



Merry Christmas

# CANNON COURIER

Home of JERRY GAITHER

130th YEAR - NO. 24

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014

TWO SECTIONS - 50¢ PER COPY

## Santa visits Adams Library



MARIA HILL photos

Youngsters and their parents filled the hall of Adams Memorial Library as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus made their last visit to Woodbury before the big day, Christmas Eve. Above, Tatum and Crystal Vanepps seem to view Santa with a little tribulation. Above right, three-month-old Karlie Cloud enjoys his comfortable lap.

Johnnie McCullough hands Santa a letter telling him exactly what he wants under the Christmas tree on Christmas morn.



Right, Jolly Ole Saint Nick and his bride smile for the camera at Adams Memorial Library.



## West Side Beta Club wins major statewide honors

West Side Beta Club recently attended State Junior Beta Club Convention in Nashville at Opryland Hotel.

Students participated in several academic competitions.

Brady Cunningham a seventh grade student at West Side School wins office of Junior State Beta Club Chaplain for the 2014-15 term. Brady presented a speech "When you get Brady you get a Bunch" to

over 6,000 in attendance. Brady will now go on to compete for National Beta Club Chaplain in June which will be held in Nashville. Brady is the son of Jesse and Darla Cunningham. He is the Grandson of

Barbara Higgins and Pamela Cunningham. Brady is the Great Grandson of Lou Davis Higgins and Velma Cunningham.

Brady's skit was performed by his Beta classmates titled "Brady's

Bunch", the skit placed 3rd and will go on to perform at National Competition in June.

Students also participated in Living Literature Competition. Students designed and built a set from

a scene from the movie "Shrek." West Side placed 2nd in this competition and will also go on to National competition.

Gus Davenport placed 3rd in digitally enhanced See WEST SIDE, Page 5

## Suspects nabbed after crashing bonfire party

Two suspects were arrested on multiple charges after crashing a bonfire party off Prater Road, slamming through a fence and vandalizing someone else's vehicle.

Taken into custody were Jeffrey D. Nichols and Joseph Barrett reported Deputy Randy Wildes,

Nichols was charged with vandalism over \$1,000 to damage to the fence, vandalism \$5,000 to \$10,000 for damages to a Volvo car, leaving the scene of an accident and DUI second offense.

Barrett, age 20, was charged with under-aged consumption of alcohol and pos-

session of Schedule II narcotics (morphine).

Deputies were dispatched at about 10:15 p.m. Saturday night (Dec. 13) to investigate a report of a drunk driver in the area of Eugene Reed and Iconium Roads. A few minutes later, the officers were dispatched to an address on Iconium Road for a possible wreck with injuries.

"The complainant could hear someone yelling for help and saying that they were trying to kill him," Wildes reported.

When Wildes arrived he discovered a freshly wrecked vehicle, but no motorist.

See BONFIRE, Page 5



Woodbury's new Taco Bell opened Monday in record time. The company had hoped to open Dec. 1, but heavy rains slowed progress. Breakfast, the newest Taco Bell offering, is available at the restaurant.

Events galore in The Cannon Blast! On Page 7

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE IN FOUR AND GET MORE

I AM trueBLUE

MTSU.edu/apply

Hope Scholarship Increase

Guaranteed Scholarships for Transfers

Finish Line Scholarship





CANNON

OBITUARIES

**Beverly Sue Howse Adamson**

Beverly Sue Howse Adamson, 42, passed away Friday, December 12, 2014 at her home. She was a native of Cannon Co., Tn.

She is survived by her children, Christopher Adamson, Amanda (Zachary) Davis and Brooke Adamson, all of Woodbury; parents, Ronnie and Sue Howse of Woodbury; brother, Timothy (Susan) Howse of Woodbury. Also surviving are several uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews.

She was a member of the Church of Christ and a stay at home mom.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Woodbury Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

Woodbury Funeral Home, 615-563-2311 Woodbury Funeral Home, 615-563-2311 or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.woodburyfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodburyfuneralhome.net)

Cannon Courier, December 24, 2014, Woodbury, Tennessee

**Jimmie Love**

Mr. Jimmie Goff Love, age 82, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2014 at his home. He was a native of Putnam County.

He is survived by his children, Rhonda Jane Jackson of Little Rock, AR, Kathy Sue (Eugene) Anderson of Manchester, Jimmy Alan (Christie) Love of Woodbury, Billy (Betty) Love of Woodbury, and Joy (Johnny) Resko of Bradyville.

Also surviving are 14 grandchildren, Errin, Lea, Leslie, Katie, Kayla, Jesse, Hawk, Autumn, Jonathan, Tiffany, Carla, Mandy, Tessa and Eldon and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Hosie Love and Myrtle Elvira LeFever Love; wife, Kathleen Davis Love; son, James Michael Love; and grandson, Gene Alan Anderson.

He was a member of the Church of God, and a carpenter and a farmer.

Funeral service were 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at the Chapel of Woodbury Funeral Home. Interment followed at Goff Cemetery in Putnam County.

Woodbury Funeral Home, 615-563-2311 or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.woodburyfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodburyfuneralhome.net)

Cannon Courier, December 24, 2014, Woodbury, Tennessee

**Pharris Glen Sissom**

Pharris Glen Sissom, 80, died Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at St. Thomas Rutherford following an extended illness. He was a native of Cannon Co.

He is survived by his children, Sandi (Eric) Reed of Readyville and Darryl Sissom of Woodbury; grandchildren, Chris and Dustin Reed and Lauren Sissom; great grandchildren, Ethan, Carson and Makenna Reed, Ayden and Lilly Sissom; siblings, Donna Taylor, Wanda Daily, Ellis, Morgan, Barney and Edward Sissom all of Cannon Co.

Mr. Sissom was preceded in death by his parents, Homer Sissom and HESSIE Duke Sissom and brother, Carl Sissom. He served in the Army, as a Medic, in the Korean War. Mr. Sissom was retired from Ford Motor Company and a member of the Senior Citizen Center where he served as a former board member.

Funeral Services were 1 pm Friday, December 19, 2014 at the Chapel of Woodbury Funeral Home with Bro. Joe Sissom officiating. Interment followed in the Gilley Hill Cemetery.

Woodbury Funeral Home, 615-563-2311 or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.woodburyfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodburyfuneralhome.net)

Cannon Courier, December 24, 2014, Woodbury, Tennessee

**American Legion Oratorical Contest set for January 19**

Woodbury Post 279 will conduct a speech contest for high school students on January 19, 2015 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Woodbury Senior Citizen Center.

The contest requires a speech on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States. Contestants will also draw one of our topics related to Constitution Amendments after their prepared speech. The four topics are given to contestants prior to post contest.

Prize money will be awarded on post level with first place being seventy five dollars. All entries receive award money. It is possible to win over twenty thousand dollars in college scholarships at higher levels. Post winner is invited to a district contest.

To enter, contact Chairman John Basinger at 615-904-5966 or sign up in Freddie Curtis' classroom at Cannon County High School.

**Dora Lee Smith**

Dora Lee Sissom Smith, age 74, passed away Sunday, December 21, 2014 at her home. She was a native of Somerset, KY.

She is survived by her husband, Daniel Smith of Bradyville; children, Ezra Lee (Brenda) Sissom of Manchester, Joel Sissom of Manchester, Rachel Sissom, Andrea Sissom, Trudy (Jessica) Sissom, and Bryan Stankoff all of Bradyville; five grandchildren, April Sissom, Chandra Sissom, Steven Prater, Misty Stankoff, and Ira Stankoff; five great-grandchildren, Brother, Charles Purdue of Middletown, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Newton Purdue and Nettie Purdue; husband, Edgar Sissom and daughter, Gerenda Sissom.

She was a member of the Philadelphia Church of God, a mom and housewife.

Graveside Service were 1:00 PM Wednesday, December 24, 2014 at Gilley Hill Cemetery.

