



PAGES 6 - 8A



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The Jasper News

Today's Weather

High 81° F
Low 59° F
Precip: 10%



Partly cloudy skies. High 81F. Winds S at 11 mph. Chance of rain 10%. For up to the minute weather go to www.nflaonline.com.

141ST YEAR, NUMBER 2

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011

2 SECTIONS 24 PAGES

50¢

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Festival of Lights
Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park White Springs 2011 Festival of Lights. The event runs from Dec. 2, 2011 to Jan. 1, 2012 with over 4 million lights in colorful holiday displays throughout the park.

City of Jasper Christmas
The city of Jasper celebrated Christmas 2011 with colorful holiday decorations throughout the town.

Breakfast with Santa
2011 White Springs Police Department Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 10 at Nelly Bly's Kitchen - Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park. Local kids were treated to a pancake breakfast, a reading of "Twas the night Before Christmas" and a visit from Santa.

Jasper Parade
The 2011 annual Christmas parade in Jasper on Dec. 9 featured the JROTC Color Guard, followed by fire trucks and sirens, and more than 40 floats.

White Springs Christmas Parade
Grand Marshal "Teddy Bear" Marshall leads the 2011 Christmas parade through the town of White Springs. Thousands lined the streets on the evening of Dec. 2 to watch the parade before heading into Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park for a free hot-dog dinner at Nelly Bly's Kitchen.



Jasper Fire/Rescue's new tanker truck. - Courtesy photos

Jasper Fire/Rescue adds to its fleet

Submitted
Chief Bill Trinder of the Jasper Fire/Rescue Department traveled to Pierce Manufacturer in Bradenton on Dec. 7 to inspect and pick up the department's new 2012 Pierce/Kenworth 3,000 gallon Tender (Tanker).
In March of this year the Department was awarded a FEMA Fire Act Grant for the total amount of \$309,300 for the purchase of a tender. This grant was a 95/5 percent grant where the city of Jasper would be responsible for 5 percent of the total cost of the new vehicle.

SEE JASPER, PAGE 2A



Jasper Fire Chief Bill Trinder inspects the new tanker for discrepancies or flaws in workmanship.

Leigh Ann Norris is District Teacher of Year



Top: South Hamilton Elementary Principal Maceo Howell (left) and School Board Member Johnny Bullard. Middle: Director of Administrative Services Philip Pinello and Superintendent Martha Butler. Bottom: Linda Thomas and Leigh Ann Norris. Courtesy photo

Linda Thomas is District School Related Employee of Year

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

The Hamilton County School District Teacher of the Year is Leigh Ann Norris. The School Related Employee of the Year is Linda Thomas. They both hail from South Hamilton Elementary School.
Norris is a sixth grade teacher at SHE and has been with the District since August 1997. Thomas, a paraprofessional, has been with Hamilton County Schools since February 1998. "The individuals were selected at the work sites by their peers," said Denise Wofford, administrative assistant to the superintendent.

SEE LEIGH ANN NORRIS, PAGE 10A

Continuing a winning tradition

Hamilton County School District Transportation hands out teddy bears at local Christmas parades

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

Hamilton County School Board Transportation continues an honorable tradition of handing out teddy bears during local Christmas parades in Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee counties, as they keep racking up their parade float winnings.

Several years ago Ward Daniels, transportation system specialist for Hamilton County Schools,



Hamilton County Transportation Department at the Christmas parade in White Springs. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

SEE HAMILTON, PAGE 10A

Healthcare talks continue in Hamilton

North Florida Medical Centers may be best bet for local healthcare

By Joyce Marie Taylor
joycemarie.taylor@gafnews.com

A discussion on healthcare continued with a proposal from North Florida Medical Centers, Inc.(NFMC) for a healthcare clinic in Jasper at a Dec. 6 meeting of the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners.

As requested by the board at a Nov. 1 meeting, Joel Montgomery, CEO of NFMC, present-

SEE HEALTHCARE, PAGE 10A

Area gas prices see decline

By Jeffrey Boatright
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Area gas prices are following a national trend of decline, according to AAA spokesperson Jessica Brady.

According to a Dec. 18

SEE AREA, PAGE 10A

Regular Unleaded Gasoline Averages

Current
National: \$3.228
Florida: \$3.269

Week Ago
National: \$3.279
Florida: \$3.303

Month Ago
National: \$3.387
Florida: \$3.388

Year Ago
National: \$2.982
Florida: \$2.993

FREE
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COOKIE
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Must Present Coupon
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White Springs Library Project on hold

By Joyce Marie Taylor

The White Springs Library project has run into a snag with anticipated extra funding from the United States Department of Agriculture hanging in the balance. It was brought up at a recent county commission meeting that the pre-application packet for library grant funding from USDA had not yet been received by them (according to USDA). Board members discussed what happened, whether the application was lost or misplaced and never filed, or if the USDA was mistaken.

Bottom line, however, was that the USDA said they never received the grant application. Consequently, it will take another 30-60 days for the re-submittal, plus about another six months before the USDA will make any decisions on the submitted grant applications, which would further delay the library project.

The board discussed whether or not they could build a new library for \$300,000, which was money donated by PCS for that purpose. It was agreed to come to the next meeting on Dec. 6 with a plan to get the project moving forward.

At the Dec. 6 meeting, Greg Bailey brought a sample floor plan and elevation views from Lee Public Library. Total square footage of that building is about 4,600 s.f. and it is similar in design as to what the town of White Springs would need.

In order to keep with White Springs historic character, Bailey suggested constructing a wide porch with a railing on the front of the building where folks could sit and read. Rough-cut cedar or HardiePlank siding on the front of the building

were two ideas he gave for the exterior.

"The HardiePlank is very durable. You've just got painting," said Bailey. "With the cedar you would have to obviously seal it, but the cedar would weather real nice."

Bailey suggested raising the elevation of the building if the board decided on the front porch idea, in order to make it look like an old house sitting up on piers.

"The handicapped ramp we could easily address," Bailey said. "We've done that before with buildings we've elevated."

With the donated funds from PCS, Bailey said they could build a 3,000 to 3,500 square foot building, depending on how much additional money would be needed for interior furnishings. The existing library, Bailey said, is about 1,300 to 1,400 square feet. He also said they could build the library in such a way that it could be expanded at a later date if needed.

Commissioner Harry "Buster" Oxendine asked Bailey if he could have a site plan drawn up for the board to approve by the time they have their first meeting in January, assuming the board could agree on a square footage, and Bailey said he could.

The board decided on a 3,200 sq. ft. building and asked Bailey to come to the January meeting with a site plan, along with cost estimates for both a red iron with cut-face block structure or a stick frame. It was also suggested to contact the prison to see if they could donate some of the interior woodwork labor. County coordinator Danny Johnson was asked by comm. Ogburn to contact the warden about the use of inmate labor.

Greenwood School principal expounds on curriculum

Editor's note: In order to give you a better sense of how our schools are structured, the Jasper News will feature a questionnaire about a different school each week for five weeks. The schools are Hamilton County High School, Central Hamilton Elementary, North Hamilton Elementary, South Hamilton Elementary and Greenwood. Reporter Joyce Marie Taylor sent a list of questions to the principal of each public school in Hamilton County and we are publishing the responses. The following is the interview with Greenwood School Principal Casi Burnett. This is the first school year as principal for Burnett. She previously served as administrative assistant at Greenwood for three years.

Jasper News: What is your school's philosophy?

Casi Burnett: We believe that every human being has inherent worth and dignity. It is the mission of Greenwood School to prepare our students to live independently, to acquire survival and educational skills, to communicate, and to interact appropriately, in accordance with each individual's potential.

JN: What is the school's approach to discipline?

CB: Our school's approach is to handle discipline issues within the classroom first if possible. Many issues can be solved by the teacher and classroom staff without anyone else becoming involved. If there are circumstances that require further attention, we contact the child's parent to discuss the issue and brainstorm ways to effectively address the issue. Also, if the child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), the IEP team can determine whether or not a Functional Behavior Assessment needs to be conducted in order to develop a Functional Behavior Plan. This is done with guidance from district Behavior Specialists.

JN: How do teachers and staff encourage student progress toward meeting state standards?

CB: Our teachers develop lessons based on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Access Points for the K-12 students and the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for Four-Year-Olds for our Pre-K students. The standards are embedded throughout lessons and students are encouraged to do their best on all activities, in order to make progress in meeting the state standards.

JN: What library resources are available to students?

CB: At this time, Greenwood does not have an official library. However, we are in the process of establishing an area where students can browse books and have some quiet reading time. Our K-12 students participate in Community-Based Instruction (CBI) trips to the public library at least monthly to check out books related to the curriculum.

JN: How is the school adjusting to new technology?

CB: We are gradually updating our technology each year. Currently, we have one SmartBoard in use that has been loaned to us by The Resource Materials & Technology Center in St. Augustine. We also recently acquired three new laptops and a desktop for teacher use that will help to accommodate the new statewide IEP program PEER.

JN: How are students adjusting to the new uniform policy?

CB: Our students and parents have adjusted well to the new policy and we have 100% compliance with the dress code nearly every day.

JN: What Arts programs are available and how do they fit into the curriculum?

CB: Arts are infused daily in teacher lessons in all classes. We also have two "musicals" present-

ed by our Pre-K students each year, which we consider a form of art.

JN: What extra-curricular activities are offered?

CB: We do not have any extra-curricular activities at this time. From time-to-time, we have events promoting literacy that are held in the evening that parents and students are able to attend.

JN: How does the school support students with disabilities, academic, social, and emotional?

CB: We meet the needs of all of our students through the IEP (Individualized Education Plan). The IEP team, which consists of parents, the student, teachers, related service providers, and school administration, meets to discuss the needs of the student and develop the IEP to address the needs.

JN: What strategies are used for teaching students not fluent in English?

CB: N/A

JN: List professional development opportunities for teachers.

CB: Our teachers are encouraged to attend training sessions and workshops pertinent to their field and the students they teach. They attend training sessions provided by the Exceptional Student Education Department and FDLRS, as well as any others offered in the surrounding area. Our Pre-K teachers also have opportunities to attend training sessions offered by the Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway as well as those offered by the Pre-K department here in the district.

JN: What are some of the school's greatest accomplishments?

CB: Our greatest accomplishment has been being able to provide our students with a safe and caring learning environment that is personalized to the unique needs of our students.

JN: What are some of the school's biggest challenges?

CB: Making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is the biggest challenge our



Casi Burnett
Courtesy Photo

school faces. While our students are not assessed by the FCAT as other students in the district are, Greenwood School is held to the requirements of No Child Left Behind and must assess its students in an alternative format. Our students participate in the Florida Alternate Assessment, which measures student academic performance on the Sunshine State Standards Access Points. We are meeting this challenge head on by analyzing Florida Alternate Assessment data, developing lesson plans based on the Access Points, and delivering intensive small group instruction to our students. Despite these efforts, it can be challenging for our students to make academic growth needed to show AYP.

JN: How does the school keep parents informed on activities, etc?

CB: We utilize various methods to keep our parents informed of school activities. We use the call-out system to announce special events. Our school website contains a wealth of information on activities and the school in general. We send home notes announcing activities. Some teachers send home classroom newsletters that contain information on school activities.

JN: Does the school have an active PTA?

CB: Not at this time. We do have a School Advisory Council and we encourage parents to attend our SAC meetings, which are held in the evenings.

