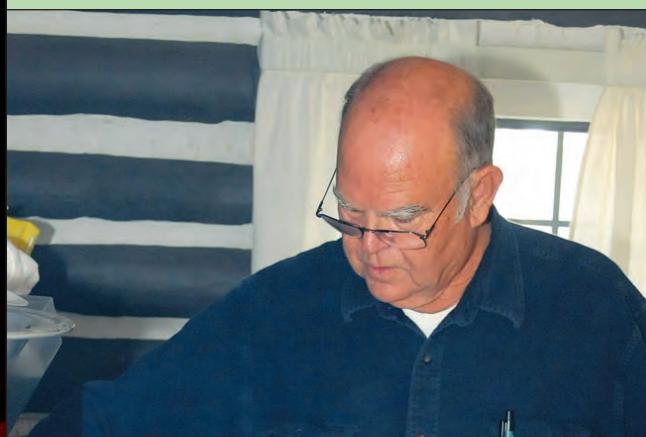
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Save the Manatee

Photo © David Schrichte



S BREAKFAST WITH Santa



Families gathered at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement on Dec. 3 to enjoy breakfast with Santa, who arrived ready to visit and take photos with children. RIGHT: David White fills a griddle with some tasty pancakes and sausage. ABOVE CENTER: Maelee Hall has a serious talk with Santa about her gift options for this year. ABOVE RIGHT: Natalie Smith smiles as she has her photo taken with Santa. TOP: Dixie Clark pours syrup for Hunter's pancakes.

LEFT: Peggy Hall and Kristen enjoy the meal.

DANIEL WILLIAMS PHOTOS



CARR SCHOOL'S Christmas LETTERS

Continued from page 23

Dear Santa,

I won't for Christmas is a DSI and a new cell phone and a laptop for Christmas. The reason why is I do the dishes, be nice to people and when someone heart my feelings I just walk away. Santa my house is in the woods. It is in on a dirt roude so don't miss it.

— ALICIA WALDRON

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is a big flat screen TV. I deserve it because I make straight A's in class. During the day before Christmas I will sleep. You know why? Well, because I am gonna stay up all night. I will put a glow in the dark shirt and pants on and put glow in the dark flashlights all over myself so you will see me. I am gonna roll around in the yard like a pig all so I can get your attention. That is how you find my house.

— BAILEE MILLER

Dear Santa,

I would like to have these four things for Christmas. One of the things I want for Christmas is a laptop. The second thing I want for Christmas is clothes for my cabbage patch doll. A third thing I want for Christmas is my room cleaned. Most of all is my family and you happy. Actually I want everybody to be happy. I deserve these things because I have been good to my family and friends. I've took out the trash and put new trash bags in the trash can. I've been doing the laundry. I've been doing the dishes. How you will find my house you ask? Well that's easy. You know where everybody lives.

— AUTUMN RAISBECK

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is a pogostick, a deck of Pokemon cards, nerf gun, Hot Wheels, Bakugan, lego blocks, Chemistry set. I deserve these things because I have done my chores. Santa you should be able to find my house because you know everything. Don't go through the chimney. It's falling apart.

— STONE TAYLOR

Dear Santa,

I want these things for Christmas. Number 1 is a lap top. The second thing I want is a phone. The third thing I want is a four wheeler. I deserve these things because I've been good by taking out the trash and not fighting with my sister for a second! That is a world record for me. You will find my house because I will be standing on my roof with Christmas lights all over me and I will be saying, "Santa, Santa! Over here!"

— MADISON CONYERS

Dear Santa,

What I would love to have for Christmas is a new Wii game it's called big game hunter 2012. The second thing I want is one of your elfs. I always help around the house. I help dad feed the chickens. Then I help mom wash the dishes. My house is on Miller Rd. My last name is called Miller. I will always keep cookies out for you Santa my house has more than one chimney. One has a fire all the time so watch out!

— CANE MILLER

Dear Santa,

How are you? This is what I want for Christmas, Cars two, cool gum like you got my brother last year, something to fix my ripstick and toas. I deserve these things because I have been a good boy most of the time. You will find my house because you will see me on the roof just to see you fly by and you will see the most beautiful lights.

— DARTANION HOPE

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I know you are getting ready for Christmas. Thank you for the bike I got last year. I was thinking if you could this year get me a Nintendo 3Ds. I think I need this because I have thinking of was cars two game for that 3Ds. I think I deserve this because sometimes I help my dad at work. Another thing I was thinking of was a RC Racer. I think I deserve this because I have been working hard in school learning my multiplication facts. Another thing I was thinking of was a gocart. I know go-carts are fast. I think I deserve this because I haven't got in trouble for the past few days. Here's how to get to my house. Go right about one mile. It's the trailer beside a blue house and a little house. I'll leave cookies and milk on the table next to the couch.

- COLE FIELDER

Dear Santa,
I hope you get dazzled by my amazing Christmas tree this year. How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you have a jolly Christmas and Christmas Eve. Santa I must warn you to be careful coming to my house we might accidentally shoot your reindeer mistaken for a regular deer. We have tree stands all around my farm. It's a living death trap. There is only one thing I want this year, a disk cleaner set. I think I deserve this because I do my work willing with a happy attitude. I do my chores, and I always work hard in school so please give me the disk cleaning set. To find me go straight down to the farm. I'm the gray house to the right. A dazzling Christmas tree will be waiting.

- SHAWN DEES

Dear Santa,
What is going on up in the North Pole? Are the raindeer ok? I hope they are ready to fly to Florida to give us presents. I hope you bring me a watch and a phone for Christmas. I think I deserve these gifts because I did my chores and I bought food for my family and my dog. I hope I am not on Santa's naughty list I will not get any presents on Christmas Day. Santa, I live in a white house with a red mustang and a green Ford truck. I will leave you cookies and milk on the table. I hope you have a nice trip to Florida and I hope the weather is good.