Woodbury Funeral Home, 615-563-2311 or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.woodburyfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodburyfuneralhome.net)

Cannon Courier, December 24, 2014, Woodbury, Tennessee

**Greg Hollandsworth**

Gregory Hollandsworth, age 73, passed away Saturday, December 20, 2014 at his home in Murfreesboro. He was a native of Cannon Co.

He is survived by his son, Christopher Hollandsworth of Murfreesboro; his brothers, Gary Hollandsworth of Woodbury and James Coleman (Butch) Hollandsworth of St. Mary, Ohio. He is also survived by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Paul (Cynthia) Foster, Mary Lynn (Dale) Bush, Margie West, Jennie Foster, June Foster, and Judy Foster all of Woodbury.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Coleman and Eldie Bell Womack Hollandsworth; his wife, Wanda Foster Hollandsworth; his son, Gregory Chad Hollandsworth; and brothers-in-law, Doris, Kenneth, and Glenn Foster and Jack West.

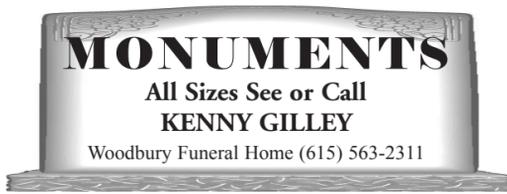
Mr. Hollandsworth was retired from Rich Products.

Graveside Service were 11:00 A.M. Monday, December 22, 2014 at Riverside Gardens with Brother Herb Alsup officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alive Hospice C/O Woodbury Funeral Home

Woodbury Funeral Home, 615-563-2311 or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.woodburyfuneralhome.net](http://www.woodburyfuneralhome.net)

Cannon Courier, December 24, 2014, Woodbury, Tennessee



For up to date obituary information, go to [www.cannoncourier.com](http://www.cannoncourier.com)

Here comes Santa Hog  
Here comes Santa Hog  
Right down Santa Hog Lane

"Compost"

In Loving Memory of Bob Stoetzel at Christmas and on our 32nd Wedding Anniversary (December 19)

When we found out on December 31, 2003 you needed a heart transplant, I begged God for more time with you. I asked for more memories with you. I prayed you would have more time with our children and grandchildren. We both prayed for His will to be done but still hoped and prayed for a miracle.

After 2 years, 4 months and 10 days of waiting, you received a precious miracle. This miracle allowed us seven more years of time together, lots of laughter, so many precious memories, but most of all, more love shared between us than could ever be imagined. Thank you Bob.

I still reach for the phone to call you when something exciting happens. I want to reach for two dinner plates to put on the table. I still expect to see your truck in the driveway when I round the corner.  
*Then I remember.*

Honey still gets excited when she hears a motorcycle as we are driving, but no longer runs to the window looking for you.

No matter what anybody says about grief and about time healing all wounds, the truth is, there are certain sorrows that never fade away until the heart stops beating and the last breath is taken."

Rose Kennedy said it best, "It has been said, 'Time heals all wounds.' I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens. But it is never gone."

Love you grunches and grunches,  
Teresa

**The Grace of God To: ALL People Merry Christmas**

Christmas is the day that we celebrate the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ, the son God, our Saviour.

Isaiah 43:11, even I, am the Lord: and beside me there is no saviour.

I, Lisa (Mayo) Warren, being lost, without hope, and dying in my own sin, called upon the Lord Jesus Christ, in my living room, on May 26, 2013. Jesus came to me, he gave me a peace that surpasses all understanding, Jesus saved me. He delivered me from the darkness, from a life of alcohol, drugs, depression, anxiety, loneliness, heartache, sickness, adultery, fornication, you name it, all ungodliness. The Lord forgave me for all of that. He brought me into the light, his light. He set me in a large place, His kingdom and glory. I thank my God, through the Lord Jesus Christ for his grace and mercy that he has bestowed upon me. And I did nothing to deserve his grace. I just called upon the name of the Lord. He knows our heart. I am now born again, a child of the Almighty living God that created the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything therein, who is gracious, loving, merciful, full of compassion, slow to anger and He LOVES YOU and forgives all that call upon his name.

Jesus says: It is I, be not afraid. John 6:20.

Call upon the name of the Lord and watch him work in your life. I attend, to worship my heaven Father, and was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost at Centerhill Baptist Church, by Pastor and Brother Greg Mitchell on June 9, 2013. I thank and praise my holy, almighty God, I have new life in and through the Lord.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH LOVE AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.**  
Lisa (Mayo) Warren

If you would like a Holy Bible, God's Living Word, FREE, no cost to you, call 931-952-9879.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ: born, for you; crucified, for you; rose from the dead, the third day, for you; ascended into heaven, for you, sits at the right hand of God, for you. God loves you. God gave his Son's life for yours. For forgiveness of sin, a better life, even everlasting life, to all that believe on him.

AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN!

Is the Lord Jesus Christ coming to deliver you from the wrath of God?

Zephaniah 1:14-18 The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness (devastation) and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither shall their gold or their silver shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make a speedy ridance of all them that swell in the land. Zephaniah 2:1-3 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, o nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, (is issued) before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you.

Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. Zephaniah 3:17-The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.



# News from the Mountain

BY CAROL GUNTER



Wanted you to know some news about Bernie Braswell. On Friday, December 12th he had open heart surgery at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville. He is doing really well and is sitting in a chair around three hours a day. Everyone rooting for you to get back home Bernie. Do keep Bernie in your prayers as he recovers.

A lot of people showed up for Clyde and my birthday bash on Saturday, December 13th. Was a night of celebration and fun for all that were there. Clyde and his Bluegrass Band entertaining us for a few hours at Short Mountain Market for this joyous occasion.

The oldest musician there was Harry Smith, age 93 playing the guitar. Mr. Smith had played with Grandpa Jones and other country stars back in the day. Mr. Smith and Clyde go back a long way and are good friends.

A beautiful birthday cake on one of the tables for Clyde and I. I sure didn't know several of the people there, but a few I did. Billy Nichols and wife Melba - and there was a couple there Ronald Johnson was his name and his wife.

Some notables to mention there were Steve Melton, Joe Underwood, James Prater, Gerry Nokes, Bo Asbury, Clark Lance (in his hunting outfit - he had to stop and see what was going on with such a large crowd there at the store). We enjoyed your company, Clark, next year maybe I can coax you into some of your famous cooking you're known for. That should win him over shouldn't it? Bragging on someone usually gets the results you want most of the time.

All joking aside, I've eaten Clark's outdoor cooking and it is to die for. Others

there Ruth Brown, Burley Bogle, Kathy Noes, Gloria Stewart, Brad Hall, and A.J. and Brenda Neal to name a few. Should have had a registry - maybe next year we will do that so no one is left out in the column who made it to the shindig. To all those in Clyde's band Bill, Jeff, and Nick (his sons), Ernest and Dean Rabley, you did a fantastic job.

The question that was on so many minds was where was Bobby? Don't know why he was a no show. He's definitely got some explaining to do.

Some people still didn't know about this birthday party again this year. We are simply having a failure here of getting the word out to the masses of people that would come. I guess this is a "failure to communicate" as in that movie Cool Hand Luke that Paul Newman was in. Only heard about the movie - as I was a mere babe way back then as you probably already knew.

December birthdays to tell you about: Joe Hullett 8th, Clyde Nokes, Harold Warren (my twin brother) and yours truly 13th, Paul Stanley 22nd, and Jesus Christ 25th our Lord and Savior.

December anniversaries of note: Ray and Joann

Braswell 21st (29 years), Rex and Sepal Pedigo 22nd (47 years), Houston and Martha Parker 26th (39 years).

Merry Christmas to all of you and remember the most important one of all Jesus Christ as you celebrate with your loved ones and let Him be at the center of each get together now and always. Thank Him for His wondrous love and mercy He has given unto you, if you have accepted Him as your personal Savior. Nothing like that feeling you got, when you turned your life over to Jesus, was there? "And you knew without a shadow of a doubt," you were forgiven. You were saved! A day so many of us will never but never forget.