JN: What is the school's goal for the 2011-2012 school year?

CB: Our goal is to continue to provide a safe and caring learning environment for our students. We also want to make AYP!

Jasper Fire/Rescue adds to its fleet

Continued From Page 1A

Working off the Florida Fire Chief's Association and the Florida Sheriff's Association State Bid Contract, Chief Trinder was able to put together a tender that would fit the needs of both the city of Jasper and Hamilton County for fire protection.

The apparatus is a 2012 Pierce/Kenworth 3,000 gallon elliptical water tender with a

1,250 gallon per minute pump, capable of not just supplying the needed water for fires without hydrant protection, but also able to fight these fires, as well.

The apparatus will be equipped with a 3,500 gallon portable water pond that firefighters can deploy at scenes of large fires and allow the engines to draft water from the pond while the tender returns to a hydrant to refill, thus leaving

no interruption in fighting a fire.

This will be the third piece of apparatus that the city of Jasper has been able to purchase new through financing or grant funds since 2000 to update their fleet to required standards by the National Fire Protection Association.

For additional information, or to see the new addition, stop by the JFRD and visit with the firefighters.

Hamilton County students honored for academic achievement

North Florida Community College announces Dean's Honor Roll

MADISON, FL – Forty-five North Florida Community College students have been named to the Dean's Honor Roll at the conclusion of NFCC's Fall Term 2011. The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes outstanding academic achievement at the completion of each semester. Inclusion on the list is awarded to all full-time students who, during fall term, have earned a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.79 on course work of at least 12 hours.

Five Hamilton County students were among those recognized for academic achievement and named to the Dean's Honor Roll for Fall Term 2011. They are:

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HAMILTON COUNTY
Chineeta S. Jackson Jasper, FL
Sarah A. Scaff Jasper, FL
Christy M. Carline Jennings, FL
Cady M. Carter Jennings, FL
Rene Perez Jennings, FL

For information contact the Office of College Advancement, (850) 973-1653 or email News@NFCC.edu.



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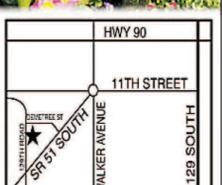


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Life in WHITE SPRINGS

By Walter McKenzie

lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com

Some messages bear repeating so I will share with you some Christmas thoughts, past, present and future. What do I like about the Christmas season? There are so many things and most of them have to do with people, the very same people that we see throughout the rest of the year, but they are somehow transformed at Christmas time. It is a season that has its own unique, human, seasonal characteristics. People in general are kinder, they smile more often; they seem to know that we are all sharing something, that for a brief time, we all have something more in common. This is a season of celebration and when people are celebrating, even when it's hectic, they are more fun to be around. Daily pleasantries such as "Hello" or "Have a nice day" are nice

but "Merry Christmas" really kicks it up a notch. And because there is so much opportunity to share the joy, it is a wonderful contagious phenomenon. The truth is that everything good that happens takes a chain of real people to create. So I say to all of you good and real people, "Merry Christmas!"

This Christmas will surely be a hard time in a monetary sense for some folks. But even in the midst of hard times, we can still enjoy the Christmas spirit and Christmas can still bring joy into our lives if we just make the effort to remember the true meaning of the season. Strip away all the glitz and glitter, the hoopla and the advertisements and you will still see the concepts of hope, deliverance, redemption, peace and love. During these hard times, these true gifts of Christmas take on an even greater meaning. But, whose responsibility is it to deliver these intangible gifts? I'll give you a hint, it's not just Santa Claus! Shouldering the responsibility to deliver gifts of the

spirit, such as love and hope, falls upon all of us, you and I definitely included. The wonderful thing is, these are the gifts that everyone needs the most and these are gifts that, regardless of circumstance, we can all afford to give, even in the midst of these hard times.

Riding around White Springs I've noticed that the lights in the park are better than ever this year but so are the lights in town. I saw some spectacular decorations and some real folksy ones too. Take some time to ride around White Springs and you will be rewarded by the efforts of many of our fine folks who have decorated their homes and businesses better than ever for the Christmas Season.

Shopping for some last minute gifts? A visit to the Thelma Boltin Gift Shop in the Stephen Foster Park will reward you with a large variety of beautiful and affordable gifts, many of them handmade, and many of them are a reflection of our local and regional crafts and traditions. These are items you will not find in the big box stores and someone will know that you got them something special and unique.

In closing, I want to ask Santa for some special gifts for White Springs for the coming year. Santa says we might get them if we are willing to work for them. First, let's start with the basics...we would love to have a grocery store, a drugstore and a health clinic. These "gifts" are something we really need in order to stay healthy and happy and have a chance to prosper. I've heard that some of Santa's White Springs Elves are working hard on this. Second, we would love to have some new shops and businesses in town instead of empty lots and storefronts. Third, we want to see some performances in our amphitheater. It's a fine facility that deserves to be used more. Fourth, we would love to see more folks volunteering for the community. Every community event or initiative is something that is accomplished in large part by volunteers, and we have been blessed with many but we need more in order to get more done for our town. Perhaps Santa will bring us these gifts, but we better be good, and work hard and earn them. I don't think Santa can do it on his own so you might want to see how you can help so that next year we can have these "gifts" under the tree.

So to all of you, a very Merry White Springs Christmas and I hope to see you out and about, enjoying life in White Springs.

Walter McKenzie
lifeinwhitesprings@gmail.com
386-269-0056

NFCC announces graduates for Fall Term 2011

North Florida Community College congratulates the following 9 Hamilton County residents who were awarded degrees or certificates at the conclusion of NFCC's Fall Term 2011.

The graduates are:

Anderson, Anna-Brooke, Jasper, Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Recruit (Certificate)

Combass, Lisa Dawn, Jasper, Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)

Eatmon, Haley Elizabeth, Jasper, Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)

Smith, Barbara A., Jasper, Associate in Science Degree / Emergency Medical Services

Vickers, Ashley, Jasper, Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)



NFCC graduates, left to right, Gwen Cauley (Madison County), Ashley Brevard (Columbia County), Heath Bowen (Lowndes County), Logan Avery (Taylor County), Ashley Vickers (Hamilton County) at NFCC's 2011 Commencement Ceremony at Van H. Priest Auditorium on Dec. 15.

Courtesy photos

Law, Donna Faye, Jennings, Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)

Miley, Jason, Jennings, Emergency Medical

Technician / EMT-B (Certificate)

Moody, Tiffanee, Jennings, Paramedic (Certificate)

Merritt, Jacob, White Springs, Associate in Arts Degree (A.A. Degree)

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You may request an absentee ballot to be mailed to your home by calling our office at 386-792-1426 or go to our website at hamiltonvotes.com.

As a reminder of Florida Law: FL is a Closed Primary State. Which means voters may only vote for candidates in the party that they are registered. Since there is only one Democratic candidate, no minor party candidates and no amendments, the PPP Election is open to registered Republicans ONLY.

For more info go to hamiltonvotes.com

OPINION

China trade: Myths vs. Reality

Republicans and democrats, liberals as well as conservatives, have bought into anti-Chinese trade demagoguery. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi suggested that tariffs against China are a "key part of our 'Make It in America' agenda." During his 2010 campaign, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., called his tea party-backed Republican challenger, Sharron Angle, "a foreign worker's best friend." In a recent news conference, President Barack Obama gave his support to the anti-China campaign, declaring that China "has been very aggressive in gaming the trading system to its advantage," adding that "we can and should take action against countries that are keeping their currencies undervalued ... (and)

that, above all, means China."

Republican 2012 presidential candidates have jumped on the anti-China bandwagon. Mitt Romney wrote: "If I am fortunate enough to be elected president, I will work to fundamentally alter our economic relationship with China. ... I will begin on Day One by designating China as the currency manipulator it is." Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., was even more challenging, saying, "I want to go to war with China."

Let's look at the magnitude of our trade with China. An excellent place to start is a recent publication (8/8/2011) by Galina Hale and Bart Hobijn, two economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, titled "The U.S. Content of 'Made in China.'" One of the several questions they ask is: What is the fraction of U.S. consumer spending for goods made in China? Their data sources are the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Hale and Hobijn find that the vast majority of goods and services

sold in the United States are produced here. In 2010, total imports were about 16 percent of U.S. gross domestic product, and of that, 2.5 percent came from China. A total of 88.5

percent of U.S. consumer spending is on items made in the United States, the bulk of which are domestically produced services -- such as medical care, housing, transportation, etc. -- which make up about two-thirds of spending. Chinese goods account for 2.7 percent of U.S. personal consumption expenditures, about one-quarter of the 11.5 percent foreign share. Chinese imported goods consist mainly of furniture and household equipment; other durables; and clothing and shoes. In the clothing and shoes category, 35.6 percent of U.S. consumer purchases in 2010 were items with the "Made in China" label.

Much of what China sells us has considerable "local content." Hale and Hobijn give the example of sneakers that might sell for \$70. They point out that most of that price goes for transportation in the U.S., rent for the store where they are sold, profits for shareholders of the U.S. retailer, and marketing costs, which include the salaries, wages and benefits paid to the U.S. workers and managers re-

sponsible for getting sneakers to consumers. On average, 55 cents of every dollar spent on goods made in China goes for marketing services produced in the U.S.

Going hand in hand with today's trade demagoguery is talk about decline in U.S. manufacturing. For the year 2008, the Federal Reserve estimated that the value of U.S. manufacturing output was about \$3.7 trillion. If the U.S. manufacturing sector were a separate economy -- with its own GDP -- it would be tied with Germany as the world's fourth-richest economy. Today's manufacturing worker is so productive that the value of his average output is \$234,220, three times higher than it was in 1980 and twice as high as it was in 1990. That means more can be produced with fewer workers, resulting in a precipitous fall in manufacturing jobs, from 19.5 million jobs in 1979 to a little more than 10 million today.

The bottom line is that we Americans are allowing ourselves to be suckered into believing that China is the source of our unemployment problems when the true culprit is Congress and the White House.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University. To find out more about Walter E. Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



A MINORITY VIEW
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BY WALTER WILLIAMS

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Letter to the editor and Article Policy

Letters to the editor and news articles can be mailed, FAXed or dropped off at the news office located in the Bank of America Building, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. till 12 noon.

Letters to the Editor should be typed, double-spaced if possible, brief and to the point, approximately 150 to 200 words or less. Not all letters are published. **To be considered for publication Letters to the Editor must be signed, include the writer's address and phone number, and in the Jasper News' office on Friday before noon.**

News Releases, 400 or less words, should be typed, double-spaced if possible, brief and to the point. Not all articles are published.

Letters and articles may be edited to fit available space. Well written letters/articles require less editing.

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PCS donates to Kiwanis



From left to right: Rex Mitchell, Phyllis Porter, Terry Baker, and Eric Norman, President of Jasper Kiwanis & Manager of Mining Operations at PCS. -Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor

Terry Baker, General Manager of Potash Corporation in White Springs presented a check for \$5,000 to Phyllis Porter, Coordinator of Special Services for Hamilton County Schools, to use toward a special Kiwanis project with

the school board. These funds will assist homeless and migrant children in Hamilton County. Superintendent Martha Butler was out of town, so Assistant Superintendent Rex Miller stood in for her alongside Porter, to receive the generation donation from PCS.