- BRAYLAN HILL

Dear Santa,
How long does it take you to deliver toys all around the world? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Am I still on the nice list? Well, if I am I'd like a go-kart and a PS3 with two cordless controllers but most importantly I want to hear the reindeer's hooves hit my roof on Christmas Eve. The only reason I want the presents is cause I've never had on before, Santa and I've been nice and my parents love me. I live in mobile home and have a barn shaped storage shed.

- TYLER VOWELL

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Is it fun in the North Pole? Thank you for my Wii that you brought me last year. I hope you make me something good like you did last year. This year I want a Wii Fit and Just Dance 3. It would go with what you got me last year. I think I should get Wii Fit and Just Dance 3 because I have been good and I was on the honor roll I also do all my chores and help my mom around the house. Santa you will see my house. I have

a lot of lights in my yard and two reindeer. It looks cute in my opinion. I will leave you a lot of cookies and milk by the tree.

- SHELBY ROBERTS

Dear Santa,
What is it like in the North Pole? I know you are getting ready to travel, but I want to tell you what I want. I want a DS some slippers and pjs. I deserve this because I clean, wash dishes and wash clothes. I live in a gray trailer with four red vehicles. When you come I will have cookies and milk for you.

- WHITNEY PICKRON

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I know you are getting into complicated times so this year I'm going to go easy on you. All I want is a new bike, a Nintendo 3Ds, a remote control, flying helicopter and last but not least an electric scooter. I think I deserve this because I say thank you, yes ma'am, no ma'am, yes sir, no sir and please. My house is the pail colored one with Christmas lights and reindeer food spread on the lawn.

- CARSON HATCHER

Dear Santa,
I would like a touch screen phone for Christmas. I've been good this year. I've done my chores. I feed the dogs. I rake the yard. I do the dishes. I walk to the dogs. I used to water the tomatoes, but our tomato plant died. You should know where Blountstown is. I live on Calhoun Ave. and 12th street.

- CALEAN WATTS

Dear Santa,
I have been an O.K. kid this year. I have opened the door for people and I let people skip me in line. I really hope you will bring me a PlayStation 3, Madden 12, Infamous, Infamous2 and college football 12. You can find my house by going to Grand Ridge on Bailey Street, then turn left, then go street, next turn left again.

- TAVIS SIMPSON

Dear Santa,
I know I haven't been the best boy. I probably shouldn't have done what I did and I feel sorry and if you still forgive me please try to get me what I want like a phone-straight talk, a radio with big speakers. The good things I did were, watch out for my little sister, feed the chickens, and do my chores. My house is on 12th St. and it has lights on everywhere.

- ALEX PITTMAN

Dear Santa,
How are you doing this year? I want to design my own Nike tennis shoes for Christmas and when I tell my parents what I want for Christmas they tell me you have to show you want it, by like being nice to people and helping people. The night before Christmas I will bake cookies and turn on the fire place to warm the house. And I'll be good for the rest of the year and on Christmas morning if I don't get what I want it's ok, because all I need is my family. They take care of me. They help me and I know they're here for me and Santa that's all I need.

- SUMMER HILL

Dear Santa,
I want a laptop for Christmas. I really deserve it because I have been a good girl. I make all A's on my report card. I clean my room every other week. I am nice to my friends.



I don't talk back to the teacher. I do very good on my work. Please bring me a laptop. If you were wondering how to get to my house just look for a brick house with blue trim. I live in Blountstown Florida 32424 is the zip code.

- GRACE MCGILL

Dear Santa,
How are you? Have you been feeling well? This year I would like roller skates and a digital camera and a happy Christmas holiday. I've tried very hard to be nice this year. I made all A's, I have no checks and I work very hard. I've helped my mom wash clothes, fold clothes and decorate for Christmas and that was hard. How can you get to my house, you say? It is easy. You type in my name Sarah Shuler on your GPS locator, tap my name, and fly! So maybe I can get what I want for Christmas? Thank you for your time.

- SARAH SHULER

Dear Santa,
I've been good and all I really want is a DVD player, and I hope it comes with a case and head phones. I've been good. I tried to help my sisters, say "yes, mam," "no mam," "no sir," "yes sir," and that's why I should get them.

- JOANNA NICHOLE HOOD

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I want a new four wheeler. I think I deserve a new four wheeler because I help people and I do all my work. One time I helped a kid pick up his books.

That's why I deserve a new four wheeler and maybe some money. My house is at Dessa Stone Road.

- CHRIS SAPP

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a new Ipad touch, boots and hot glue sticks. I've been doing all my work listening to my teacher, daddy and moma. My mom took me to ALCO there was two ladies. They had string stuck in a well, so I helped and got it out. If you see Big Bends you turn on Jane St. keep on going until you see blue that is my house.

- SHANIA KNOWLES

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is some new PSP games and some Wii games and an Xbox 360. I think I deserve these games because I always help my cousin, Qua, out. I am nice to my friends and help them too. Santa the way to find my house is I am go-

ing to put on lots of lights and I will stand outside and yell your name.

- POLA MCCLOUD

Dear Santa,

How are you? Because I'm great. For Christmas I want boots, hot pink camera and a slide phone. I have tried to be nice to my sister and I have not gotten any checks. Another reason I deserve boots, camera and slide phone is, I have helped my mom and dad a lot. Like yesterday my mom asked me to put a way all the candy cane boxes and I said "okay mom." I think I deserve them for those reasons. I live in Blountstown just about 10 min. from the school. You just turn on to a paved road and look for a big brick with lights on the bushes. I will open the chimney for you and leave milk and pie.

- ISABELL HOLLOWAY

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I want an air hog blue sky. Go into Blountstown then go to the mobile RV park. Then go to number, I can't remember. I have been good this year I have no checks. I had not got in a fight, not at school, sometimes at home.

- QUIN CARGILE

Dear Santa,

This is what I want for Christmas, a bike and Xbox 360, a PSP and a phone. I deserve it because I been good to my mom and daddy by cleaning the house. And you get there in the quarters on Pear Street.