Some people we need to uplift in prayer: Lou Davis Higgins, Edith Miller, Denise Stanton, Jeff Brown, and Carlon and Mai Nell Melton.

If you have any news for the column, just give me a call at (615) 563-4429. Have a great day!

*But as for me, I will come into Thy house in the multitude of Thy mercy: and in Thy fear will I worship toward Thy Holy Temple.*

Psalm 5:7

## Front office person needed

January - May 2015

Hours can be worked around a child's school hours for this part-time position approximately 28 hours per week. Good communication skills, organization skills, computer literacy and phone manners are necessary. Accounting knowledge and or quick books experience a plus.

Please send resume to 109 Lester Street, Woodbury, TN 37190. Great position for a mother with children in school. Could work into year around part-time.

**If questions, call 563-1328.**

## LIBERTY STATE BANK

Win cash every day in december up till christmas eve!

Christmas CASH GIVEAWAY EVENT



December 1st - 24th

- Enter at any of our 15 branch locations
- Enter starting Friday, November 28th
- Entries limited to 1 time per day
- All entries stay eligible for each successive drawing
- Sunday drawings will be on Facebook

"Like" us on our Facebook page or download our Mobile App to enter our Sunday drawings

- Dec. 1st - 6th wins \$50 per day
- Dec. 7th - 13th wins \$100 per day
- Dec. 14th - 20th wins \$200 per day
- Dec. 21st wins \$300
- Dec. 22nd wins \$400
- Dec. 23rd wins \$500
- Dec. 24th wins \$1,000

each branch will also have a drawing for a kid's bicycle on Dec. 22nd

(drawing limited to children under 18 years of age)



Member FDIC



CITIZENS BANK | SMITH COUNTY BANK  
BANK of CELINA | LIBERTY STATE BANK

## With Our Thanks for Your Business!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our customers, neighbors, associates and friends at this festive occasion.

We appreciate your hanging in there with us!

# PEDIGO & TODD REALTY & AUCTION

208 S. McCrary Street  
(615) 563-4635 or (615) 542-5210  
Jan Pedigo Todd and Rob Todd

LIBERTY STATE BANK

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(drawing limited to children under 18 years of age)

Member FDIC

CITIZENS BANK | SMITH COUNTY BANK  
BANK of CELINA | LIBERTY STATE BANK

Is Your Child... **READY!** for Kindergarten

Prepare your child for success in school!  
These classes will show you how.

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Currently not enrolled in Cannon County School's Pre-K Program

**HOW:** Class Size Limited to 20 Families  
Sign-up Today by Calling 615-563-5752  
Lisa Black #237  
Regina Merriman #231

**WHEN:** Location: Cannon County Board of Education  
301 West Main Street  
Woodbury, TN 37190

Dates: February 19th  
March 19th  
April 16th

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM  
Parent must attend all three sessions, February 19th, March 19th, and April 16th.  
Day Care Will Be Provided

FREE Parent Classes!

FREE Books & Toys!

FREE Child Care!

Be **READY!** when the bus comes the first day of school!

[www.ReadyForKindergarten.org](http://www.ReadyForKindergarten.org)

# CANNON COURIER

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MIKE WEST, Editor

TERESA STOETZEL, Graphic Designer & Advertising Director

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ADVERTISING: The publisher reserves the right to reject or to cancel at any time any advertisement or any other material submitted for publication.



## Courier contributor Steal a Christmas tree and you will be extremely sorry



A Shot of Wry LARRY WOODY

There was a story in the news the other night about a Christmas tree being stolen off a front lawn -- decorations and all -- and it makes you wonder about someone's perverse holiday spirit.

Let's assume the conifer culprit took the pilfered pine home, set it up in his/her living room, and plugged in the lights.

They blink this merry message:

"Thief!"

"Thief!"

"Thief!"

Every time the crook looks at the glittering Christmas tree he should be ashamed.

Of course someone like that probably doesn't have much of a conscience to be bothered with. After stealing the Christmas tree they probably went to a shopping mall and shop-lifted some gift-wrapped presents to put under their crime-tree.

Anyone who would steal a Christmas tree would swipe little Timmy's crutch, snuff out Rudolph's glowing nose and put Ex-Lax in Santa's cookies.

Earlier there was a news story about someone who sneaked onto a Christmas tree lot and made off with a load of expensive evergreens. The theory is they sold them to "unsuspecting customers" in other areas of town.

I have trouble believing a perspective buyer wouldn't be suspicious of a shady character peddling cut-rate Christmas trees in a back alley:

"Phsssss! Hey, pal, wanna buy a Christmas tree? Real cheap?"

I'll bet most of the people who buy one of the stolen trees knows -- or strongly suspects -- it was stolen. And yet they have the audacity to take the illicit tree home,

decorate it, and sing Silent Night

beneath its ill-begotten boughs.

Stealing Christmas trees off a lot is pretty low-down. I have a friend who has a Christmas tree farm and he works hard all year to try to make a profit during the holidays. To have all that hard work wiped out by some low-life is infuriating.

But it pales beside the gall of the thief that stole the decorated tree off someone's front lawn.

At our house we decorate our tree with heirloom ornaments, several of which have dangled on our family's Christmas trees for four generations. Some of the ornaments have photos of kids and grandkids, now grown, and other family members.

How could the Christmas tree thief look them in the eye as he sits by the fire sipping eggnog and listening to Bing sing White Christmas?

("Hummmmm ... so those are the children of the family I stole this tree from ... cute.")

If this were one of those warm and fuzzy Christmas stories in Reader's Digest, it would have a happy, sentimental ending: the Christmas tree thief would succumb to the true meaning of Christmas, have a change of heart and return the tree. He would leave with it a note of remorse and apology, and a promise to mend his ways.

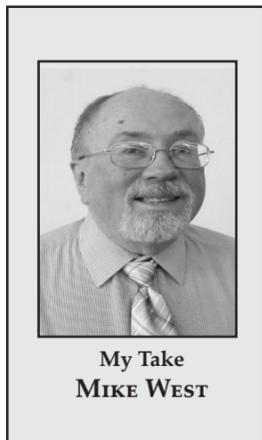
But this is real life, so don't expect the crook to return the stolen tree.

All we can hope for is that as he squirms in its cold, incriminating glare, the Grinch gets diarrhea from his mug of shop-lifted eggnog.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** are welcome on any subject printed in the pages of this newspaper. All letters must be under 250 words and are subject to editing for improper language and verified by address or phone number. Letters must be received Thursdays by 5 p.m. to be considered for publication in the following week's Courier.

Letters may be sent online to news@cannoncourier.com or by mail to Letters, Cannon Courier, 113 West Main St., Woodbury, TN 37190

## Courier Editor Christmas trick still remembered by it's 'victim'



My Take MIKE WEST

Remember your last white Christmas? In this neck of the woods, it's been a few years ago.

While, there is always a slight chance of snow on Christmas eve or Christmas day, it is pretty unlikely unless you live in Idaho, Minnesota, Maine, Upstate New York, the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Naturally, the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada Mountains all have a high probability of seeing a white Christmas.

The rarity of a White Christmas makes such an event even more memorable.

I remember such a Christmas Eve that happened more than a few years ago.

We were visiting Pa and Granny Van Hooser near Short Mountain and it started to snow. At that time, I was the only grandchild so my eyes were about to bug out of my head.

I "suffered" through the long, endless meal (it was delicious chicken and dressing by-the-way) before being relocated to the living room where a beautiful cedar tree stood under the stairway. It was a beautiful tree lit with red and green bubble lights (remember those?) and covered with foil icicles. Strings of popcorn and hand-painted, homemade ornaments decorated it.

I, of course, was under orders to sit in a chair AWAY from the tree and away from the warm fire that was blazing away in the fireplace. And I was instructed NEVER to get near the fireplace with any of the wonderful wrapping paper decorating our gifts.

So I was stuck impatiently waiting with the men folk. At least, they had great stories to tell. I wish I could remember more of them.

I was impatiently listening when I heard a tapping at the window.