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Heart Matters

Merry Christmas

By Angie Land

On Christmas Day, 1864, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow composed the poem, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" that later became a well-known Christmas carol. The carol tells of Longfellow's experience of hearing the church bells ring out "peace on earth, good will to men" on Christmas Day, during the darkest period of the Civil War. Still months away from Lee's surrender to Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse, and grieving the tragic death of his wife Fanny and the crippling war injury of his son Charles, Longfellow penned the second stanza of the poem, "And in despair I bowed my head-There is no peace on earth I said-For hate is strong and mocks the song-Of peace on earth, good will to men."

If that were the last verse in the song, it would indeed pronounce a bleak Christmas...not unlike how many may be feeling this year. Peace on earth and good will to men doesn't seem the prevalent theme to many facing unemployment, economic downturns, families separated by miles, death or divorce, and the

uncertainty of the future. Yet, it was in his despair that Longfellow heard the bells "more loud and deep" proclaiming "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep-The wrong shall fail, the right prevail-With peace on earth, good will to men."

We need to be reminded of this truth during the Christmas season and perhaps when the trimmings are stripped away, we can see more clearly. My family has joined the ranks of many this season who are "scaling back" on our Christmas shopping and giving more to those in need...and yet the simplicity of this kind of Christmas really points us back to the baby in a manger some 2,000 years ago. Where angels themselves sang the carols and invited a field full of shepherds who probably smelled a tad too much like their sheep, to celebrate the very first Christmas. This baby who was foretold hundreds of years before, in the greatest of detail: "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government shall be on his shoulders and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



Angie Land

Isaiah 9:6 reminds us that indeed God is not dead, nor does He sleep...and without a doubt, left heaven to come to Earth...because our hearts matter.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Angie

Heart Matters is a weekly column written by Angie Land, Director of the Family Life Ministries of the Lafayette Baptist Association, where she teaches bible studies, leads marriage and family conferences and offers biblical counseling to individuals, couples and families. Contact Angie with questions or comments at angieland3@windstream.net

PCS donates to Love Tree



From left to right: Terry Baker, Rev. Justin Young of First Baptist Church in White Springs, Carolee Tucker and Mary Kay Dunaway from Calvary Baptist Church and Eric Norman, President of Jasper Kiwanis & Manager of Mining Operations at PCS, Seated holding the check is Anne Hall from the town of Jasper. -Photos: Joyce Marie Taylor

By Joyce Marie Taylor

Terry Baker, General Manager of PCS Phosphate in White Springs presented a check for \$5,000 to Anne Hall, the director of the Hamilton County

Christmas Love Tree project. The Christmas Love Trees were located in various businesses in Hamilton County and all donations allowed needy children in the county to have a joyous Christmas this year.



This Christmas Love Tree was inside Sunsatons in downtown Jasper.

Merry is as merry celebrates

Rev. James L. Snyder

Although I may look a little stodgy on the outside with a few gray hairs blossoming on the top, I still know how to celebrate, and this is the time of the year to do that sort of thing. I love a good Christmas celebration.

For the last few years, I have never had to check my calendar to know when it is time to celebrate the Christmas season. It seems that the Thanksgiving turkey always gives rise to what I shall refer to as the Holiday Turkey. No sooner is my Thanksgiving turkey resting snugly inside of me when the Holiday Turkeys begin their assault on Christmas.

Do not let this get out, but I love it.

Some people are quite offended when these Holiday Turkeys begin their assault on Christmas. I would be insulted if they did not. I expect

them to attack anything to do with Christmas. It just goes to show that the Christmas story has not lost its offense.

Those of us who celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ embrace this time of the year with a great deal of joy and praise. After all, we are celebrating the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. What better message to celebrate at this time of year when most people are having a difficult time.

Don't get me wrong here. I believe in celebrating Jesus Christ every day. There is something special about setting aside one day out of the year to recognize his birth. I do not worship the manger nor do I venerate the three wise men. I do, however, appreciate the fact that Jesus Christ came into this world and it certainly is my privilege once a year to celebrate His birthday. I

know He was not born on December 25, but it is the thought that counts.

Even those who do celebrate Christmas sometime celebrate the wrong thing. People who do not have much money spend themselves poor getting Christmas presents for their family, and then they spend the rest of the year trying to pay off those purchases. That is a nice gesture but that is not the reason for the season. Instead of spending money this year for your family, why not spend a little time with them. That will do more good than something you buy in the store that will be obsolete by the time they open it Christmas morning.

Then there are those who take this time of the year to do nothing but party, party, party. By party, I mean getting so inebriated they have no idea what they are doing or saying. Many people will die during the cele-

bration of Christ's birth because of some intoxicated driver.

This is not the reason for the season.

You can always tell the quality of a person by what they celebrate and how they celebrate. Of course, the Holiday Turkeys will accuse me right here of being judgmental. Perhaps they are right.

What is wrong with a little bit of being judgmental?

Why is it we can be judgmental in every area of our life except those areas that are matters of life and death.

My doctor is so judgmental that sometimes I would like to punch him in the nose. What right does he have to tell me that I have something wrong with me? Well, he's the doctor. How many people have shortened their life by not listening to their judgmental doctor?

Some alcohol-saturated

person will challenge me and say, "You have no right telling me what to do. I'm going to have a good time. Don't you judge me." Then they get smashed, jump in their car and end up killing

some young family coming home from a Christmas party.

That certainly is not the reason for the season.

The Christmas season

SEE MERRY, PAGE 10A

Church & Family Go Together

<p>ADVENT CHRISTIAN</p> <p>FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN N.W. 15th Avenue Jasper Rev. Wayne Sullivan Sunday Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 p.m. 644208-F</p>	<p>BAPTIST (Southern)</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH "Where Friends become Family" 207 N.E. 2nd Street, Jasper, 792-2658 Pastor: Roger Hutto Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Children, Youth & Adult Programs.....6:30 p.m. 643869-F</p>	<p>METHODIST</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 405 Central Ave., Jasper, FL Pastor - Dale Ames Phone - 386-792-1122 Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study.....4:45 p.m. Choir Practice.....6:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner 3rd Wednesday Clothes Closet 4th Saturday 1-5pm 644232-F</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 204 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Jasper, 792-2258 Pastor: Alexandria Hedrick SUNDAY Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Worship Service.....11:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY Prayer in Fellowship Hall.....9:00 a.m. Choir Practice.....7:00 p.m. 644251-F</p>
<p>BAPTIST (Southern)</p> <p>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH SR 6 West, 6592 NW 48th St., Jennings, FL 32053 938-5611 Pastor: Jeff Cordero Sunday School.....10:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship, Youth Happening, RA's, GA's.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Supper.....6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Discipleship class for adults, Youth activities, Children's Choirs.....6:30 p.m. Van pick-up upon request 644209-F</p>	<p>CATHOLIC CHURCH</p> <p>ST. TERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH Three miles north of Jasper U.S. 41 P.O. Box 890, Jasper, FL 32052 Rectory U.S. 90 E., Live Oak, FL (386) 364-1108 Saturday MASS 4:00 p.m. 644211-F</p>	<p>NON-DENOMINATIONAL</p> <p>BURNHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH 4520 NW CR 146, Jennings, FL 32053 938-1265 Pastor: Johnny Brown Sunday Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. Worship.....11:00 a.m. Evening Service.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Kids' Program.....6:15 p.m. 644236-F</p>	<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST N.W. 3rd St., Jasper Bldg.: 792-2277 Sunday Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m. Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening.....6:00 p.m. 644212-F</p>

To list your church on our church directory, please call Louise at 1-800-525-4182

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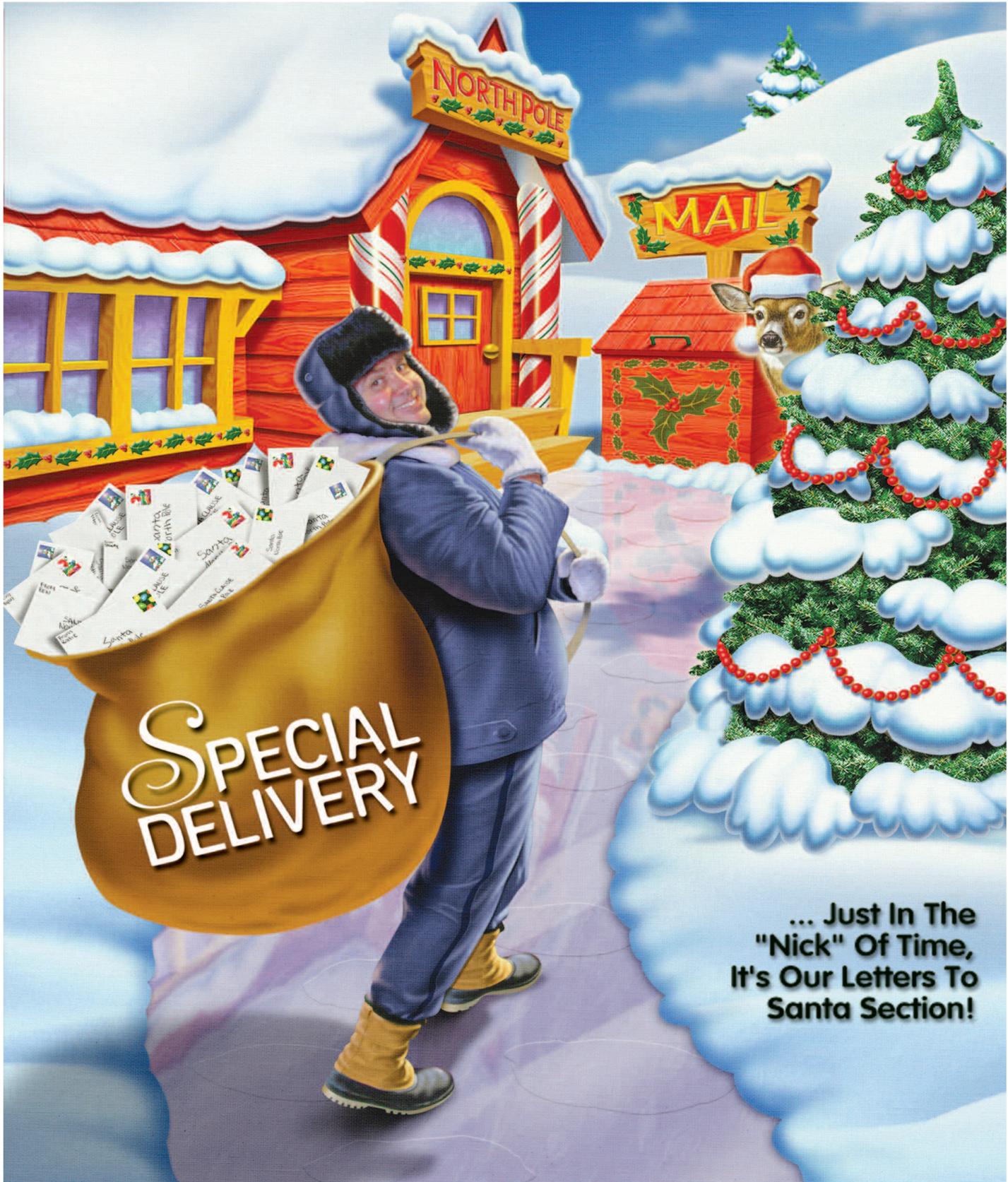
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... Just In The
"Nick" Of Time,
It's Our Letters To
Santa Section!