- DARION SIMMONS

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a 3D DS and a new bike. I had never got a check in school before. Also I don't get in trouble and I work hard in school and I also get good grades. That is why I think I should get 3D DS and a new bike. If your wondering where I live, you can find me on your rainder GPS. Just type in Brian M. and you'll find where I live. Oh one more thing, thank you.

- BRIAN MARTINEZ

Dear Santa,

I write this letter to tell you what I want for Christmas! I want an I touch and I want an electric skooter with a seat on the back and clothes. I live on River St. Go down the road an look for a light brown and dark brown trailer.

- TAMIRA BLACK

Dear Santa,

What I want for Christmas is an electric scooter with a seat on it and one more thing a big baby doll head so I can do it's hair. Why I deserve it is I am nice. Go down scrat and you will take a right and you go to see a crave and you see a blue house.

- ZIATORIA NIKKOLE ZIGGLER

Dear Santa,

I want an Xbox 360 for Christmas. I have been good for my parents and my papa and granny. I've been doing my chore I've been taking out the garbage let me tell you where I live. I live on 22nd street you'll see a grape tree as big as an elephant turn left and you're there. I hope I see it under the tree.

- NOAH GRANTHAM

Dear Santa,

I have been bad I know you know it. I've been fighting with my brother a

lot. I have never been good but this years Christmas I will. This year I want Pokemon cards, a Pokemon games PSP, Playstation 2, PS3, Xbox 360, Nintendo DSI XL, 3Ds and a Wii. The good things I've done is that I never got in trouble at school. I have been a good boy to my teachers. I have done my chores and been nice to my friends. One of the friends I made this year is Brian. He is a good boy he likes the same things I like. I live in Bristol. I'll give you the directions turn on the street where Subway is but don't go into Subway. Just go on the road. After that look for the house that has the color brown and white. A brown van is parked in the front there are to many trees in the way when you look for it makes sure it is on Baker Street and that's my house.

- SAUL PUENTE

Dear Santa,

I would like one of those Crayola Crayon Makers, where you put broken crayons in the machine and you can make your very own crayon! 2 colors, 4 colors, 6 colors, 8 colors, even 10 colors in one crayon, really! I also want some DS games for Christmas. I deserve these because I am making good grades and being good on the bus, cleaning up after playing and being nice. I have two house I live in, but I'll still tell, Abe Springs across from Miny Lee Road and somewhere in Blountstown.

- KIRSTEN SCARABIN

Dear Santa,

I would like a big stuffed dog, a Nintendo DSI and even new shoes. Why I deserve these things is I work hard in school. I listen to the teacher. I help my mom to do the chores, but I do fight with my little sister sometimes. But then when we stop we just laugh, but I don't know why. I help my mom take care of my baby brother. I sometime try to make him stop crying. That's why I think I deserve it a little. I live beside the new middle school, in front of a little school for little kids. Mine is the second house.

- DANIELA MARTINEZ

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a DS and a DSi XL, and a scooter and clothes and shoes, and a four wheeler and a dirt bike and iPod. I deserve these items because I've been trying to be a good girl in school. I work hard in classes. I don't curse. I do what grown ups tell me to do. I open doors for people. Oh, by the way, let me explain how to get to my house. Okay, you know where the Piggly Wiggly is right? So you keep going and stop at the stop sign and take a right and you see a shop and take another right. Then you go to the end of the road and make a left. Go down that road you see trailers and you'll see a light green trailer. That's mine!

- SHATASHIA DEVEAUX

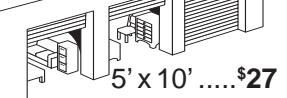
Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I want an iPad touch. I want an iPad touch because I was being very, very good and I did tell my chores at home like cleaning my room making my bed and doing the dishes. One big thing I was very good for is helping people that are in need like donating clothes and food. That is why I want an iPad so much. Oh yeah how is Santa going to get to my house? Oh! I know a GPS! Happy Christmas!

- ALAJAH GODWIN

See **CHRISTMAS LETTERS**

continued on page 30

**M & W SELF
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To place your ad, call 643-3333 by noon Eastern
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ITEMS FOR SALE

Evenflow stroller/carseat, \$25;
Disney VHS movies, \$2; 19" TV,
\$10; Hot Wheels collection, tracks
and travel tracks with case; Little
Pet Shop lots of bobble heads,
Little Pet Shop town; My Little Ponys.
Call 643-2327 or 597-3186.

12-14, 12-21

Christmas lights, starting at 25¢
per box, will sell all for one price.
Call 674-8992.

12-14, 12-21

Bowflex Sport home gym, includes
mat that is valued at \$100, asking
\$400 OBO; Ab Lounge Sport, \$40 firm.
Call 209-1455 after 5 p.m. (CT).

12-14, 12-21

Kerosene heater, best offer; miscellaneous
furniture; toddler bed; baby buggy. Call 674-3264.

12-14, 12-21

Commercial security system
with three cameras, \$1,000 OBO.
Call 643-8877.

12-7, 12-14

Set It & Forget It Rotisserie as
seen on TV, \$50. Call 674-8376.

12-7, 12-14

Black cashmere coat with real fur
collar, \$20; Nice sweater coat with
matching dress; blue/gray size 12,
\$20. Call 674-8376.

12-7, 12-14

Ladies' clothing, After 6 p.m., or
gorgeous New Year's eve outfit,
high quality, size 11/12, new; lovely
ladies' dressy crape pants suit,
pale grey, never worn, still has tag,
size 12. Call 348-3554.

12-7, 12-14

Competition size foosball table,
\$100. Call 447-2698.

12-7, 12-14

Boys' pants, 18 months, almost
new, \$2 each or make offer on
bag. Call 567-3418.

12-7, 12-14

Dean guitar with carrying case,
\$200. Call 510-6387.

12-7, 12-14

Fabric by the yard, reduced
prices; two strollers, one pink, one
blue, \$15 each; Christmas wreath,
\$15; black leather couch, \$200;
Flowered sleeper sofa, \$150; as-
sorted Christmas ornaments, from
\$0.50 and up. Call 674-3264.