Turning, I was shocked to see the face of Santa Claus looking back in the window.

I jumped out of my chair and turned

around ... and Santa was gone.

Then there was a knock at the side door.

Running across the room, I pulled back the curtain and BANG ... there was Santa again.

In the blink of an eye, Santa disappeared once again.

"Did you see him ... Did you see him?" I roared.

Naturally, none of the adults in the room had seen a thing.

My Father, Grand Pa and Uncle John denied seeing anything. They just grinned and shrugged. Nope, didn't see ol' Claus. Even my own Mother hadn't seen him (and she would never tell a falsehood).

"No sir, no Santa ... my imagination must be running away from reality."

But I knew what I saw. It was a couple of quick looks, but I absolutely knew it was Santa Claus.

I looked around the room. Everyone was there ... except for Granny.

"Ah-ha," I thought as I dashed back to the kitchen only to discover Granny there drying dishes.

"What's your hurry?" she asked with a little grin on her face.

"Awwwww ... nothing," I answered before heading back to the living room which was warmed by laughter.

It was finally time for gifts!

I got more than my share, including one suspiciously marked from Santa.

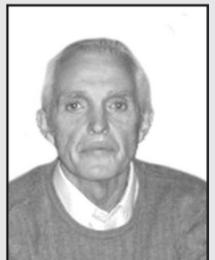
It was a red-striped flashlight. It was made from metal...and it actually worked! That was the first of many flashlights.

I wish I still had it.

Dadgummit!

By the way, the next Christmas that little trick with Santa Claus just didn't work.

## Courier contributor Take a break from the latest chaotic news



Meat 'n' Potatoes MIKE VINSON

These days, when you turn on TV to watch the evening news, you probably cringe with anticipation regarding the latest "chaos" that has struck America: a new terrorist group far more dangerous and widespread than any of the previous ones; deranged gunman walking into a café and opening fire on all patrons inside; demonstrations against law enforcement continuing all across the country; cyber thieves hacking into major Hollywood studios and stealing not-yet-released material; another celebrity sex scandal; alleged rape on a prestigious college campus, etc.

"It's the liberal media gone wild!" a conservative political pundit will argue.

"The End of Time is near!" The Lord is coming!" a Baptist minister might yell from the pulpit during a passionate Sunday sermon.

How about we take a break from the world's woes, and I share with you a sweet story I lucked up on the other night while watching "World News." It centers on two young boys, who are best friends, and something as simple as a "chocolate bar."

Jonah Pournazarian, a 9-year-old boy from Los Angeles, California, suffers from a rare hereditary liver disease called glycogen storage disease/GSD type 1B. With GSD type 1B, the liver can store sugar but cannot release it, which can lead to a dangerously low blood sugar level, which can lead to death. Until the early '70s, GSD type 1B was considered fatal.

Every few hours, Jonah must be fed a mixture of water and cornstarch through a tube in his stomach. "We hope we don't miss an alarm clock because he could die," said Lora Pournazarian, Jonah's mother.

Jonah's best friend is a young boy named Dylan Siegel, now 8-years-old. Back in 2012, Dylan said he wanted to do something to help finance medical expenses for his friend, Jonah. Dylan's parents suggested he have a bake-sale or set up a lemonade stand. However, Dylan had higher aspirations: He told his parents he was going to write a book to help out Jonah!

Sure enough, a few hours after making

his proclamation, then-6-year-old Dylan threw down some handwritten pages and illustrations in front of his parents, and proudly announced, "Here's my book."

Titled "Chocolate Bar," the Siegel family originally printed the book from home and sold a few hundred copies, at 20 dollars per copy, raising several thousand dollars. Dylan insisted, however, his goal was to raise one million dollars for his best friend, Jonah.

Via the media, social networking, and word-of-mouth, news about Dylan Siegel's little handwritten book "Chocolate Bar" spread like wildfire, and now has sold in all 50 states in the U.S., and, also, in a reported 60 countries worldwide, language translated as needed.

The "World News" special I watched reported that, indeed, "Chocolate Bar" had recently surpassed one million dollars in sales. Dr. David Weinstein, who treats Jonah Pournazarian, conducts research for GSD type 1B at the University of Florida. All proceeds from sales of the book "Chocolate Bar" go directly to Dr. Weinstein's research fund. It has been reported "Chocolate Bar," thus far, has raised more money for research against GSD type 1B than all the medical foundations and all the grants combined.

Dylan said, for him, the term "chocolate bar" is synonymous with "awesome." In his book, Dylan writes: "Going to the beach is chocolate bar. Swimming is chocolate bar. And helping his friend Jonah? That is the biggest chocolate bar."

Borrowing from an online source (pun intended) Dylan Siegel writing the book "Chocolate Bar" for his friend Jonah Pournazarian is about "the sweetest thing" I ever heard tell of.

Still, the heartfelt determination of a 6-year-old boy (Siegel) very well might end up having played a hand in finding a cure for GSD type 1B. "It is now reality. It's not just a dream that these children can be cured," Dr. Weinstein was quoted as saying.

Folks if that's not a "million-dollar story," I don't know what is!

Merry Christmas!



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MIKE WEST photos

Sgt. Melanie McCormick takes on an additional duty at the scene of a single-vehicle crash on River Road Thursday (Dec. 18). Motorist Amanda Shaffer slid off the rain-slick roadway and nearly crashed into the beginnings of the East Fork of Stones River. No one was injured in the accident.



**BONFIRE....**

Area residents told the deputy that the motorist ran off when he saw the deputy arriving.

"I began to look for the subject and eventually found him hiding in a wood pile next to the complainant's barn. He was complaining of back and leg pain and was extremely intoxicated," Wildes reported.

Wildes left the suspect, later identified as Jeffrey D. Nichols and talked with a female resident of the area, who told him her sister was holding a bonfire on Prater Road when Nichols and Barrett arrived uninvited with two females.

Nichols and Barrett appeared extremely intoxicated and were asked to leave. On the way out, Nichols became irate

and tried to fight with other party goers. Just before he left, Nichols reportedly jumped on the hood of a 2001 Volvo S40 and started jumping up and down smashing the hood. He then kicked in the windshield before kicking and damaging one of the rear quarter-panels.

An altercation occurred and Nichols jumped into a car and crashed it through a wooden horse fence

twice before leaving the scene.

Deputy Wildes also identified the second subject (Barrett) and determined he was extremely intoxicated as well.

State Trooper Jason McGee, who also responded to the crash, charged Nichols with DUI, second offense, and leaving the scene of an accident.

**Entries now sought for annual calendar**

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is now accepting entries for its 2014-15 photo contest for publication in the Tennessee Wildlife Magazine's annual calendar issue.

All interested photographers are invited to submit their best photos on fishing and wildlife species native to Tennessee, and fishing and hunting scenes in Tennessee.

Interested photographers must submit their photo entries by March 11, 2015.

The photos will be reviewed for publication in the annual calendar edition of Tennessee Wildlife Magazine which is the summer issue. If a photo is selected for the calendar edition, the photographer

will receive a cash stipend of \$60.

The format is horizontal digital images on disk. Only digital images in JPEG format and of high resolution (300 dpi) sized as an 8 1/2x11 will be accepted.

Each disk submitted must have the name of the photographer stamped or written on it. No prints can be accepted. (Sorry, disks cannot be returned).

Entries can be mailed to:  
Tennessee Wildlife Magazine  
Calendar Issue  
P.O. Box 40747  
Nashville, TN 37204

Tennessee Wildlife is the official magazine for the TWRA. Subscription rates are \$10 for one year, \$17 for two years and \$25 for three years.



Leon Wyman, Jada Pinkerton and Kimberly Carlton (foreground) wrap gifts for S.A.V.E. Christmas drive while Hollie Pelham and Lisa Baird, S.A.V.E. director, work away on the project.



Hollie Pelham, above, measures out wrapping paper as she wraps another gift



Sue Stancil takes careful measure as she works to wrap another gift.