**Greenwood School
Letters to Santa**

Love,
Tyqeria Hughes

**Mrs. Kalinowski and
Mrs. Combass' Pre-K
Class**

Dear Santa,
I would like you to bring
me a new pillow pet, a
stuffed elephant and a
new dog, a real dog. I
would like a bag of
strawberries.
Love,
Macie Padgett

Dear Santa,
I would like a new pil-
low and a new bed, I
would like a real pig too.
Love,
Breanna Simone

Dear Santa,
I would like a car and a
horse like you can ride
with a back on it.
Love,
Ricky Robinson

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a
choo choo train and a
golf cart.
Love,
Sean Corbett

Dear Santa,
I would like for you to
bring me something to
keep my flowers in
cause they break. I need
something to pour water
cause I don't have one
and I need a umbrella
and I want a flower with
my garden things.
Love,
Emma Fordham

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl, I
would like you to bring
me a Barbie and a new
trampoline. I would also
like a new computer.

Love,
Tyqeria Hughes

Dear Santa,
I want a race car, two
race cars, a big red car.
Love,
Izak Burnett

Dear Santa,
I would like a choo choo
train and a big red car.
Love,
Jaworski Williams

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie doll and
a car and a unicorn.
Love,
Allison Strickland

Dear Santa,
I would like a truck and
a racing car. I want a I-
pod too.
Love,
Ty'Vion Starling

Dear Santa,
I'd like a turkey, a drag-
on, and a choo choo, a
pumpkin, and a pack of
M&M's and a wagon.
Love,
Logan Roberson

Dear Santa,
I want a fake fishing
pole and fake fishes and
you fill it up with bub-
bles and reel your rod &
reel and you have fake
fish. I want a really fast
scooter you don't have
to don't have to use feet
with.
Love,
Carter Stephens

Dear Santa,
I want a pillow pet, a
race car, a dump truck
and a car.
Love,
Jhaki Dubose

**Mrs. Whitaker's
Pre-K Class**

Dear Santa,
My name is Princess
Jackson and I have been
a good girl this year.
Please bring me a bicycle
and a princess baby doll.
Love,
Princess Jackson

Dear Santa, -
I would like a Tinker-
belle bike and helmet, a
scooter, and Noah's ark
with animals and peo-
ple.
Love,
Karmaria Davis

Dear Santa,
I would like a motorcy-
cle and a scooter.
Love,
Chase Tyre

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter, a
bike, cars, and a motor-
cycle.
Love,
Charles Walls

Dear Santa,
I would like a yellow
bike.
Love,
Jon'Darious Temple

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter
and a bike.
Love,
Kwan McCloud

Dear Santa,
I would like a barbie doll
bike and a phone.
Love,
De'Syrius Williams

Dear Santa,
I would a princess bike
and a princess baby doll.
Love,

Markayla Williamson

Dear Santa,
I would some stickers
and a ball.
Love,
Dylan Barnhart

Dear Santa,
I would like a motorcy-
cle, a hat, and a baby
doll.
Love,
Hadley Clark

Dear Santa,
I would like a yellow
bike and a phone.
Love,
Jacob Barker

*All of us are trying to be
good girls and boys, So
Santa will bring us our
favorite toys. Mrs. Mc-
Call's kindergarten all
want to say Have a very
wonderful Christmas
Day!!!! Here is our list,
you jolly "old man"
Please bring us this spe-
cial toy, if you can.*

Mrs. McCall - a happy
and safe Christmas for
all of my boys and girls
and their families

Ashlynn—something
special
Caleb—race cars
Cameron—race car
Conner—remote control
helicopter
Cooper—drum set
Cynthia—mermaid doll
Decorrious—race car
Emmanuel—computer
Gracie—kitchen set
Jackson—remote control
helicopter
Ka'Shauna—baby doll
Karleigh—real kitten
Kinleigh—real kitten
Rachael—princess doll

Sarah—real puppy
Suzzanna—toy heli-
copter
Therrance—whatever
you want to bring me

**Mrs. Lambert's 2nd
Grade Class Central
Hamilton Elementary**

Dear Santa,
I would like a four
wheeler, air pump to air
up my bike tires. I think
I have been a good boy
this year.
Love,
Matthew Register

Dear Santa,
I would like a motorcy-
cle. I have been a good
boy this year.
Your Friend,
Jaquez Cooper

Dear Santa,
I want a repunzel tower,
repunzel doll and Max-
imus the horse. I have
been a very good girl.
Love,
Hannah Brisbane

Dear Santa,
I would like an Ameri-
can doll, Wii, and a lap-
top. I haven't went to
Mrs. Zamora lately. I
promise to be good for
the rest of the year.
Your Friend,
Derrionna Smith

Dear Santa,
I would like a leap pad
and a toy sword. I have
been a good boy. I
haven't been to the office
to call my dad this week.
Love
Kenneth Warren

Dear Santa,
I would like a DSI. I

have been a good boy
this year.
Love, Jonderious.

Dear Santa,
I would like a pellet gun,
BB gun, BB's, pellets and
a four wheeler. I have
been a good boy this
year. I promise I will be
good for the rest of the
year.
Your Friend, Jerome

Dear Santa,
I would like a motorcy-
cle, Barbie doll and a
Barbie car. I am good
sometimes. I promise to
be good for the rest of
my life.
Tykeiuna Federick

Dear Santa,
I would like a Nintendo
3DS and an Xbox 360
kinnect. I have been
good sometimes. I
promise I will try my
best to be good every
year.
Your Friend,
Tyrese White

Dear Santa,
I would like a 3DS and a
four wheeler that you
can charge. I will try my
best for the rest of my
life.
Love,
Amaya Johnson

Dear Santa,
I would like a shotgun
for Christmas. I have
been a very good boy
this year.
Love
Chris McDaniel



Dear Santa,
I would like skylanders and Pirates of the Caribbean game for Nintendo DS. If I'ts in Legos that's alright. I have been a good boy this year.
Your Friend,
Seth Boston

Dear Santa,
I would like a pellet gun, Xbox 360 and a play gun. I have been a good boy.
Jordan Johnson

**CHE Ms. Dempsey's
2nd grade**

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa and Mrs. Claus. I know what day Christmas is on, it is on December 25th. I will have you some cookies and milk at my house 2B. I want an ipod, laptop, a remote control car, a new bike and a four wheeler. I have been good Mr. and Mrs. Claus.
Love
Makaylah Aaron

Dear Santa,
I can't think you enough for the presents you have gave me every Christmas. If you want me to do anything just send the letter back and have it signed. If you have the time please send my cousin Joseph a letter telling him you are real. If you can it would be great. This Christmas I would like, Super Mario 3D Land
Love
Timothy Warfel

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas Santa, I like all of your reindeers. Rudolph is my favorite because he has a shiny red nose. I also like you beard. For Christmas, I would like an ipod, an iphone, a four wheeler, a pony and a puppy. I will make you some cookies and leave you some milk on the table that is in my kitchen. Merry Christmas to all and tell Mrs. Claus Merry Christmas for me.
Love
Nu'Quisya Anderson

Dear Santa,
I love you! You are kind. I even know your first job from the book I read. I want these things please. Star Wars: Dark Vader's ship, Dragon Ball Z: Ultimate tenkaichi, Hot Wheels Wall Track, and Razor Ground Force Drifter.
Love,
Orane

Dear Santa,
Is the North Pole cold? I have been good all year. I would like a makeup set, an art set, a teddy bear for my baby brother, washable markers, and color pencils. I hope you have fun with your Christmas deliveries.
Love,
Diana Jimenez

Dear Santa,
How do you deliver 2,000 presents in one night? I always wondered how your elves make the presents. I

have been good for the entire year. I would like a jump rope, a new game for my Wii, a bouncy ball, a new game for my DS, and a fake knife. Merry Christmas!
Love
Elijah Grantham

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite kind of cookie? I will leave you some with milk on the table. For Christmas, I would like a Wii, an ipod, an alltel phone, a laptop, and head phones. Merry Christmas Santa, I hope you have a good time with the elves.
Love,
Jamesha Daniels

Dear Santa,
How do you carry so many presents in your sleigh? Can you take a picture of yourself with Mrs. Claus, your elves and reindeer and send it to me? My favorite cookies are oatmeal raisin cookies, Do you like those? I'm going to make those on Christmas Eve. I will leave you some Coke to drink. I want a Baby Alive Doll, a Wii, an ipod, a kid's makeup set and that picture that I asked you to take. When you come on Christmas Eve, I would love to eat cookies with you. What time should I wake up for our snack?
Love,
Gracie Gallegos

Dear Santa,
Do you ever play in the snow? It doesn't snow here, but I wished that it would. For Christmas I would like a drum set, an Xbox 360, a blackberry phone, a Seminole hat (by the way Santa the Seminoles beat the gator again this year), and a four wheeler. Thank you for all the presents, have a good weekend.
Love,
Jon'Quay Andrews

Dear Santa,
I would love to see what your house at the North Pole looks like. I would like an ipod, high heels, a big Christmas tree, ornaments for the big tree, and an Xbox 360 with an extra controller. I would love for you to send me a picture of you.
Love,
Christina Pridgeon

Dear Santa,
I want a puzzle, a dollhouse, and a walkie talkie toy for Christmas. Thank You,
Alexis Walgamotte

Dear Santa,
What does your house look like? Maybe I could come visit one day. This Christmas I would like a walkie talkie, a ninja, ninja toys, a remote control race car, and an RV.
Love Your Friend,
James Swift

Dear Santa,
I want a baby doll, a makeup counter, some chap stick, and some money. I love you and tell the elves I said Hey.
Love, Monaisa Hawkins

Dear Santa
Do you play in snow? Do you like living at the North Pole? I would like to live there. For Christmas I want a Wii, a game for the Wii, a big pencil, and a computer.
Love,
Dylan Ward

**Mrs. Goodin's
Kindergarten Class -
CHE**

All I want for Christmas is a truck and a race car.
Brandon Ross

All I want for Christmas is a Barbie with a dog.
Erika Thompkins

All I want for Christmas is bigger bike.
Kendell Thompson

All I want for Christmas is a pink Barbie car.
Gabrielle Johnson

All I want for Christmas is Wennie Doll.
Aleana Gallegos

All I want for Christmas is a leapfrog explorer.
Jaden Welcome

All I want for Christmas is a real orange car.
Jy'Kyon Owens

All I want for Christmas is blue toy 4-wheeler.
Kacy Warren

All I want for Christmas is a paper and paint set.
Grace Ball

All I want for Christmas is Cars 2.
Yusuf Iqbal

All I want for Christmas is a Beauty and the Beast Barbie doll.
Salimah Iqbal

All I want for Christmas is beautiful Barbie.
Megan Simpson
All I want for Christmas is a phone.
Russell Fry

All I want for Christmas is a Justin Beiber Barbie and shirt.
Cassi Taylor

All I want for Christmas is a bicycle, lunchbox, and a batman cave.
Jacoven Brooker

All I want for Christmas is a pink Barbie Doll.
Amari Arthur

**Mrs. Erica McCoy's
2nd Grade Class
North Hamilton Ele-
mentary School**

Dear Santa,
I would like an I-Pod Touch, a Barbie I Can Be doll, and a jewelry kit. There will be a picture and some questions by the Christmas tree for you. Have a Merry Christmas!
Yours truly,
Corrin Pulliam