12-7, 12-14

Lots of Christmas decorations,
couch and love seat, good selection
of clothes for entire family, dishes
and other kitchen necessities and
many other items. Everyone is invited
to shop at the Calhoun-Liberty
Ministry Center store. Located on Hwy. 20 E. in Blountstown,
674-1818.

UFN

ELECTRONICS

Aiwa CD stereo system, three
disc changer, dual tape deck, AM/
FM radio, two speakers and remote,
\$50 OBO. Call 819-9300.

UFN

APPLIANCES

36" Gas range, electric stove top,
range hood, three electric dish-
washers, Kirby vacuum cleaner
with all attachments, excellent
condition, Calhoun Liberty Minis-
try Center, Hwy. 20 east of Blount-
stown. Call 674-1818.

UFN

Two four-wheelers, \$2,500 OBO.
Call 643-8877.

12-7, 12-14

2003 Polaris Sportsman 700
V-twin, 440 miles, garage kept,
great for work or play, \$4,700. Call
643-8715.

12-7, 12-14

FURNITURE

Beautiful roll top desk with middle
drawer. Natural wood grain, \$125.
Entertainment Bar 6' long, 24" wide,
3' 10" tall with tiled apron and top.
Padded around tiled top with brown
leather. Ornate carved base, \$200. Call 674-8376.

12-7, 12-14

Beautiful carved ornate 4 panel
room divider; each panel is 20"
wide; natural wood grain, \$200.
Call 674-8376.

12-7, 12-14

Bedroom suite. Dresser with
mirror and 6 drawers. Mattress
double bed. Light varnished wood
grain. Excellent condition, \$200.
Light brown varnished wood grain
dresser with 6 drawers with mirror,
\$30. Call 674-8376.

12-7, 12-14

Chocolate brown sectional,
\$350 OBO. Call 447-4803.

12-7, 12-14

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BLOUNTSTOWN MAIN STREET'S ANNUAL *Tour of Homes*



Bountstown Main Street once again included a Bristol residence on this year's Tour of Homes. Visitors who came to the Pea Ridge Road residence of Teresa Eubanks Friday night found plenty of holiday lights and a table full of treats to nibble on, including Doris Traylor's famous bread pudding. LEFT: Brothers Ethan and Aidan Grover got to pick out a gift from Santa's toybox as they left. BELOW LEFT: Shelly Roddenberry kept the guest book and handed out gift bags to visitors as they departed. CENTER: This Steampunk Christmas tree wore a top hat and was festooned with airships, mercury glass, compasses, cameos and clockfaces. BELOW: Johnny Eubanks donned a top hat, bow tie and vest before he conducted tours.



ABOVE: One of the residents of the Cat Hall welcomes guests from the staircase. RIGHT: Nancy Stone and Edna Stephens sample the buffet.

ALTHA Millionaire *continued from the front page*

"I called them and told them I just won a million dollars and I wanted a new Camaro. I never owned a new one," Hunt said.

But before picking up his car, he had to stop by the lottery office to turn in his ticket. He wasn't too happy about handing it over without getting any kind of a receipt. "They had to take it behind the counter and scan it. They didn't give me nothing to tell me I had a million dollars," he said. "I didn't get rowdy, but I asked a lot of questions and kept an eye on her the whole time," he said, adding, "I didn't want the numbers to change while the ticket was back there."

And while he did win a million dollars he came away with a little more than half after choosing the one-time lump-sum payment option which left him with \$525,000 after taxes. He didn't want to spread out the money over 20 years, noting, "I'm already 63 years old."

Other than having plenty of money in the bank, Hunt doesn't plan to make too many changes in his life.

"I'm going to spend a little of it to try to make some money," he said, explaining that he plans to buy some equipment for his business, Hunt's Garage. He wants to put in a front end alignment machine and may start selling tires.

"I ain't got no intention of retiring right now," he said.

While this certainly was his biggest win, it was far from his only good fortune with games of chance. This past July, he won \$48,000 at an internet cafe in Quincy. A few years back, he won an outboard motor in Jasper, Tenn. after spending \$100 for a raffle ticket. And through the years, he's had plenty of healthy wins with lottery tickets - sometimes a few dollars, sometimes a few hundred.

On a recent trip to a Biloxi casino, he earmarked \$5,000 to gamble with and lost it all. But on the way home, he stopped to get a couple of lottery tickets and won \$190.

As much as he enjoys the lottery, he doesn't recommend it to everyone, particularly those living with a tight budget. "I would tell them don't spend your grocery money on a lottery ticket. It ain't a guaranteed thing."

Hunt's longtime friend, Willie D. Wise, said the money won't change him a bit. "He's just as stubborn when he's broke as when he's got money," he said, adding, "I don't care if he's got nine million dollars. He's the same way all the time."

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C hristmas cookies

Favorite holiday Christmas cookie recipes. Use these easy recipes for your Christmas cookies and gift giving projects.

CHOCOLATE DIPPED COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- * 3/4 cup sugar
- * 1 egg
- * 1/2 cup butter, softened
- * 1 teaspoon Spice Islands® pure vanilla extract
- * 1 cup all-purpose flour
- * 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- * 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- * 1/4 teaspoon salt
- * 1/2 cup chopped almonds
- * 1/2 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- * 12 ounces white candy coating disks, melted
- * 12 ounces dark chocolate candy coating disks, melted
- * 2 ounces milk chocolate candy coating disks, melted

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in egg and vanilla.

Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt; gradually add to the creamed mixture. Stir in almonds and chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate for



2 hours. Divide dough in half. Shape into two 8-in. rolls; wrap each in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 3 hours or until firm.

Unwrap and cut into 1/4-in. slices. Place 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until set.

Remove to wire racks to cool. Dip half of the cookies in white coating; allow excess to drip off.

Place on waxed paper. Repeat with remaining cookies in dark chocolate coating.