**USDA to make high-speed Net available**

USDA Rural Development State Director Bobby Goode announced that USDA is soliciting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Community Connect Program grants. The program provides grants to establish essential broadband services in rural communities where it is currently not available.

"Many rural communities in Tennessee do not have access to broadband," said Goode.

"USDA's Community Connect Grant Program ensures that rural residents have the ability to run businesses, get the most from their education, and benefit from the infinite services that fast, reliable broadband provides."

The minimum amount of grants awarded will be \$100,000; the maximum is \$3,000,000. The deadline for applications to be submitted is Feb. 17, 2015.

Last year, USDA announced new rules to better target Community Connect grants to areas where they are needed the most. To view the rules, go <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-03/pdf/2013-10502.pdf>

Since its inception, the Community Connect program has funded 237 projects with investments of \$149 million.

In Tennessee, a \$1,771,035 Community Connect Grant will help North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. replace a 40 year old air-core copper network. The plant will be upgraded using an Active Ethernet (AE), Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) architecture, widely accepted as the most technologically "future-proof" facility configuration available.

For more information, see page 75120 of the Dec. 17, 2014 Federal Register.

**WEST SIDE....**

photography and will enter his portrait at National Convention in June. Gus is

the son of Russell and Shannon Davenport and Grandson of Roger and Sharon Hindman and Jean Davenport.

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# Auburntown News

BY ANNA PATRICK



There is a lot of sickness in this neck of the woods what with Strep throat, flu, viruses especially with the children. Praying they are all well by tomorrow night.

Also many from here are fighting battles with life threatening illnesses. Our prayers go up for Danny Gaither who is currently in the hospital (hope he is home by the time you read this). Ernest Davis is still dealing with a serious heart condition and grandson, Jonathan Francis is dealing with the side effects of chemo. We pray for these as well as others who are going through the holidays with these difficulties.

Grandson, Kullon Patrick spent Friday night with us. He left out Saturday afternoon with Tim "Mim" Reed, and Janna and Ryan Womack to attend the "Marvel Universe Live" at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.

That night, it was Rylon and Amaieah Morrison's turn to get spoiled by us as

they spent that night and attended the Cancer Tournament basketball game where they saw cousin Adrianna Reed, help the Lady Knights place third.

Congratulations to Madison Gaither and Katelyn Duggin on making the girl's All Tournament team.

Sunday one of my wishes came to fruition when Ray Patrick (he left off Taco Bell long enough), Bethany Morrison, Daxton Patrick and Alayna Reed went to the hills and cut down a cedar tree for my Christmas tree. They also decorated it with help from the youngest grandyoung'uns!

It was "candy-making day" for the rest of the family. It used to be "cookie-making day" for the kids but has now been taken over by the women.

A thank you to the CCHS cooks who prepared a delicious breakfast Monday for us school bus drivers. And thanks to Lisa

Black and Barbara Parker for making it possible.

Tuesday night was Christmas Open House and TCAP Awards night at Auburn Grammar. There were 148 who signed the guest register. K-4 sang Christmas carols. The Jr. Beta performed the song, "Betas Rockin' the Country" which they performed at the State Convention. The cheerleaders performed their routine which they do at ballgames.

Then it was time to enter the Roger Turney Gym for TCAP Award Medals. There were 239 medals given out to students who were Proficient or Advanced on the 2014 TCAP.

Principal Melinda Crook and staff truly appreciate all the support received from the school families and the community and those who attended this event.

It was the annual Christmas caroling night for several members of Prosperity Baptist Church. We "serenaded" Martha Hays, Tom and Ladye Allen, Billie Foutch and Joe and Mainell Foutch. At this last stop, the Foutchs treated all to hot chocolate and Christmas "goodies".

More caroling was done Thursday when Auburn School grades 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th traveled to Woodbury to bring joy in song to many businesses.

Celebrating a birthday on Christmas Eve are Nell Summar and Sarah Hackney. Then for the greatest birthday of all on the 25th - Happy Birthday Jesus! Shawna Kennedy Ervin turns 28 on the 26th. Betty Thomas tucks another year behind her on the 27th. Destiny Melton turns 17 on the 28th. The 29th belongs to Mitchell Davenport and the 30th has Brian Leyhew, Dalton Lack, Dustin Lack, Dawson Reed and Lindsay Cooper all celebrating the 30th. Happy birthday to you.

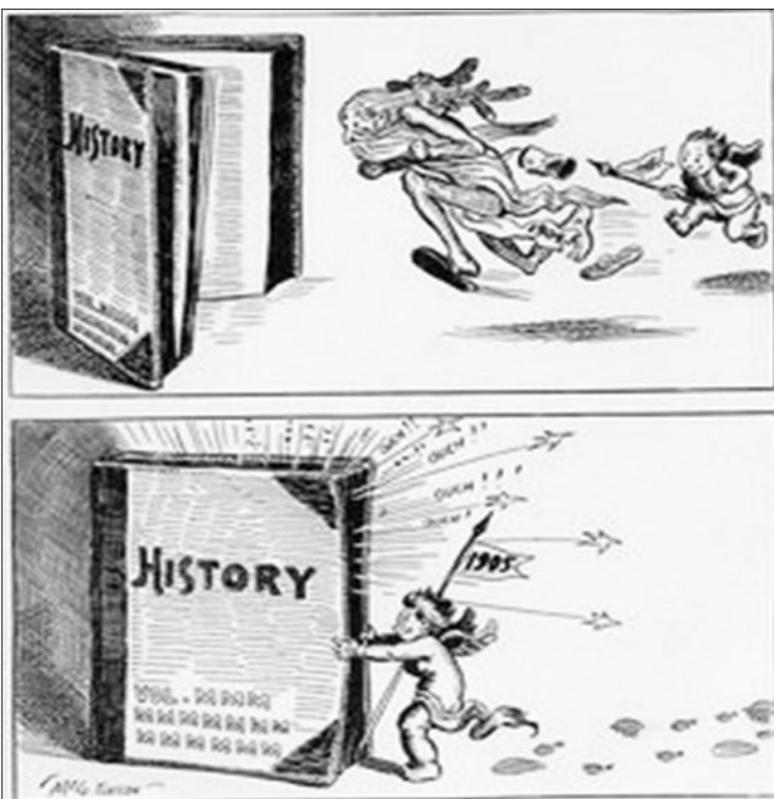
It's 59 years of wedded bliss for Ray and Jean Barrett Melton on the 26th. Happy anniversary.

My prayer for each of you readers is to have the most meaningful Christmas ever. May we never forget the reason it's called CHRISTmas. If it wasn't for Him there would be not Christmas. God bless you.

If you have news for this column, please e-mail me at [apatrick@dtccom.net](mailto:apatrick@dtccom.net), or call 464-4310 and leave a message if no answer.

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

PETTUS READ, Guest Columnist



## Already starting to miss 2014

Just the other day, I picked up my annual Normal Rockwell calendar from the drug store for 2015, and as I thumbed through the months, checking out the next years dates, I began to feel a little sorry for 2014. Many people are glad to leave one year and move to another, due to a year full of problems, but I have been one to always enjoy the past. I feel with history you know what you have had and with the future there is certainly a lot of unknowns. However, in just a few days, it will become one of the years of the past and another time of only remembrance of yesterday.

All of our thoughts and concerns during these last days of 2014 have been directed to what is going to happen to this nation when we turn our calendars over to the New Year. The last few weeks have been spent with people watching the news and debating issues that seem to never go away. Maybe, in the next 365 days that will change, but if it doesn't, then maybe we will change.

I know the excitement of a new year and what it will bring is where we like to direct our thoughts during this time, but there were 365 days in this year that could also use our respect. The year 2014 has possibly been seen as many changes in the way we do things as any so far in the 21st century. Cell phones have become the norm for all of us to the point where it is the normal standard to make an announcement before every event, including church and funerals, to silence them. This year, they have made it possible for us to even watch TV with these devices (which we really need more of) and the iPhone 6 has replaced

cellulite on the hip.