Dear Santa,
I want a Baby Alive, a DS, and a X-Box. Happy New Year!
Love,
Alyson Gandy

Dear Santa,
I would like a DS. I would like a coloring book and a bicycle. Have a Merry Christmas.
Sincerely,
Melodi Hernandez

Dear Santa,
I would like a laptop, Wii games, and a Barbie for Christmas, please. I hope you and Mrs. Claus have a very Merry Christmas.
Love,
Jenna Tolle

Dear Santa,
I want a X-Box and a Wii.
Yours truly,
Jaquan Strawder

Dear Santa,
I want a pro-baseball Wii game, an Alabama blanket, and a black remote control truck for Christmas. Merry Christmas!
Yours truly,
Dalton Gantous

Dear Santa,
I would like a Wii, a Playstation, and a DS. Have a good Christmas.
Your friend,
Rhykell Hancock

Dear Santa,
What I would like for Christmas is a bike, a big truck, and a Wii deer game. Merry Christmas.
Yours truly,
Levi Gantous

Dear Santa,
I want a X-Box, laptop, and a MP3 player. Have a good Christmas. I love you.
Yours truly,
Tommy Gallegos

Dear Santa,
I would like some costumes, a computer, and a printer. I wish you and Mrs. Claus a nice Christmas. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Jessica Soriano

Dear Santa,
I want a coloring book, a computer, and a Barbie with some clothes. Happy Christmas.
Love,
Mikayela Pedro

Dear Santa,
I would like a Playstation 3, a DS, and a new bike for Christmas. I hope you and Mrs. Claus have a wonderful vacation. Merry Christmas day.
Love,
Carlos Gomez

Dear Santa,
I would like a video camera, a bike, and an ice cream maker. I love you, Santa.

Your friend,
Shatara Walker

Dear Santa,
I would like a X-box, Playstation 3, and a PSP. I hope you and your wife have a great Christmas.
Sincerely,
Vidal Lanier

Dear Santa,
I would like a DS, MP3, and a dollhouse for Christmas. I hope you and Mrs. Claus have a wonderful Christmas. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Sarai Aldama

Dear Santa,
I would like a farm set, forest set, and a real horse for Christmas. Merry Christmas Mrs. and Mrs. Claus. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.
Love,
Summer Register

Dear Santa,
I would like a Barbie doll, a baby doll, and clothes. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
Yours truly,
Vianey Navarette

Dear Santa,
I would like Barbie dolls, Polly Pocket dolls, and Littlest Petshop animals and set for Christmas, please. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Harley Squires

**Ssecond grade class at
North Hamilton
Elementary.
Erin Driggers**

Dear Santa,
How are you? Is it cold at the North Pole? I would love a puppy, horse, and a doll for Christmas. Merry Christmas!
Love,
Maria

Dear Santa,
How are you? Could you please bring my mom a ring for Christmas? I would like a Herbie car.
Love,
Shawn

Dear Santa,
Is it cold at the North Pole? Could you bring me a laptop and my mom a necklace for Christmas?
Love,
Juanita

Dear Santa,
How is it at the North Pole? Is it cold? Could you bring my sister a laptop? Could you

bring my mom a new necklace? My dad would like a tool kit. I would like a Qutohoh-tark.
Love,
Justin

Dear Santa,
How are you? I live in Jennings? Could you bring me a DS?
Love,
Natalee

Dear Santa,
I am thankful for the presents you give me. I want to give you something too. Please fill my dog's stocking?
Love,
Prestyn

Dear Santa,
How are you? I would like the game, Skylanders.
Love,
Derrick

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? How are you? I would like an easy bake oven and a blizzard maker for Christmas.
Sincerely,
Nora

Dear Santa,
How are you? I would like a bike for Christmas. My brother wants a toy truck. My mom would like the Harry Potter movie part two. My other brother would like a bear. Could you bring my dad a shirt? My sister would like a bike.
Sincerely,
Priscilla

Dear Santa,
Is it cold at the North Pole? I love Christmas. I would like a DSI and an Ipod.
Love,
Jesse

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? This year I want a teddy bear. Can you get my mom the shoes she has been asking for? Hope you have a Merry Christmas!
Love,
Hannah

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a bows, arrows, and a basketball. Could you bring my mom something?
Love,
Jordan
Dear Santa,
I want to see you. Could you bring me a DS?
Love,
Kenmberlin

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AUTO • HOME • MOBILE HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE • RETIREMENT
**Wishing Everyone A
Very Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year!**



Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? Is it cold at the North Pole? For Christmas, I would like a book bag and a red ring. Could you bring my mom a necklace? My brother would like a flying shark. Could you bring my dad some pants?
Love,
Emilia

Dear Santa,
Could you bring my sister a baby doll? I would like a DSi 3 and a PSP.
Love,
Eddie

Dear Santa,
This year I would like a dollhouse, laptop, and an IPAD. Could you bring my mom a cell phone?
Love,
Mel'Lesha

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a car. Is it cold at the North Pole? Could you also bring my brother some toys?
Love,
Lucas

Dear Santa,
How are you? I live in Jasper. For Christmas, I would like a laptop. Could you bring my sister a toy?
Love,
Maliyah

Dear Santa,
How are you? Do you have a dog named Santa Paws? I saw the movie.
Love,
Jesus

Dear Santa,
Could you bring me an IPAD, laptop, and a bigger fish tank?
Love,
Chloe

**Mrs. Vickie Williams
Kindergarten**

All I want for Christmas is a skateboard.
Alex Kornegay

All I want for Christmas is a car.
Ta'Von Smith

All I want for Christmas is a character in a bag.
Alexus Robidoux

All I want for Christmas is a bounce house.
Nykol Jackson

All I want for Christmas is a Barbie House.
Hailey Cribbs

All I want for Christmas is a bike.
Shalayah Green

All I want for Christmas is a skateboard.
Tyanna White

All I want for Christmas is a Wii.
Vicqualin Weary

All I want for Christmas is a Barbie House.
Kailey Cribbs

All I want for Christmas is a Wii.
Jamiya Wright

All I want for Christmas is a baby doll.
Ahmiya Bell

All I want for Christmas is a drum.
Jevon Hawkins

All I want for Christmas is a Xbox 360.
Jamarius Smith

All I want for Christmas is a trampoline.
Peter Jackson

**Ms. Kali Carter 5th
Grade**

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a Lego playstation with crooks who got out and with police looking for them. It has a semi to look for the crooks.
From:
Devon Drosopolous

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year I would love to get an iPod, iPhone Nintendo 3DS, flat screen TV, to be trustworthy, Nintendo DSi games, and a lot of easy books. I think I have been very good this year and if I am on your naughty list I will be sure to do the right thing. Something I forgot to say is that I wish I will have Ms. Carter next year.
Sincerely,
Aisha Smith

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want for my family to get along, especially my mom and dad. I would also love a laptop.
Wynter Weiss

Dear Santa,
I want an iPod, and a notepad laptop and I want all my family to be there with me. I want everything to go just right. I want everyone to be so happy on Christmas. I want my mom to be off from work. I want my dad to get me the two to three things that I want.
I want my grandmother to get her way. I want it to be a very merry Christmas to all the kids and families. Have a happy Christmas to you and all the other kids.
Hannah Gaines

**Mrs. Stacie Tolle's First
Grade Class-North
Hamilton Elementary**

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a pink DS handheld game. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Jaiden Coleman

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a real motorcycle. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Erick Merine

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a pink bicycle. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Anayeli Galvez

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a remote control helicopter. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Roman Perez

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a real puppy. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Jennifer Vazquez

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a real kitty cat. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Chase Law

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a Tinker Bell doll. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Carmela Santiz-Perez

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a DS 3D handheld game. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Makayla Whetstone

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a pink bicycle. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Jessica Mendiola

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a Barbie doll house and a Barbie. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Annabelle Selph

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a toy dinosaur. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love, Ashton Deas

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have an IPOD touch. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love,
Kyndal Lanier

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a Light Strike. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love,
Lance Mcculley

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have some hot wheel cars. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love,
Enrique Rios

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well. I have been really good this year. Thank you for my presents last year. And I would really like to have a barbie doll. Tell the reindeer hello, especially Rudolph.
Love,
Amorya Hancock

**North Hamilton 2nd
grade
Ms. Pam Cook**

Dear Santa,
I am so happy Christmas is almost here. Christmas is my favorite time of year. I have tried to be really good. I hope you can bring me an iPad. I also want some new clothes. If you don't know my size please ask my mom. I love you. You are so good to good kids.
Merry Christmas,
Amber

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I am so excited because Christmas is coming up and you know what I want.
I want a Baby Alive.
Andrea

Dear Santa,
I want a family Christmas and I want you to have a perfect Christmas.
Bailey

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I am so excited about Christmas. For Christmas I would like long sleeve camo shirts and pants with head band and necklace out of the Sgt. Grit catalog. Also, for my dad a fake baseball hand and a grenade – non-useable.
Chris

Dear Santa,
I am so excited for Christmas. I want a PS3 and a PSP for Christmas. I have been pretty good. I hope you come to my

house.
Devan

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I am trying to be good. I want a Cabbage Patch doll, a dog, Monster High fashion kit, a Lion King and a Big Bratz doll. I hope you will come. I love you Santa.
Merry Christmas,
Gyia

Dear Santa,
You might of seen my Christmas list. Can you make all the toys on my list please? You seen how I behaved. Can you also get the stuff that my mom got me?
Jamie

Dear Santa,
I am so excited about Christmas. I know you can't get me everything I want, but I really would like a Nintendo 3DS. No matter what I will be happy because Christmas is so special.
Love,
Kaden

Dear Santa,
I hope the elfs are doing fine and Mrs. Claus to. The Stuff I want for Christmas is... a tiny computer and maybe some pencils to for school and home, and a note book and a diary that locks. Maybe just maybe a iPod and some candy to and a DS.
Katherine

Dear Santa,
I hope you, the elfs and Mrs. Claus are nice and snuggly at the North Pole. Santa, I want a computer and money and that's all.
Merry Christmas, Santa!
Love,
LeeAnn

Dear Santa,
I feel so excited right now. It is almost Christmas. I am trying to do better every day. I hope I can get a laptop. I could do a lot of different things on it. I also want a new game called "Call of duty".
Merry Christmas, Santa.
Love,
Stephen

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl at school. I would like a Barbie. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Maria Silverio

Dear Santa,
I've been a good girls this year. What I would like for Chrstitmas is an ipod, DSI, and a food cart.
Love, Daisy

Dear Santa,
I am a good boy. What I want for Christmas is an xbox 360 and a playstation 3.
Love, Maximus Izell

Dear Santa,
I want a Nintendo DS game called fossil fighters. And a game called police man. And a harmonica. And anything else you want to bring me.
Love, Hunter Byrne

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl all year and would like you to bring me a little Barbie girl house.
Love,
Gabriela Ponce

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I want a new bike, book bag, and a new dog. Most of all I want a fun loving Christmas. Merry Chrstitmas.
Love,
Conner
P.S. I love you Santa and the elves.