Place milk chocolate coating in a resealable plastic bag; cut a small hole in one corner of the bag. Pipe designs on cookies. Let stand for 30 minutes or until set. Yield: 4-1/2 dozen.

Nutrition Facts: 2 cookies equals 247 calories, 14 g fat (10 g saturated fat), 17 mg cholesterol, 82 mg sodium, 31 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 2 g protein. 27 Servings Prep: 25 min. + chilling Bake: 10 min./batch + cooling

Everyone in the family can have fun making these Candy Cane Cookies



Kids of all ages will want to pitch in when it comes time to roll the ropes of colored dough for these cute candy canes. Peppermint extract carries the flavor on through, so the cookies taste as good as they look.

CANDY CANE COOKIES

portion.

Shape 1 teaspoon of white dough into a 6-in. rope. Shape 1 teaspoon of red dough into a 6-in. rope. Place ropes side by side; press together lightly and twist.

Place on an ungreased baking sheet; curve top of cookie to form handle of cane. Repeat with remaining dough, placing cookies 2 in. apart on baking sheets.

Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes or until set. Cool for 2 minutes before carefully removing to wire racks. Yield: 3 dozen.

Nutrition Facts: 1 serving (1 each) equals 33 calories, 1 g fat (trace saturated fat), 2 mg cholesterol, 30 mg sodium, 5 g carbohydrate, trace fiber, trace protein. 36 Servings, Prep: 25 min. Bake: 10 min.

In a large bowl, beat the cookie dough, flour and extract until smooth. Divide dough in half; mix food coloring into one

INGREDIENTS

- * 1/2 tube refrigerated sugar cookie dough, softened
- * 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- * 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- * 1/2 teaspoon red food coloring

sugar and oil until blended. Beat in eggs, extracts and lemon peel. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt; gradually add to sugar mixture and mix well.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Coat bottom of a glass with cooking spray, then dip in sugar. Flatten cookies with prepared glass, redipping in

PEPPERMINT MELTAWAYS

INGREDIENTS

- * 1 cup butter, softened
- * 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- * 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- * 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- * 1/2 cup cornstarch

FROSTING:

- * 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- * 1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- * 2 tablespoons 2% milk
- * 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
- * 2 to 3 drops red food coloring, optional
- * 1/2 cup crushed peppermint candies

In a small bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Add the confectioners' sugar, milk, extract and food coloring if desired; beat until smooth. Spread over cooled cookies; sprinkle with crushed candies.

Store in an airtight container. Yield: 3-1/2 dozen.

Nutrition Facts: 1 cookie equals 90 calories, 5 g fat (3 g saturated fat), 13 mg cholesterol, 36 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, trace fiber, trace protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 1 fat, 1/2 starch. 42 Servings Prep: 30 min. Bake: 10 min./batch + cooling.



In a small bowl, cream butter and confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in extract. Combine flour and cornstarch; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.

Shape into 1-in. balls. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until bottoms are lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.



CHERRY CHOCOLATE NUT COOKIES

Yield: 5 dozen. 60 Servings Prep: 30 min. Bake: 10 min./batch

INGREDIENTS

- * 1/2 cup butter, softened
- * 1/2 cup sugar
- * 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- * 1 egg
- * 1/4 cup 2% milk
- * 1 teaspoon Spice Islands® pure vanilla extract
- * 2 cups all-purpose flour

- * 1 teaspoon baking powder
- * 1/2 teaspoon salt
- * 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- * 1 cup (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- * 3/4 cup chopped maraschino cherries
- * 3/4 cup chopped pecans

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, milk and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients.

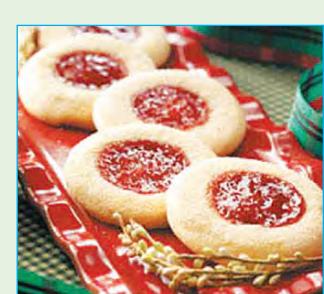
Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

JELLY- TOPPED SUGAR COOKIES

Yield: about 3-1/2 dozen.
42 Servings

INGREDIENTS

- * 3/4 cup sugar
- * 3/4 cup canola oil
- * 2 eggs
- * 2 teaspoons Spice Islands® pure vanilla extract
- * 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- * 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- * 2 cups all-purpose flour
- * 2 teaspoons baking powder
- * 1/2 teaspoon salt
- * 1/2 cup jam or jelly



sugar and oil until blended. Beat in eggs, extracts and lemon peel. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt; gradually add to sugar mixture and mix well.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Coat bottom of a glass with cooking spray, then dip in sugar. Flatten cookies with prepared glass, redipping in

sugar as needed. Place 1/4 teaspoon jelly in the center of each cookie. Bake at 400° for 8-10 minutes or until set. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Nutrition Facts: 1 serving (1 each) equals 84 calories, 4 g fat (1 g saturated fat), 10 mg cholesterol, 52 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate, trace fiber, 1 g protein. Prep/Total Time: 30 min.

Dear Santa,
My name is Sabry Cook I am ten years old and I have the same initials as you. Are you excited about Christmas as much as I am? This year for Christmas I want an I pad 2. I think I deserve an I pad 2 because I made all A's on my report card and I've been really nice. I help with a lot of chores around the house like cloths, dishes and I clean my room. When I make good grades I don't ask to eat out because I know that Christmas is coming up. Here's how to get to my house in case you get lost I have a tree house in my yard a golf cart and a dog pen around back. I will leave cookies for you. Sincerely,

-SABRY COOK

P.S. You better hurry up that is if you want some cookies.

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? My mom said if I want something good I have to be good. Is it true? I will leave some cookies for you and Mrs. Claus. Can you give me a Xbox 360 and a D.S. I deserve it I was a good boy all year. O yea. I live Hidden Creek Trailer Park. If you type in the G.P.S. you will find me. I got a BIG boat in my yard you can't miss it. I hope the wather is good on Chrismas eve. Have a good flight.
Your friend.