More people filed their income taxes electronically this year and refunds were received faster, as well as spent sooner. We now have our paychecks automatically deposited and no longer receive the enjoyment of knowing what it is like to really see how much we have earned when we do cash a check at the bank.

Things that only appeared in comic books when I was a kid have become a part of our everyday lives. Our pets are implanted with chips so they can be identified easier while our identity is being stolen faster. We now can Google electronic maps right from our phones to help us locate people we never go visit in the first place. We have visited more people this year with Facebook, without leaving the house, than ever before, but also with this same social media we are capable of making a mistake with the whole world knowing it in a manner of seconds.

Farmers drive tractors using information from satellites in space and have the ability to produce more than ever before. We also have seen the increased interest in buying local and growing things in our own backyards.

It is amazing how we seem to want to know the future before we take the time to take care of current business. The year 2014 could be one of the most unusual years that we have ever seen, but we all may overlook it trying to see what is going to happen at this year's New Year's Eve party.

The year 2014 was an election year for many. We saw changes in Congress, our state and counties. Each will be facing new as well as old issues, but

hopefully with fresh ideas.

Just what does 2015 hold for us? That's a question that no one on this earth can answer. Will we have a good economy, better farm prices, a cure for cancer, normal weather conditions, non-normal weather conditions or whatever? That is yet to be seen.

I do know that it will contain 365 days, with each day using 24 hours, no more or no less. It will have a first day of spring, summer, fall and winter that will give all of us something to look forward to. There will be a Valentine's Day for giving flowers and expressing our love, an Easter with jellybeans and brightly colored eggs, as well as a last day of school before summer vacation.

We will honor our war dead on Memorial Day with flags and speeches, and celebrate our country's birthday on July 4 with watermelons and fireworks.

The year will contain cookouts, family visits, a fun-filled Halloween, a thankful Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas.

In between all of this, there will also be days of our usual work, paying bills, buying groceries, going to school and helping others. However, each day will be whatever we make it. The important thing is to take care of each day and make the best of it.

Nobody really knows what this next year will include, but the important thing is not to let it go by without giving it a chance. The "Good Book" tells us that no one knows what the morrow may bring. Happy New Year!

-Pettus L. Read writes for the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. He may be contacted by e-mail at [pettusr60@gmail.com](mailto:pettusr60@gmail.com)

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# CANNON BLAST



You can submit items for The Blast by email at [news@cannoncourier.com](mailto:news@cannoncourier.com)

\*\*\*

### Flu Shots Available Cannon County Health Department

Flu shots are available at the Cannon County Health Department. Call for appointment at 563-4243.

\*\*\*

### Christian Men's Group Food Collection

The Christian Men's Group is collecting food for needy families this Christmas season. This group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Cannon Community Church and is comprised of men from across the community from different denominations. We have set a goal to feed 100 families. Without the help of the community this will not be possible. We are asking for donations of food or money.

If you want to donate non perishable items you may

take them to The Old Feed Store at 310 Water Street or Antiques and More located at 101 North Cannon Street. For monetary donations please make checks payable to Christian Men's Group.

\*\*\*

### Country Music Jam Session Pocahontas Community Center

**1st and 3rd Fridays**  
A country music jam sessions is set for the first and third Fridays of each month at the Pocahontas Community Center, 1441 Pocahontas Road, Morrison. Musicians sign up at 5:30 and the music starts at 6pm. Open to the public, spectators and dancers are welcome. Admission is free. For more info call Ray at 615-765-7835 or John 931-588-1229.

\*\*\*

### Ladies Auxiliary Cookbooks still available

Ladies Auxiliary Cookbooks are still available for Christmas gift

giving. This cookboook offers several 100+ year old recipes that would make wonderful anytime gifts for all of the special people in your life. They would also be appreciated I am sure for the new bride in your families. These cookbooks are a gift that keeps on giving each time the recipient opens to find a new favorite.

They are \$15 each and can be mailed for \$18 anywhere in the US.

Make and mail check to: Hilton Stone, Ladies Auxiliary, Unit 279, P.O. Box 423, Attn: Rita Cook, Woodbury, Tn. 37190.

\*\*\*

### Books Needed for American Legion to donate to Fisher House

American Legion Auxiliary is in need of new books to donate to the Fisher House which is a rehabilitation home for our local wounded veterans.

We need spiritual, children's, teens and mature reading material.

Please contact Rita Cook at 615-542-0396 or [MsZoro59@gmail.com](mailto:MsZoro59@gmail.com) to pick up.

\*\*\*

### Music Night at the Senior Center Friday, Jan. 2

Music Night At The Senior Center Friday, Jan. 2 at 7:00 p.m. Featuring: Uptown Country. Admission: \$5

\*\*\*

### Ponder Anew Sunday, Jan. 25 from 2-4:30 p.m. Arts Center of Cannon County

The Arts Center of Cannon County presents PONDER ANEW, a WWII Warrior's Story. A story of war, survival and grace from the memoir of Lt. Herschel Ponder, adapted and performed by Carol Ponder and Robert Keifer. Ponder Anew isn't just about WWII, it's about going to war and coming home again. Contact the Arts Center at 615-563-2787

for further information.

\*\*\*

### Books make a wonderful Christmas gift

Cannon County, TN - A Pictorial History  
History of Cannon County, TN R Mason  
History of Cannon County Schools  
Reprint - History of Woodbury and Cannon County, TN by Sterling Spurlock Brown  
Cannon County, TN High Sheriffs 1836 - 2014  
Prater, TN - The Life and Death of a Community  
I've seen everything but money by Beecher Bowen (1910-1975)  
Auburn High School, A Pictorial History 1922-1977  
Parker Family  
The Tenspennys of Cannon County  
Poetry by Beecher Bowen  
Poetry Valedictory  
Speech - High School by Beecher Bowen 1910-2002  
Easay - Uncle Dave Macon

### Copies of Obituaries from Cannon Courier

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## TWRA proposes license fee changes

For only the second time in 25 years, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is seeking to adjust the way hunting and fishing licenses and fees are structured in order to maintain its successful wildlife, fisheries and education programs. The proposal includes some incremental fee increases and the inclusion of new user groups.

It wasn't too long ago that the sight of a white-tailed deer, a bald eagle or a wild turkey in Tennessee was a rare treat. These and other key wildlife and fish are now thriving across the state, thanks to intensive restoration and management by the TWRA.

"The reality is that managing our wildlife and fisheries has never been more expensive than it is today," said TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter. "Our objective with this proposal is to spread the cost of these programs across more user groups who utilize Tennessee's public lands and waters."

This license fee change proposal is the first since 2005, and only the second to be sought since 1990. It's also the smallest increase in the TWRA's 65-year history. The Agency, which is funded almost exclusively by hunting and fishing licenses, boating registrations and federal excise taxes on related equipment, has seen operating costs increase dramatically. This includes everything from fertilizer to fish food and other essential expenses over the last 10 years.

"We employ 46 fewer people Agency-wide now than we did eight years ago, and salaries and benefits such as health insurance have increased significantly," Carter said. "Our wildlife officers, biologists and other staff do an incredible job, and we're doing more work with fewer people than ever before to provide world-class outdoor opportunities."

Changes to the way license fees are structured can be found across the board in the new proposal, which will be considered by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission in January. If approved, the new fee structure would go into effect on July 1, 2015. Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses expire on Feb. 28, and new licenses will be on sale at the current prices from mid-February through the end of June.

Highlights include: incremental increases for resident hunting and fishing licenses; elimination of certain short-term non-resident licenses; a new fee for professional hunting and fishing guides; new senior citizen license options; and fees related to the use of TWRA firing ranges,

as well as for horseback, off-highway vehicle and mountain bike riders whose activities have a maintenance impact on state Wildlife Management Areas. More details on the proposal can be viewed at [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).

"Our mission is to manage the fish and wildlife of the state and their habitats for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Tennessee and its visitors," Carter said. "We take that responsibility very seriously and have been very successful in creating access for all user groups to these incredible public resources. We're now asking more of those users to contribute to the effort."