Dear Santa,
I want a PSP. How is Mrs. Santa? Is she good? How cold is it? How are the Elves?
Love,
Lilly Marshall

Dear Santa,
I've been good today, I want a DSI game for Christmas. My brother wants a train and my sister wants a doll. How are the elves? Tell the elves I said hey.
Love,
Marcus Brinson

Dear Santa,
I want a wii and a head band, and the game operation. I want my brother to get a jolly jack in the box and air swimmers that's all. How are the elves?
Love,
Makayla Corbitt

Dear Santa,
My mom would like a clock. I have been good all day. I love Christmas. My dad is working hard this year. I would like a baby doll.
Love,
Jocelynn Wooten

Dear Santa,
How are you? I've been a good boy. Are the elves working hard? I love you Santa. I want ACII revelations for Christmas.
Love,
Samuel Cruce

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Clause? How are the elves doing? Is it cold up there? What are you and Mrs. Clause doing up there? Will you bring me a DSI? Will you bring me sister a DSI too? Will you bring me a game?
Love,
Brooke Howell

Dear Santa,
I want MW3 bullet headphones, ACII revelations, MW3 Black and white cat, Under Armour shirt, new drum sticks, one altair hidden blaze, will, Xbox 360 Kinect, Altair suit.
Love,
Zane Saddler

Dear Santa,
I would like for you to buy my things that I want like a DSI and an Ipod and a MP3 player.
Love
David Diaz



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Wishing all a Very Merry Christmas...

Arrest Records

Editor's note: The Jasper News prints the entire arrest record each week. If your name appears here and you are later found not guilty or the charges are dropped, we will be happy to make note of this in the newspaper when judicial proof is presented to us by you or the authorities.

The following abbreviations are used below:

- DAC - Department of Agriculture Commission
- DOA - Department of Agriculture
- DOT - Department of Transportation
- FDLE - Florida Department of Law En-

- forcement
- FHP - Florida Highway Patrol
- FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- HCDTF - Hamilton County Drug Task Force
- HCSO - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
- ICE - Immigration and Custom Enforcement
- JAPD - Jasper Police Department
- JNPD - Jennings Police Department
- OALE - Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
- P&P - Probation and Parole
- SCSO - Suwannee County Sheriff's Office
- WSPD - White Springs Police Department
- Samantha Lynn Som-

mers, 5585 NW 41st Lane, Jennings, Fla., hold for SCSO on grand theft III dealing in stolen property: HCSO-Hughes

Deangelo M. Maldonado, 1170 Suwannee St., Jennings, Fla., VOP on DUI: HCSO-Walk-in

Wayne Russell Fountain, 6476 NW CR 152, Jennings, Fla., grand theft III, HCSO warrant grand theft III: HCSO-Ehlert

Phillip David Taylor, 1521 NE Ingleside St., Live Oak, Fla., unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior, att. solicitation and conspiracy to introduce contraband: DOC-A. Howell

Dareama Denise Walls, 11969 SW CR 249, Jasper, Fla., hold for SCSO VOP grand theft III: HCSO-B. Curry

Mieka Marie Beggs,

105 East 14th St., Jacksonville, Fla., VOP, 5 counts grand theft: HCSO-Curry

Quadarius Lamar Purast, 1411 N US 129, Jasper, Fla., resist without violence: JAPD-McQuire

Charles Hawks, in transit, hold for Orange County: OCSO-Cruz

Robert Hart, in transit, hold for Orange County: OCSO-Cruz

Rolando Cortes, in transit, hold of Orange County: OCSO-Cruz

Joshua Simpson, in transit, hold for Orange County: OCSO-Cruz

Charles Beason Massey, 8072 W SR 6, manufacture of meth, poss. of listed chemicals, trafficking in meth over 28 grams: HCSO-Murphy

Johnie Ray Beasley, 1800 Eastwind Rd., Val-

dosta, Ga., in to serve 25th weekend: HCSO-Walk-in

Michael Steven Milburn Jr., 5010 Vann Road, Valdosta, Ga., in to serve 2nd weekend of 3: HCSO-Walk-in

Larare Detron Williams, 3852 NW Hwy 129, Jasper, Fla., grand theft III, burglary occupied dwelling w/o fire arm: HCSO-Ehlert

Lamar Jerome Brown, 505 SW 5th Street, Jasper,

Fla., in to serve 9th weekend: HCSO-Walk-in

Dennis Leonard Draper, 6627 SW 93rd Place, Jasper, Fla., child abuse: HCSO-Hughes

Marie A. Liles, 20048 121st Rd., O'Brien, Fla, DUI: JAPD-Atkins

Colonel Sheppard Martin, 756 N. Grand St., Starke, Fla., hold for SCSO grand theft III: JAPD-Mike Vickers

Jasper Legals

PUBLIC AUCTION

Location: Dennis Garage
8108 CR 146 NW
Jennings, FL 32053

Date: 01-06-12
Time: 8:00 A.M.
2003 Oldsmobile Vin#
1G3NL52F63C304495

Date: 01-13-12
Time: 8:00 A.M.
2001 Dodge Vin# 1B7HC13Y71J592011
12/22

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Writ of Execution issued in the County Court of Hamilton County, Florida, on the 3rd day of October, 2011, in the cause wherein BARNETT RECOVERY CORPORATION, a Florida Corporation, (Assignment of Judgment from Barnett Recovery Corporation to Palm Coast Recovery Corporation) is the Plaintiff, and KID ROCKY HANCOCK is the Defendant, being Case No. 92-56-CC in the said Court. I, J. HARRELL REID, Sheriff of Hamilton County, Florida, have levied upon all the right, title and interest of the defendant, KID ROCKY HANCOCK, in and to the following described property, to-wit:

SILVER/ALUMINUM 2007 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX VIN NO. 2G2WP552371125946 TAG NO. U517LT

and on the 24th day of January, 2012, at the north front door of the Hamilton County Courthouse, in the City of Jasper, Hamilton County, at the hour 11:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, I will offer for sale all the said defendant's, KID ROCKY HANCOCK, right, title and interest in aforesaid property at public outcry and will sell the same, subject to all taxes, prior liens, judgments or encumbrances whatsoever, if any, to the highest and best bidder or bidders for CASH, the proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the Final Judgments of the above described Execution.

IN ACCORDANCE with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact the Sheriff, telephone #386-792-1001 not later than seven (7) days prior to the proceedings. If hearing impaired, (TDD) 386-792-1001.

J. HARRELL REID, Sheriff
Hamilton County, Florida
By: J. Harrell Reid

12/22, 29, 01/05, 12
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

CASE #: 2010-CA-000343

REGIONS BANK d/b/a REGIONS MORTGAGE

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOEY KJ NORRIS; JACQUELINE ELKINS DEAN;

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 2, 2011, entered in Civil Case No. 2010-CA-000343 of the Circuit Court of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in and for Hamilton County, Florida, wherein Regions Bank d/b/a Regions Mortgage, Plaintiff and Joey KJ Norris are defendant(s), I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE SOUTH FRONT LOBBY IN HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 207 NORTHEAST 1ST STREET, JASPER, HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT 11:00 A.M. on January 4, 2012, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 7, BLOCK A, LYNN LAKE ESTATES, UNIT 1, A SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 9, PUBLIC RECORDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING LOCATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 OF SEC-

Jasper Legals

TION 6, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, 173 Northeast Hernando Street, Room 408, Lake City, Florida 32056; (386) 719-7576 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

(COURT SEAL) GREG GODWIN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Hamilton County, Florida

/s/ Cynthia Johnson
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
12/15, 22

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HAMILTON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 11-248-DR

IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF

WILLIE COACHMAN,

Husband,

and

BELA DENISE JENKINS,

Wife.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION

TO: Bela Denise Jenkins

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Dissolution of Marriage, including claims for dissolution of marriage, payment of debts, division of real and personal property, and for payments of support, has been filed against you. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action on RALPH R. DEAS, Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 108 Central Ave. NW, Jasper, FL 32052, within 30 days of the initial publication and file the original with the clerk of this court at Hamilton County Courthouse, 207 NE First Street, Jasper, Florida 32052, either before service on Petitioner's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this 2nd day of December, 2011.

(COURT SEAL) GREG GODWIN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

/s/ Cynthia Johnson
Deputy Clerk

12/8, 15, 22, 29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held before the Jasper Planning and Zoning Board at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 in the City Council meeting room of the Jasper City Hall, to consider the following:

A petition by Martha and Joseph Vasques, to change the zoning classification of the land described as: Section 1, Township 1N, and Range 13-E, according to Lang's Map of the City of Jasper, Florida physically located at 1700 NW 3rd Street, and requesting the rezoning to MH1, to allow the location of a mobile home upon the property.

All interested parties are encouraged to be present, but representations of support or objection may be presented in writing to Jennifer Pomeroy, City Clerk, 208 W. Hatley Street, Jasper, Florida. Please mark envelope public comment on zoning hearing to be held Tuesday, January 3, 2012.
12/22, 29

Healthy Living

A lighted Christmas tradition

By Beth Harris, CSCS
bethharrisfitness@gmail.com



Twas the night before Christmas, when all wanted to ride. Down a dusty old dirt road near the prisons north side. The kids were all bouncing from seat to each seat, ready to give their eyes a great treat. The ride wasn't too far, you know Jasper is small-but where we were headed was not small at all.

As we came round the corner the lights you could just see, hanging from every limb, bush, and tree. In wonderment we crept down the road lit up bright, such a fabulous treat on a cold Christmas Eve night. And we crept and we crept, quiet as a mouse, right by the shimmering lights of Ward Daniel's house.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Ward and his wife Cherry, and learn about their Christmas tradition. It all began in 1998, Mrs. Cherry wanted a lighted crucifix for their yard.

"I had my son lie down on the floor and I traced his body with wire clothes hangers, and I then added light bulbs around it," she said. "We've found more efficient ways to make new figures, but that's how it all started."

Each figure you see was built with love, all ideas inspired by their family.

"Back when 9/11 happened while we were eating at Popeye's one day we saw a fire truck. Cherry took a paper napkin and walked over to the truck and began drawing," Mr. Ward said. He smiled remembering how they almost got in trouble investigating each detail of the truck, which became a 25-foot tall display that stands today.

From deer, to trains and plains, a 30-foot tall dinosaur, and even a Loch Ness monster sitting next to their pond-inspired by Cherry's daughter Amanda. They've got all the lights you can imagine.

As apart of their yearly tradition, following Thanksgiving, for the first lighting ceremony Judge Peach visits to say a few words. There is great food and singing. In years past, they've had as many as 110 people make it out to fellowship. Groups and

churches from other towns come over on hayrides, and one year a man from Canada made special arrangements to stop by to see their lights. When I asked the two why they do this each year, they both shrugged a reply.

"We love Christmas, and the lights. We like making people happy, we do it for the kids," said Mrs. Cherry.

This is the first year they've begun taking donations for the lights, paying for it all out of pocket before.

When I left the bus barn where Mr. Ward and Mrs. Cherry work, he wouldn't let me get away without insisting I come back Friday for the luncheon he and Cherry put together for school employees each year.

As I walked away a warm fuzzy feeling began to grow. From my heart and then further, it crept outward real slow. At Christmas when everyone's money is tight, the Daniels only wish is to light up the night. They say the best gift in the world, is to put a smile on the face of a little boy or a girl.