-DANNY STALLWORTH

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus and the reindeer doing? Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. I liked them very much. The reason I'm writing this letter is because I would like to know how are doing and you need to know what I want for Christmas so you can bring them to me. I think I deserve a puppy and a stuffed animal because I have been a good girl all year and I helped people like my mom and my dad

when they need my help. Then you need to know where I live. I live on a road called Orange St. I am a little white house on the left side of the road. I have a little Christmas tree on my front porch at my house. I think you'll see my house because it has lots of lights. Merry Christmas!

- CHLOE TAYLOR

P.S. I promise to put cookies under the tree for you.

Dear Santa,

How are you and your reindeer? I know you are getting ready for Christmas. This year I want an Xbox 360 because I have been working really hard. Another thing I want for Christmas is a NFL 49ers jersey set. I deserve this because I practice not getting mad all the time. That is difficult with sisters. My house is a trailer in Clarksville, FL. I live on Melvin Road. I have a Christmas lights in my front yard. I don't have a fire place. So you have to go through the door. I know you might be tired of milk so I will leave you coca-cola and cookies. Merry Christmas.

- GREGORY FIELDS

Dear Santa,
How is it up there in the North Pole? I know you are getting ready for Christmas and making all the presents. Tell Mrs. Claus I said hi. Are the reideer ready for their flight? I would like to have a Wii for Christmas this year. I deserve this because I have done my chores that I was supposed to do. That would be nice of you to bring that stuff. Thank you for my shoes you got me last year. I will leave you

Blountstown Elementary School's Christmas LETTERS

continued from page 25

some cookies and milk under the tree. If you have a gps you can look up my house. It is white with blue outlines. Your friend.

- CORTNEY HOLLIDAY

Dear Santa,
How are you and the reindeer up in the North Pole? I know you are getting busy in your workshop but I just wanted to ask you for one thing for Christmas. The one thing I want for Christmas is a snowglobe. The reason I think I deserve a snowglobe is because I have helped my mom pick up the house. This is how my house looks so you don't get lost: There is a ramp that goes up to the door with brightly colored lights on the railings. We live right behind Simmons Creek. Our house has blue and green trim and the base color is white. I hope you don't get lost. The chimney will be open for you and the milk and cookies will be left out for you. Hope you have a good flight down here. Merry Christmas.

- CLARA MEDINA

P.S. Beware of the dog!



Dear Santa,
I hope you can come see me on Christmas so you can see my Christmas tree. I can't wait for you to come and see me. What I want for Christmas is a paintball gun and a Xbox 360 I also would like a game for my Xbox 360. That is all I want for Christmas I deserve it because I do dishes at my house and at my dad's house. I live on Gum Street in Pine Island. I will leave the front porch light on for you.

- KENTRON SMITH

Dear Santa,
How are you and your reindeer?

Hopefully you can come to my house on Christmas Eve night and wrap me an I-pod touch that says To: Kaleb. The reason I want an I-pod touch is because you can get on the internet and you can watch t.v. shows. I deserve one because I've done these chores. I have washed dishes, raked the yard, and folded clothes. That's why I think I deserve an I-pod touch. I live in the big, whitish, tanish house. With the green van and red car. I will leave you some cookies on the computer desk. Sincerely your friend.

- KALEB BURCH

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? How are the raindeer? First of all I want a Nintendo 3DS, a really big stuffed tiger and a phone. I am a very good kid. I help my 95 year old grandma. I cook food with her. I also help my mom cook dinner and help my grandma make crafts. Sincerely,

- REAGAN MEARS

P.S. Have a jolly Christmas.

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I know that you and Mrs. Claus are getting a lot of Christmas lists. Let me tell you what I want for Christmas. What I want is an Ipad touch, electric scooter and a bike. Those are the top three things on my list but there are 10 more things I want. The reason why I deserve these presents is because I've been making good grades in 4th grade. Santa Claus I live on River Street behind the court house. I have a fence around my house with a dark chocolate dog inside the fence. P.S. Bring Mrs. Willis some dry erase markers and Ms. Mallory and her kids some cookies. Sincerely,

- LADASHIA TRAVIS

Dear Santa,
How are you and your wife? Tell the elves I said thank you for delivering to our house. When you come to my house I will make sure ya'll have some fresh batch of cookies and warm chocolate milk. I'm gonna be in my room waiting for the morning so I can open my presents. Santa what I want for Christmas is an electric scooter for Christmas and some DSi sticks. I want some more stuff but I'm not gonna be greedy to ask for so much. Merry Christmas to ya'll and to all a goodnight.

- ASIA FAULK

Dear Santa Claus,
How have you been? I have been good this year. My house is at Gretna with all the Christmas lights and reindeer on the roof. We have a white tree. I left you a treat under the tree and some milk. What I want for Christmas is a laptop. I think I deserve a laptop because because I do my chores around the house. I'll be waiting for you to come and give me presents. Your friend.

- JAUVILLE MARTIN

FWC suggests life-saving holiday gift for boaters

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a suggestion for anyone shopping for a boater this holiday. A new, comfortable life jacket makes an ideal gift, and it could save someone's life.



"A lot of people don't wear life jackets because they feel they're uncomfortable," said Capt. Tom Shipp of the FWC's Boating and Waterways Section. "However, with newer models, such as belt packs or suspenders, you hardly feel them. Replacing an old, bulky life jacket with a newer model makes a great gift."

Belt-pack and suspender life jackets are

inflatable. Some inflate automatically when a person falls into the water, while others inflate after the wearer pulls a cord. Prices of the belt-pack and suspender life jackets start at approximately \$60.

"Frequently, a life jacket can save a life during a boating accident," Shipp said.

One of the main responsibilities for FWC officers is helping residents and visitors boat safely. They often check boaters for adherence to safety regulations and educate them about safe boating practices. Unfortunately, at other times, FWC officers are called to the scene of boating accidents.

"Many people don't expect to need a life jacket, particularly if they feel they are good swimmers," Shipp said. "However, when boating accidents happen, you may not be able to

rely on your swimming skills."