TWRA's success stories are many. Plentiful wildlife such as white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, bald eagles, black bears and wild elk were severely threatened or thought lost forever well in to the 20th century. All are thriving today, thanks to the efforts of TWRA.

The Agency has also stocked more than 100 million fish into Tennessee waters, and now manages more than 250 public boat access points across the state. TWRA also oversees more than 1.5 million acres of publicly accessible land. In the last decade alone, the Agency has planted more than three million trees and protected 42,000 acres of wetlands across the state.

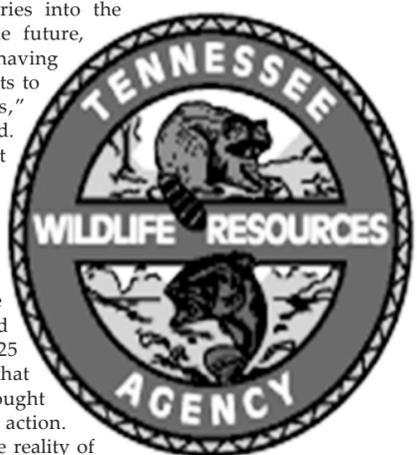
Meanwhile, examples of significant cost increases abound: fish food pellets are up 76 percent since 2004, milo seed is up 150 percent, and farm diesel is up 58 percent. Items including vehicles, boats and motors, pond liners and other significant expenses have all increased at or above the approximately 25 percent rate of inflation over the last decade.

"This new fee structure will allow us to continue doing the good work we do every day for Tennessee's wildlife and fisheries into the foreseeable future,

without having further cuts to programs," Carter said. "We don't take these increases lightly, which is why this is only the second time in 25 years that we've sought such an action.

But it's the reality of today's economy, and a burden we can all share incrementally.

"There's no question that the world-class hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities available today in Tennessee simply didn't exist 25 years ago, and we're excited to continue enhancing those resources for the public good."



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\*\* Please one (1) entry per person.

## PLEASE RECYCLE!

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THE CONVENIENCE CENTER IS OPEN 60 HOURS PER WEEK.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Open Sunday Noon – 7:00 p.m. Closed on Wednesday.

Every pound of Solid Waste that is recycled saves the tax payers of Cannon County in two ways – the cost of transporting and landfill fees. In 2013, the citizens of Cannon County recycled 1,020 tons of Solid Waste. That is two million, forty thousand pounds that did not go to the landfill. Our goal is to increase the pounds of garbage diverted from the landfill each year.

Please help us save money and landfill space by recycling! Please don't litter and together we can keep Cannon County clean and beautiful.

Mike Gannon, County Executive

# Harlem Wizzards bounce for Special Olympics



Photos provided

The American Legion Post 279 members and Auxiliary members recently supported the Special Olympics program at the Woodbury Grammar School. The team took a break to get a picture with the Harlem "Wizzards". Two of the Wizzards gang up on Sheriff Darrell Young.



## UT Extension Service

BY BRUCE STEELMAN

utextension.tennessee.edu/cannon  
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## Eligible producers are encouraged to apply for assistance by January 16

For agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland producers interested in applying for farm bill conservation program financial assistance in Fiscal Year 2015, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Tennessee has set Friday, January 16, 2015, as the signup cutoff date for first evaluation funding consideration. Pending the availability of funds, additional evaluation periods may occur and cutoff dates will be posted on the Tennessee website on the EQIP page. The application deadline applies to the

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and EQIP National Initiatives. "When landowners take part in conservation cost share programs, the funds filter through the community, and the initial investment rolls over several times, benefitting the whole area," said Kevin Brown, Tennessee NRCS State Conservationist. The funds from EQIP help farmers improve the natural resources and soil health on private working lands in Tennessee. Conservation practices help the environment while also making the land more productive by addressing

issues like water quantity, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and soil health. Eligible producers with a conservation plan for their operation receive priority for financial assistance. NRCS staff is available to help producers create conservation plans. Only projects that are "ready to implement" will be ranked for funding. Applications can be submitted anytime throughout the year. NRCS's conservation programs address resource concerns such as soil erosion, soil health, irrigation efficiency, impaired water quality and wildlife habitat. EQIP, one of NRCS's largest conservation programs, helps eligible producers plan and implement conservation practices that provide opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, energy, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. For additional information, eligible producers are encouraged

to contact their local NRCS Service Center. Service center locations and more information on the programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tn/contact/local/>. NRCS has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water and other natural resources since 1935. For program information, contact John Rissler at (615) 277-2576.

Learn more about EQIP and other NRCS programs. [<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs>] USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps America's farmers and ranchers conserve the Nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.



## Trading Post Chat

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all you folks out there!

Yep, it's here .... Already! For some reason this year of 2014 certainly went by quickly including the bumps in the road along with it! All of you have certainly contributed to the success of our Short Mountain Trading Post and to my weekly newspaper column. Thanks so much and certainly looking forward to seeing all of you this upcoming year of 2015!

I hope your are all enjoying your Christmas with family and friends or just relaxing all by yourself. JD and I decided to do that this year. Along with our four cats and one dog (our children) it is a good day. Our family is spread out all over the United States and this year getting everyone together was rough! So, there you have it! The true meaning of Christmas is

united in many things: the birth of Jesus is number one, but the fellowship and love that we share with our fellow man is definitely in second place.

We were fortunate this year to be able to gift many folks with warm coats, sweaters, boots and shoes. My goodness, everyone was so thankful and happy and it certainly made all of us at the Post happy to be part of keeping our community warm.

Also the Feed America organization has helped fill refrigerators and cupboards with baked goods, fresh veggies and fruit, yogurt and extra treats that so many needed this season. Thanks to all those who made these gifts possible.

I just asked for snow this year. Not a crippling blizzard, just a wintry blessing will do. If any of you ever take time to read

the adorable Christmas letters that the school children write to Santa, you will know what I mean when I say how smart and clever these little ones are! Mostly, they ask for family members to get presents and things they need. Even down to a new house, food and a job for their daddies. Please make Grandma well and tell Grandpa in heaven that we miss him at our Christmas table. Such big hearts in such tiny bodies.

Let's remember to keep their spirits always alive and their lives as happy and loving as we possibly can! Sometimes we forget that little people do observe and understand what is going on around them. Consider them in all you do and say because they do see and hear all!

Well, it wouldn't be a complete article, if I didn't share with you something totally stupid that happened to Festus and Clyde this past week. They went to Ohio to visit our family there and decided to go sledding down this huge hill on our cousin's farm. They bundled up in their orange camouflage snowsuits and took off down this suicide hill (so they call it). Well, Festus forgot that on the whole right side of this hill property there is a barbed wire fence. Yep, you guessed it. That fence snagged him as he went speeding down the hill and ripped off the entire right side of his bright orange overalls. The video they sent me was hysterical. I mean, can you imagine seeing a half-naked man: one side bare skin and the other still bright orange on a sled in the snow going down a hill screaming for dear life. Not a pretty sight, but definitely entertaining!

Clyde laughed so hard that Festus chased him all over the farm in such a fury, screaming: What's so funny? That suit cost me a small fortune! Well, from what I understand, after a warm shower and plenty of moonshine, he finally settled down and vowed to keep this personal event in the top most interesting things that has ever happened to him in his life! (I guess so....)

Other than that, I can't say that my snow adventures have been any better: most of all my skiing abilities which are non-existent. All I ever was to learn successfully was how to snowplow with my skis and scream: Watch out I am out of control and heading right for you! I never knocked anyone down or ran into any trees, but did twist my ankle and my skiing talents were over! I did get to meet a couple cute rescue fellas with an ambulance sled and a very friendly St. Bernard who shared his brandy with me!

Back to the Trading Post, we are happy to announce that we have some new vendors this coming year along with the open possibility of being open right after Christmas Day for those who wish to share our Barn experience with visiting family and friends. If it is at least 55 degrees and a clear day, we will be open Fridays and Saturdays. To make sure, you are welcomed to call me at 615-464-7824 and double check our open status! Hey, once again Happy Happy Holidays and by golly, you just know that the 2015 year ahead of us will be a great one! Chat with you next week and many hugs!