"Perhaps", like the Grinch, "your shoes are too tight, or maybe your head just isn't screwed on just right. Or maybe that's not it at all, maybe your heart is two sizes too small." Whatever the case, give it a try. Pack the kids and the dogs and bundle up for a ride. Ride over to Ward's place and maybe you'll see, your small heart can too, like the Grinch, grow times three. "Maybe Christmas," the Grinch thought "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more." Remember Ward Daniels and his family this holiday season. Much thanks to you for reminding us the true reason.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo
~quotes from Dr. Suess' The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

Hamilton County Farm Bureau



The Hamilton County Farm Bureau sponsored the second Annual Essay Contest for our counties 4th graders, and during the Annual Farm City Week Celebration the winners were announced and prize money was given to school winners.

The topic that the children had to write a 100-word essay on was why is Agriculture the most important Industry in our Nation? Nearly every 4th grader in Hamilton had a chance to sharpen their writing skills and complete their personal essay.

After collecting the essays, Farm Bureau sent all of them to Gainesville for the Professional staff of Florida Farm Bureau to do the judging.

The overall winner was Daisy Salazar from South Hamilton. Second place was Nathan Stewart from South Hamilton also. Third place was Cella Horton from South Hamilton. Fourth place was Brianna Mitchell from Central Hamilton. The local County Farm Bureau also awarded the classroom teacher who had the County Winner

\$100 to use in his or her classroom. Daisy's teacher was David Law.

According to Damon Deas, local Farm Bureau President, the overall purpose of the Essay Contest is to get students to think and write about a very important industry in our nation, the industry that feeds our nation. We have the Safest, most affordable and most abundant food supply of any nation on earth, said Deas.

The Farm City Week banquet was held just before Thanksgiving, and nearly 100 children, parents and others attended. The folks enjoyed a delicious pancake and sausage supper at the event.

According to Deas, one of Farm Bureau's main goals for the coming year is to strengthen local communities. This Essay Contest is one method of strengthening our rural community said Deas. "People need to fully understand that farmers are a very important segment of our community and we could not do without this industry in America."



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Area gas prices see decline

Continued From Page 1A

AAA press release, Florida's current unleaded gas price is just four cents per gallon over the national average at \$3.269. Although that is nearly 28 cents per gallon more than a year ago, it is considerably less than this year's peak of \$3.98 per gallon. Just one month ago, the state average almost mirrored the national average for regular unleaded gasoline, with both being just over \$3.38 per gallon.

The AAA anticipates the decline to remain at least through the holidays.

"Retail gas prices are forecast to decrease further as we near the year-end holiday travel period—a welcomed gift to motorists," Brady said.

Although declining

prices in gasoline have offered relief for motorists, diesel prices continue to exceed regular gasoline by 63.4 cents per gallon. The AAA reports that the national average for diesel is \$3.855 per gallon, but is still 14.1 cents per gallon cheaper than a month ago.

The AAA cites a struggling European economy for the relief in gas prices. According to the AAA, oil prices dropped after OPEC agreed to increase output quotas to 30 million barrels a day. A gain in momentum for the dollar after the value of the euro fell has also curbed the appeal of oil as a commodity.

Crude Oil closed on Dec. 16 at \$93.53 per barrel, which was \$5.88 per barrel less than just one week earlier, the AAA reported.

Hamilton County School District Transportation hands out teddy bears at local Christmas parades

Continued From Page 1A

asked his coworkers what they could do to help unite all the bus drivers, as well as the community. His request was met with some outstanding recommendations.

Barbara McDaniels suggested putting one of their buses in the Christmas parade. Cherry Hawkins wanted to build a float and Essie Brown came up with the idea of having the drivers walk in the parade.

Daniels did all of them one better and decided to pull the floats with a Polaris Ranger.

Things escalated after that when Charlotte Kennedy suggested giving away teddy bears to the elderly and infants. She came up with that idea while at the first parade when she approached an elderly woman who wanted candy, but due to her health she couldn't have it. So, rather than giving out candy, Kennedy thought teddy bears seemed like the perfect alternative.

"Our first year we started out with about 100 teddy bears," Daniels said. "Now we give out over 500 teddy bears, as well as some toys to toddlers. Initially

we only did Jasper's parade, but now we go to Lake City, Live Oak and White Springs."

Next year Daniels plans on going to the Branford parade, too. In the last four years the Hamilton County Transportation Department's floats have taken first place wins five times.

All the teddy bears and toys are donated by Daniels, Hawkins, Kennedy and Brown of the Hamilton County School Board Transportation Department. The rest of the crew, including all the bus drivers and mechanics from the department, contribute their time and services to this project each year.

"Our bus drivers and transportation department work hard on a float for the Christmas Parade each year. The drivers give away hundreds of bears during the parade and pay for them at their own expense," said Superintendent of Schools Martha Butler. "This is a true labor of love from these drivers who care deeply for their young passengers."

Butler also stated she is thankful for the transportation department's commitment to the students.

Leigh Ann Norris is District Teacher of Year

Continued From Page 1A

"A committee, which includes last year's district selections and community members, chose the representatives for the District."

Other nominees for Teacher of the Year were: Mandy Dempsey, Central Hamilton Elementary; Pamela Hendrick, North Hamilton Elementary; Patrick Murphy, Hamilton County High School and Ruby Kalinowski, Greenwood.

Other nominees for School Related Employee of the Year were: Geadon Smith, CHE; Sonya Gandy, NHE;

Sylvia Houston, HCHS; Brenda Benitez, Greenwood; Gwendolyn Williams, General Services and Jan Hunter, Administrative Complex.

"Mrs. Norris, Ms. Thomas, and all of the other nominees will be honored at a reception in the spring," said Wofford. "The selection committee met on Dec. 14 and upon review of applications and interviews, selected Mrs. Norris and Ms. Thomas. We extend a special thank you to the selection committee for their time and commitment."

Healthcare talks continue in Hamilton

Continued From Page 1A

ed a proposal to the commissioners for a new primary care health clinic in Jasper.

"Subject to assurances of adequate funding from Hamilton County, subject to the North Florida board approval, and approval from the Bureau of Primary Healthcare, North Florida will pursue the operation of a primary care site in Hamilton County without federal funding for the medically indigent," said Montgomery. "The Hamilton County Board of County Commission will provide funding for all medically indigent patients who qualify for the slide fee program in the same manner as other North Florida patients who are classified as medically indigent according to federal guidelines."

Montgomery said Hamilton County would also have to fund any losses each year and that negative financial margins would likely occur when patient volume falls below what is needed for a positive margin, or at least a break-even.

Expenses, he went on, could fluctuate based on the availability of physicians. If physicians aren't available, locum tenens (temporary basis physicians) must be brought in, he said, and they cost about twice as much as a full time regular physician.

Montgomery estimated that about 20 percent of hospital visits would be on a slide fee basis, equating to a subsidy by the county of about \$150,000 for the first year. He estimated about 70 percent for the second year, which would require a subsidy of about \$200,000.

Slide fee programs assist those who are uninsured or who have difficulty paying for medical care.

"As a federally qualified community health center (FQHC), and you may find this objectionable," he told the board. "North Florida is re-

quired to accept all patients who present for services. Medically indigent patients from adjacent counties, including counties in Georgia, are likely to seek medical services at an FQHC in Hamilton County. The county would be required to fund those, as well. You must be made whole at the end of the day or at the end of each fiscal year."

Montgomery said it is possible, although a long shot, that the county's initial grant application – which will become invalid in January, 2012 – for federal grant money for White Springs and Jasper could be funded by leftover funds from the initial grant offering.

"This possibility is remote, but possible," he repeated.

Commissioner Josh Smith expressed concern about the slide fee program and Montgomery agreed with him that the better the healthcare program performed over the years, the more money it would cost the county in subsidies, because more and more indigent people from out of county would be seeking medical care at their facility.

County Coordinator Danny Johnson brought up the fact that the \$150,000 first year subsidy by the county does not include costs for acquisition of the building, operations and maintenance, or supplies.

Commissioner Randy Ogburn stated he felt slide fee costs for the county for one year would far exceed Montgomery's estimate of \$150,000.

Ms. Thompkins, who is on the fiduciary board that holds the funds from the sale of the old hospital, which is approx. \$300,000, was in the audience.

She stated, "Those are funds, I mean, it wouldn't last forever obviously, but if this was something the board wanted to embrace, personally, I can't speak for the board, but I see this as providing healthcare for the people of Hamilton

County and that is what the mission of our board is." Thompkins went on to say, "We want to spend the money, but we want to spend it on the right thing."

Thompkins said she researched NFMC and found that they have been successful in other counties that are just as poor as Hamilton County. She reiterated that the funds she is holding are to be used for healthcare for the people of Hamilton County.

The board agreed that healthcare is desperately needed in the county and that they need to look at the budget to determine how much they would be capable of spending each year to provide it before making a decision on the proposal by NFMC.

"We've got to start somewhere," Smith said.

It was suggested by an audience member that the commissioners check with other county boards who are utilizing NFMC to get a better understanding of all the costs involved, as well as visit their facilities. Montgomery said all the other county facilities are federally funded, so it would not be a fair comparison. It was also clarified that if the county decided to go with a non-federally funded healthcare program, then they would not be allowed to request any future federal grant monies.

Once a grant is approved by the federal government, those funds are given every consecutive year and they amount to about \$650,000 per year, officials said. Montgomery explained again that Hamilton County's grant application has not been denied, it just hasn't been approved yet, which may or may not be approved in early 2012.

White Springs Mayor Helen Miller asked if there was something lacking in their grant request that prevented them from getting those dollars as of yet. NFMC officials responded that



Joel Montgomery, CEO of NFMC, addresses the board of county commissioners. - Photo: Joyce Marie Taylor

they did not understand the political play within the grant applications or what criteria the panel used in determining who received the grants and who did not. Miller said she would contact State Congressional Representatives Sen. Ander Crenshaw and Sen. Bill Nelson to see if there were any more aggressive measures they could take to help the county get the grant monies. Miller also agreed with many others in the room that NFMC is the best deal around for securing healthcare for the county.

The board agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

On a related issue, the board unanimously approved a motion to take ownership of the old hospital property, including the clinic, which is already fully equipped for use. Old patient records inside the hospital, they agreed would be boxed up and stored, according to regulations.

Commissioner Harry "Buster" Oxendine said the acquisition of the clinic and the land alone is well worth it, regardless of the shape of the hospital. Johnson stated he was given a rough estimate of \$20,000 to demolish the hospital building, if the board decided to do so. A motion was made and approved to take ownership of the building and to ask the Economic Development Board to pay the estimated delinquent taxes of roughly \$48,000, as well as speak to the hospital board about working out all the legalities involved.

Merry is as merry celebrates

Continued From Page 5A

is not the season to get so drunk you do not know what you are doing that you hurt other people and it is not the season to spend yourself into the poor house for the next year or so.

The Christmas season is the season to celebrate God's answer to man's incurable dilemma. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but

have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV). The answer to all of man's problem is Jesus Christ.

The Christmas season is the season to join with family and neighbor and sing of God's amazing Grace. Go ahead. Deck your halls with Holly but in the midst of it all, give God the glory in the highest. This is the season for our streets to echo with the joyous celebration of Christ coming into this world.

Then there are those who object.

I have a proposition for all of the Holiday Turkeys who object to me celebrating Christmas or trying to call it something other than what it really is.

You do not have to celebrate the Christmas season; just allow me to celebrate it in a way that I see fit. Then, I will not celebrate April 1 or Halloween but will allow you to celebrate your holidays anyway you want to. I think that is fair. It is a two-for-one deal I am not sure any-

body could ever pass up.