Many of the boating accidents the FWC investigates involve drowning deaths. Last year, there were 79 boating fatalities – 49 of them by drowning. The FWC confirms that life jackets may have saved those lives and recommends boaters wear one at all times on the water.

Bottom line: If you fall overboard with a life jacket on, your chances of survival are greatly enhanced.

This holiday season, the gift of a life jacket could be a gift of life.

For more boating safety information, visit MyFWC.com/Boating or call (850) 488-5600.

PUBLIC AUCTION

Bristol 66 Towing and Recovery will hold a Public Auction on Dec. 26, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. (ET).

1997 Green Ford Lariat pickup Vin #FTDX1766KCC25466

Auction will be held at Bristol 66 Storage on Hoecke Road off Highway 20 East, one half mile on left, you will see our sign. Bristol 66 Towing reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The Calhoun-Liberty Journal

December 14, 2011.

If you need any more information on the above vehicle, please call (850) 643-2522.

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HELP WANTED

Service Aide needed

Calhoun County Senior Citizens Association, Inc. will be accepting applications for a Service Aide. Duties will include homemaking, respite care, companionship, and personal care duties. This person must have a valid certified nursing assistant certificate (CNA) or 32 hours of certified documentation for personal care duties. This person must also have a Florida driver's license, reliable transportation, a high school diploma, pass FDLE background screening, and drug test. This position is for a 32 hour work week.

Application deadline will be **Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011 at 4:00 PM.** Applications may be picked up at 16859 NE Cayson Street, Blountstown, FL.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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FWC moves to protect tiger sharks, hammerheads

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) moved to prohibit the harvest of tiger sharks and three species of hammerheads from state waters in an effort to further protect these top predators that rely on Florida waters to survive.

The action was taken during the first day of the Commission's two-day meeting in Key Largo.

"Sometimes the appropriate measures of conservation are the problems we avoid, not the problems we have to fix," said Commissioner Brian Yablonski.

The new measures, which also prohibit the possession, sale and exchange of tiger sharks and great, scalloped and

smooth hammerhead sharks harvested from state waters, will go into effect Jan. 1, 2012. These sharks can still be caught and released in state waters and can be taken in adjacent federal waters.

The change got its start in 2010, after concerned citizens, shark researchers and shark anglers expressed their desires to the Commission to see increased protections for sharks.

Florida waters offer essential habitat for young sharks, which is important for species such as the slow-to-reproduce tiger shark, which takes about 15 years to reach maturity.

Sharks have been strictly regulated in Florida since 1992, with a one-shark-per-

person, two-sharks-per-vessel daily bag limit for all recreational and commercial harvesters and a ban on shark finning.

Roughly two-dozen overfished, vulnerable or rare shark species are catch-and-release only in Florida waters.

The FWC is also working on an educational campaign highlighting fishing and handling techniques that increase the survival rate of sharks that are caught and released while ensuring the safety of the anglers targeting them.

For more information on shark fishing, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing" and either "Recreational Regulations" or "Commercial."

Exotic fish boost angling success in Florida

Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World because of its native fishes, but it also has a variety of exotic fishes anglers may pursue.

An exotic fish is one that is not native to the area in which it is found. Typically, this is because people moved them from one location to another, either intentionally or accidentally, resulting in their illegal release.

To many ecologists, any organism that is introduced to a place it did not historically and naturally occur is a nuisance.

However, when you look around Florida you will find many species that are associated with the Sunshine State but were not here 500 years ago when the Spanish first landed. In fact, Spaniards brought many familiar edibles from Europe, including oranges, horses and pigs, which are still here.

The first exotic fish species documented in Florida – the common carp – was stocked around 1877 by the U.S. Fish Commission. Carp came from Germany and were stocked as a food fish throughout the United States.

Today in Florida, common carp are most abundant in the Panhandle and support a small but avid group of anglers and bow fishermen.

In addition to common carp, another 22 species of fish are established, meaning they have permanent populations, and 11 species have reproduced in Florida's fresh waters. Most successful intruders came from tropical or subtropical climates. Typical sources have been the aquarium trade or individual pet-fish owners, and aquaculture facilities that inadvertently allowed some stock to escape.

Florida fisheries biologists have studied

nonnative fishes and their impacts since the late 1960s and established a Nonnative Fish Research Laboratory in Boca Raton.

Although laboratory staff continue to study and be concerned with nonnative fishes, they have not documented measureable negative impacts on native fishes or aquatic habitats.

During that time they have exterminated from confined areas several populations of exotic fishes that were discovered early, including redbelly piranha, pirambeba and threespot ciclid.

Natural events, particularly cold spells, have eliminated 14 species of previously reproducing nonnative fishes from our waters.

Laboratory staff also helped develop sterile triploid grass carp, which are used (under permit) as an aquatic-plant-control tool, and successfully introduced peacock bass as a biological control for unwanted exotic forage species.

Peacocks now support a sport fishery in southeast Florida, with an annual economic benefit of nearly \$11 million.

During the winter cold snap of 2010, peacock bass, and many other exotic fishes, died in large numbers. The exotic fishery on the L-67A Canal is an excellent example of how these exotic fishes are being utilized by anglers, and effects of the cold.

The canal is west of U.S. 27 and south of Alligator Alley and is known not only for great largemouth bass fishing, but also for a diverse array of nonnative fish.

Mayan cichlid, oscar and butterfly peacock bass are the three most popular nonnative species in the canal, but the winter kill in 2010 nearly eliminated them.

Catch rates for Mayan cichlid and oscar averaged nine and four fish per hour, re-

spectively, from 2000 to 2009, and butterfly peacock bass were producing two fish per hour of fishing. In the L-67A Canal, in spite of numerous nonnative fishes, the average catch rate for largemouth bass was more than two bass per hour. For comparison, a catch rate of one harvestable largemouth bass per four hours (0.25 fish per hour) is considered typical in the southeastern United States.