Celebrate your holiday, and I will celebrate the Christmas season and wish all my friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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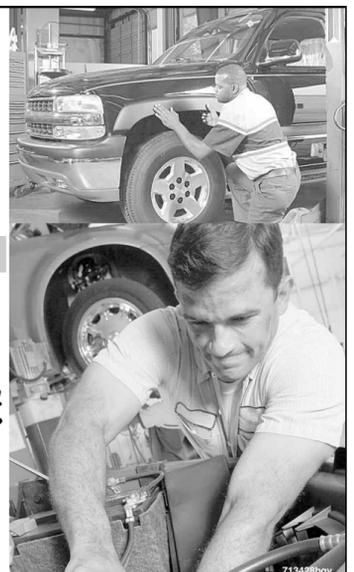
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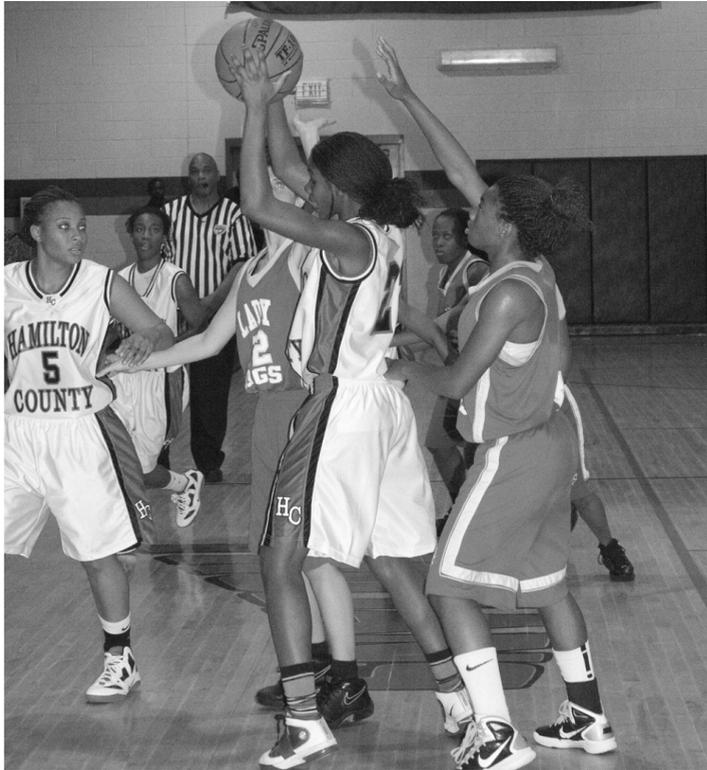
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Sports

Lady Trojans basketball wins three in a row



The Lady Trojan varsity basketball team defeated Branford High Dec. 13 by a score of 61-41 in Branford. The Lady Trojans then hosted Saint Francis Catholic on Friday, Dec. 16 and beat them 57-35. The following Saturday, Dec. 17, they traveled to Fort White and beat them 51-35. The Lady Trojans will return to action on Jan. 5 where they will host Lafayette High School. - Photo: Richard Wright

2011-12 Winter sports scoreboard

Varsity Boys Soccer	
Nov. 7 @ Maclay School	0-8
Nov. 14 @ John Paul II Catholic	0-6
Nov. 17 vs Ft. White	0-1
Nov. 29 vs John Paul II Catholic	0-7
Dec. 2 vs West Gadsden	0-4
Dec. 6 vs Taylor County	0-8
Dec. 9 vs Suwannee High	0-4

Dec. 13 @ Suwannee High	1-4
Dec. 22 vs Oak Hall	
Jan. 3 vs Oak Hall	
Jan. 5 vs Maclay School	
Jan. 6 @ Columbia County	
Jan. 10 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 17 vs Saint Francis Catholic	

Varsity Girls Soccer	
Nov. 14 @ John Paul Catholic	3-2
Nov. 18 vs P.K. Yonge	0-3
Nov. 28 vs Columbia County	0-8

Nov. 29 vs John Paul Catholic	1-3
Dec. 2 vs West Gadsden	3-1
Dec. 5 @ Lafayette High	3-0
Dec. 6 vs Taylor County	1-9
Dec. 8 vs Suwannee High	0-8
Dec. 15 vs Lafayette High	5-3
Dec. 16 @ Maclay School	1-6

Jan. 3 @ Suwannee High	
Jan. 5 vs Maclay School	
Jan. 6 @ Columbia County	
Jan. 13 @ P.K. Yonge	

Varsity Boys Basketball	
Nov. 29 @ Columbia	41-67
Dec. 2 @ Melody Christian	58-43
Dec. 3 @ Madison County	59-67
Dec. 6 @ Lafayette High	41-36
Dec. 10 vs Suwannee High	51-72
Dec. 13 @ Branford High	67-30
Dec. 16 vs Santa Fe	51-76
Dec. 17 @ Fort White	37-71

Jan. 5 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 6 @ Suwannee High	
Jan. 14 vs Saint Francis Catholic	
Jan. 17 vs Branford High	
Jan. 20 vs Melody Christian	
Jan. 21 vs Madison County	
Jan. 23 vs Echols County	
Jan. 27 vs Ft. White	
Jan. 28 vs Columbia County	

Varsity Girls Basketball	
Nov. 29 @ Columbia	49-54
Dec. 3 @ Madison County	61-43
Dec. 6 @ Lafayette High	57-53

Dec. 10 vs Suwannee High	39-34
Dec. 13 @ Branford High	61-41
Dec. 16 vs Saint Francis Catholic	57-35
Dec. 17 @ Fort White	51-35
Jan. 5 vs Lafayette High	
Jan. 6 @ Suwannee High	
Jan. 14 vs Saint Francis Catholic	
Jan. 17 vs Branford High	
Jan. 20 vs Melody Christian	
Jan. 21 vs Madison County	
Jan. 23 vs Echols County	
Jan. 27 vs Ft. White	
Jan. 28 vs Columbia High	

Trojans win one, lose two



The Hamilton County boys varsity basketball team beat Branford High School in Branford Dec. 13, 67-30. They lost to Santa Fe which they hosted on Dec. 16, 76-51. On Dec. 17, they traveled to Fort White and lost 71-37. The Trojans next bout will be against Lafayette High School on Jan. 5. - Photo: Paul Buchanan (SuwanneeSports.com)

Varsity girls soccer



The Lady Trojans beat Lafayette High School Dec. 15, 5-3. They lost to Maclay School on Dec. 16, 1-6. - Photo: Richard Wright

Third Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem program receives national certification

The quality of its work for abused and neglected children was reason

The Third Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program was recently awarded certification by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. This certification recognizes that the Guardian ad Litem Program is in compliance with national CASA's high standards for

quality child advocacy.

According to Michael Piraino, CEO of the National CASA Association, "The National CASA quality assurance process is very rigorous, and reflects our commitment to ensure every child we serve has the most powerful volunteer advocate working

on their behalf. This certification says that the Third Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program has demonstrated to us a strong capacity to provide excellent services to the abused and neglected children within their community."

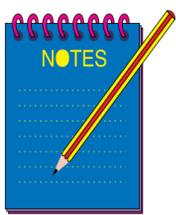
The Guardian ad Litem program is a network of professional staff and community advocates partnering to provide a strong voice in court and positive systemic change on behalf of Florida's abused, neglected, and abandoned children. The Program advocates for the best interests of children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned and who are involved in court proceedings. Simply stated, we become familiar with the child and the child's case and make recommendations to the court to help ensure a safe, caring, stable and permanent environment. Currently, the Third Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program advocates in the best interest of 462 children in Columbia, Suwannee,

Taylor, Hamilton, Madison, Dixie and Lafayette counties because of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment.

The Guardian ad Litem Program is committed to giving every one of Florida's abused and neglected child a voice in court. The GAL Program has set a goal statewide to have a group of 10,000 staff and volunteers of all types, 10,000 strong, to be working together in partnership for the best interests of children by Dec. 31, 2012. This vision, 10,000 Voices Project, will ensure 100 percent representation of Florida's abused and neglected children.

If you are interested in becoming a voice for an abused, abandoned, and/or neglected child or would like to know how you can support the Guardian ad Litem Program in our community, please contact Niki Crawson, Volunteer Recruiter, for the Third Judicial Circuit, at (386) 364-7720, Ext. 103 or by email at nicole.crawson@gal.fl.gov

Norris Notes



By Lillian Norris

Sorry about no column last week, anybody who tried to use Windstream know that they were "down" last Tuesday, and I thought I had learned to not wait until Tuesday morning to send news, but guess not, and have been able to locate what I had written for last week, hope we did not miss getting something that should have gone in last week.

Last week was a great week for some families in Hamilton County, and for many I do not know about.

Congratulations to Haley Eatmon who graduated cum Laude from North Florida Community College. Haley is the daughter of Bob and Cindy Eatmon of Jasper.

Congratulations to Jessie Mitchell, Jessie graduated Cum Laude from the University of Florida, with a degree in Civil Engineering, Jessie has accepted a job in Tallahassee. He is the son of Wayne and Gerri Mitchell of Jasper

Congratulations to these young people, and we are sure there are other very important happenings in our area and we would love to hear from you, please share with our friends.

Usually I try to keep a copy of my news, but with all the confusion last week with Windstream did not have a copy, so, cannot recall what was supposed to get in the paper, if I can gather some of it will try to get it in next week, if you know something, let me know. Wish me

luck, I am no always good at keeping resolutions, but plan to try to get everything in on line early and save a copy.

I PLAN to try to make and keep a resolution, at least this week I am not blaming it on being in outer space, just on Windstream.

Do know that it is my wish that each of you has a Very Merry CHRISTmas, thank you at the newspaper, friends and all of you who have supported me in the past, I look forward to starting off the New Year right. Here's hoping to have a LONG column next week, let me hear from you!

I do remember one thing that got in late a couple of weeks ago, I wanted to recognize a former staff member at Live Oak Publications, Wycliff Wynn, who died in an automobile crash a few weeks ago, he was a faithful employee during the years I was active in the office, he kept us all in line when it came to requesting supplies, a staff member made the remark recently that if you asked for a new pencil, he wanted to see the old one, that was a joke we had, but he was a good and faithful employee and I enjoyed working with him, my sympathy to his family and friends.

Merry Christmas to all of you, thanks for the encouragement!

Sincerely,
Lillian Norris 386-792-2151
Norrilstw@windstream.net

Hamilton VTAE School Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Education Development (GED) Prep Courses

Enrollment for the 2nd semester Adult Education courses is the week of January 3-5, 2012. All prospective students will need to register and take the entry level TABE test that week. For more information please contact Rex Mitchell or Evelyn Davis at 792-7829.

Class/Registration Information

Location	ABE/ GED Class	Class Begin/ End Dates	Class Time/ Days	Registration Dates	Registration Times
JREL Complex Building 1, Room 8	Morning	1/3/2012 - 6/5/2012	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 noon Class meets Monday thru Friday	January 3, 4, & 5*, 2012 *January 5, 2012	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 noon 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. TABE Testing
JREL Complex Building 1, Room 8	Evening	1/3/2012 - 6/5/2012	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Class meets on Tuesday & Thursday	January 3 & 5, 2012	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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