Expenditures by anglers fishing for exotic fishes on the L-67A Canal during the past 17 years were estimated at more than \$3 million. During that period, anglers spent 22 percent of their time seeking exotics. When the exotic bite is on, people travel long distances to fish the L-67A.

Although the unusually cold winter in 2010 took a toll on exotics in the canal, once

their populations rebound, the amount of time spent fishing will increase along with success rates. Meanwhile, urban canals around the more southerly Miami-Homestead area do not get winter kills quite as extreme as L-67A, so anglers fishing for exotics have more consistent success there.

Besides the entertainment associated with fishing for different and often very colorful fish comes the benefit that, except for peacock bass and triploid grass carp, nonnative fishes do not have bag or size limits.

Anglers are encouraged to take as many as they can. It is suggested they be immediately placed on ice and not released.

Most are good eating, including Mayan cichlid and oscar, as well as other exotics such as brown hoplos and bullseye snakehead.

Recreational, commercial fishermen to reap benefit from spotted seatrout management

Changes take effect Feb. 1, 2012, and include:

- Removing regional recreational season closures (removing the current February closure in northern Florida and the November-through-December closure in southern Florida);

- Redefining the areas where spotted seatrout are managed by splitting the state into four management zones instead of three.

The changes come after a 2010 spotted seatrout stock assessment indicated numbers were consistently exceeding the annual management goal across the state, and nearly double in the northeast region of Florida.

To learn more, visit MyFWC.com/Commission and click on "Commission Meetings," then "Agenda."

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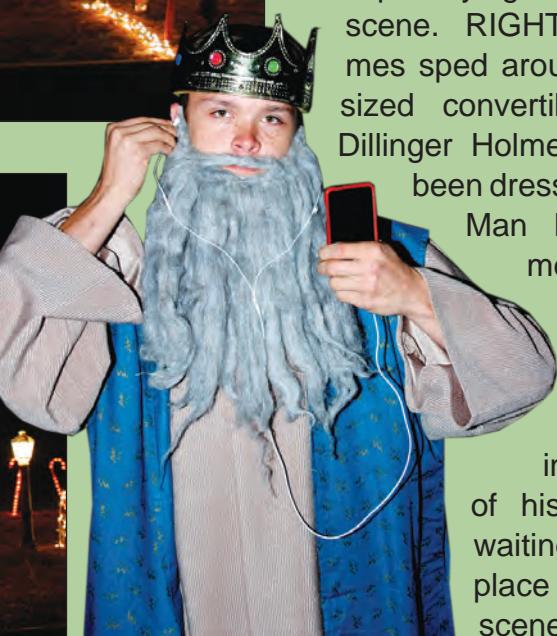
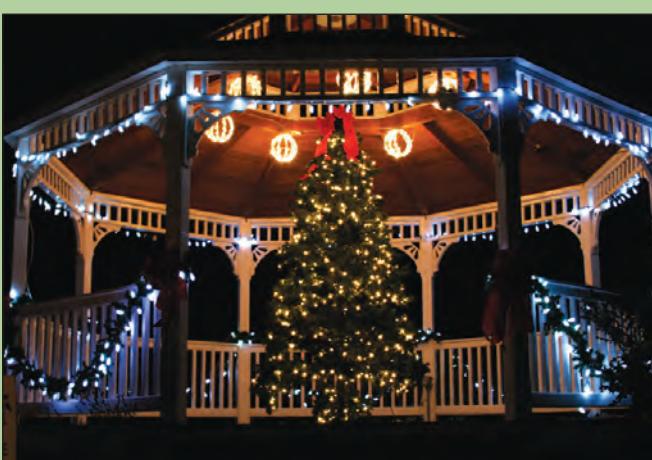
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The Winter Wonderland Express at Veterans Memorial Park took riders on a holiday excursion of lights, music and fun when they began their Christmas season schedule last week. Members of the Bristol Church of God took part by serving as elves and portraying a live manager

scene. RIGHT: Maze Holmes sped around in an elf-sized convertible. LEFT: Dillinger Holmes may have been dressed as a Wise Man but it didn't mean he had to give up a modern luxury as he plugged in the earbuds of his iPod while waiting to take his place in the nativity scene.



SHELBY RODDENBERRY PHOTOS



You don't have to spend a lot to have a wonderful Christmas

Between high gas prices and consumers' sense of a financial squeeze in a struggling economy, it seems as if a nice Christmas is out of the picture this year.

Not so says Tawra Kellam, editor of www.LivingOnADime.com. To prove it, here are a few of her ideas to help make Christmas memorable without breaking the bank!

*Go Potluck! You buy the turkey -- Have everyone else bring the side dishes and drinks. Turkeys in our area are .59/lb. this time of year. If you buy

just the turkey, it will only cost you about \$5-\$10 to feed everyone for a large family gathering.

*Celebrate Christmas the week after Christmas. Take advantage of the after Christmas sales and plan your large extended family gathering for the week after Christmas. Besides being less expensive, it is unlikely to interfere with anyone else's Christmas plans.

*Don't give gifts or give inexpensive gifts to hairstylists, babysitters, teachers and others. I found several wonderful small scented jar candles on clearance

for .25 each. I will put three of them in a small basket (purchased at the thrift store for .25) with some tissue paper, ribbon and nice note. A great gift for \$1.25!

*Break up gift sets. If you find an item that comes in a gift set at Christmas, give parts of it to different recipients. This is great for bath or perfume sets.

*Yard sales and thrift stores equal great savings. You can find a lot of new or nearly new items for pennies on the dollar. For our son, we found a working telescope in the box. It cost \$1.00, so

we saved \$24! He got what he wanted and we didn't have to take out a home equity loan!

*Make memories, not more junk. Most kids get more than plenty for Christmas from grandparents, aunts and uncles. If you can only afford one gift for your child, make it a memory! Wrap a note in a box with instructions for a treasure hunt. Send your child all over the house with clues and then have the real gift sitting under the tree when they return. Simple, but a great memory for them!