Savannah

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| Strs  | 525.00-590.00 | 235.00-240.00 |
| Strs  | 650.00        | 225.00        |
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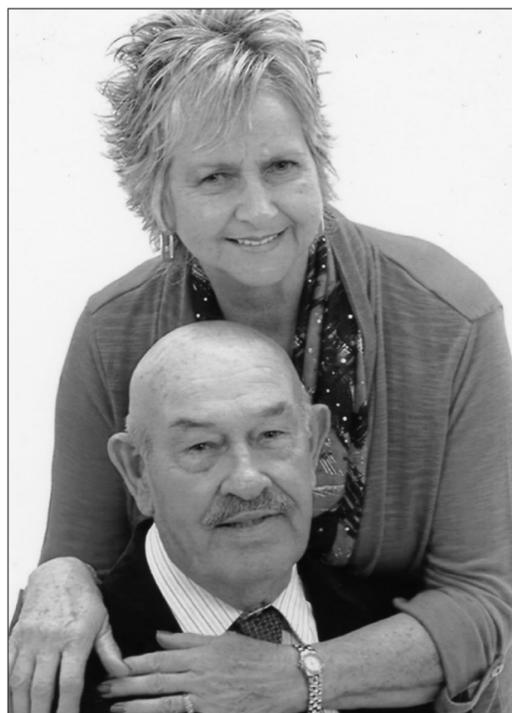
# COMMUNITY



Photos provided

## Gandy crowned 2014 MTSU Homecoming King

Jonathan Gandy of Murfreesboro, TN, was recently crowned the 2014 MTSU Homecoming King by Dr. Sidney McPhee, president of MTSU. Jonathan is the son of Ronnie and Becky Leach Gandy of Murfreesboro, TN, and the grandson of Joyce C. Leach and the late John Allen Leach of Auburntown, TN. Jonathan also has a brother Blake Gandy of Murfreesboro, TN. It was a fun filled day for all of the Gandy-Leach family.



**Jimmy and Carolyn Blanton**  
December 26, 1964 - 2014

## Happy 50th Anniversary

to our wonderful parents and grandparents.

*With all our love,*

Garry, Tracy and Sloane Underhill  
Steven, Jackie, Caroline and Madison Blanton

## Just a little something to bring laughter in your day

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven now, and we don't know where she is.  
*Ellen DeGeneres*

I have six locks on my door all in a row. When I go out, I lock every other one. I figure no matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are

always locking three.  
*Elayne Boosler*

The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.  
*Terry Pratchett*

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every

day always just exactly fits the newspaper.  
*Jerry Seinfeld*

A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need the advice.  
*Bill Cosby*

A woman's mind is cleaner than a man's: She changes it more often.  
*Oliver Herford*

Money won't buy happiness, but it will pay the salaries of a large research staff to study the problem.  
*Bill Vaughan*

We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don't know.  
*W. H. Auden*

# Cannon County 4-H Public Speaking winners

Congratulations to all the 4-H members which competed in the Cannon County 4-H Public Speaking Contest. After winning their school classroom competition, students were chosen to compete in the county competition. After winning the county contest, both first place participants will compete at the sub-regional contest held at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in February. Congratulations to all the participants! Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. 4-H is proud of the accomplishments of the many 4-H members that learn the valuable life skill of communications through Public Speaking. For more information about the 4-H program, contact Sarah Malone at [smalone@utk.edu](mailto:smalone@utk.edu) or the UT Extension Office at (615) 563-2554. With 28 participants, the Cannon County 4-H Public Speaking contest was a huge success with the following winners:



7th Grade - 1st Place - Etta Gaines, Woodbury Grammar School; 1st Place - Austin Powell, Woodland School; 2nd Place - Cheyenne Pomeroy, Woodbury Grammar School



4th Grade - 1st Place - Jesse Tucker Vaughn, Auburn School; 1st Place - Ethan Powell, Woodland School; 2nd Place - James Hawkins, Woodbury Grammar School; 3rd Place - Kendall Hedrick, Woodbury Grammar School



8th Grade - 1st Place - Emily Nave, Woodbury Grammar School; 1st Place - Bryson Bell, Woodland School; 2nd Place - Colin Crawley, Auburn School



5th Grade - 1st Place - Kiley Hughes, Auburn School; 1st Place - Kooper Nemeth, Woodland School; 2nd Place - Nolan Bell, Woodland School



6th Grade - 1st Place - Sharon Bessant, Auburn School; 1st Place - Josie Gannon, West Side School; 2nd Place - Sloane Underhill, East Side School; 3rd Place - Hannah Carrier, Short Mountain School

# CANNON COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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1 Peter 1:5-9  
who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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Matthew 14:31  
Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

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## FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

### TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

#### GOD MADE MAN: ADAM

God created man and called him Adam. God created Adam from the dust of the earth that God had just created from nothingness. Read about the creation in Genesis, chapters 1 and 2.

Early on God made a woman from Adam's rib. God placed Adam and Eve in a great garden called Eden where they were in charge of all things and all their needs were met.

They, Adam and Eve, were instructed to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. And they were given dominion over every living thing on the earth. They were permitted to eat of the fruit of every tree in the garden except the fruit from the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.

All was wonderful until...(read more of the story next week).

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Matthew 17:20  
He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 21:21  
Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

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# CANNON CRIME & COURTS

## CANNON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

### Drug Arrest

Deputy Jordan McGee was running radar on South McCrary Street when he tracked a vehicle doing 69 mph in a 55 mph zone.

"While talking to the driver, I smelled an odor of fresh and burnt marijuana," McGee said. The driver admitted smoking marijuana about an hour earlier but denied any marijuana was in the car.

Moving to the other side of the vehicle, McGee smelled the scent of raw marijuana on the passenger side of the car. The deputy also noticed a bulge in the pocket of passenger, Joseph Starnes, who admitted being in possession of the drug.

"He placed the two bags on the trunk of the car and stated that it was for personal use and it was his Christmas bud," McGee said.

Starnes was then transported to the Cannon County Jail where he was charged with simple possession of marijuana.

### Animals At Large

Todd Baxter was charged with animals at large after three "long-haired borned" cows were found in the road near the intersection of Jimtown and Petty Gap Roads.

### Warrants Served

Terrie Patton Roysse: violation of probation.

Kenneth Jeremy Leedom: warrant served.

Maggie Elizabeth Murphy, violation of probation.

Austin Cole Heath, *capias*

### Burglary

Terry Reed reported that burglars took a 55-inch flat-screen television from his home. Entry was made through a sliding glass door on his porch. The missing TV was valued at \$800.

### Driving on a Revoked

Misty Michelle Winslow was charged with her eighth

driving on a suspended license charge following a traffic stop on Jim Cummings Highway.

## WOODBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Dogs at Large

Michael James Swander was charged with letting his dog run at large by Patrolman Jimmie Hayes, A hearing is set for Jan. 13 in General Sessions Court.

### Driving on Suspended

Jesus Flores Garcia was charged with driving on a suspended license, first offense, by Patrolman Tommy Miller. A hearing is set for Feb. 11 in General Sessions Court.

### Driving on a Revoked

Carl Luther Hale Jr. was charged with driving on a revoked license and financial responsibility by Assistant Chief Lowell Womack. A hearing is set for Jan. 13 in General Sessions Court.

## Grant awarded to WCTE TV

WCTE Upper Cumberland PBS has received a \$2000 grant to purchase mobile production equipment to produce a new web series called "Crafted in Tennessee," which will feature businesses and products unique to our state. The series will tour Tennessee to cover stories that drive the entrepreneurial experience and contribute to the state's economic development. "Crafted in Tennessee" will begin production in 2015.

"The portable equipment WCTE will purchase with this grant will allow us to be more mobile in the way we collect stories around the Upper Cumberland and beyond.

We are excited about this new phase in the creation of content about our state. Web-based series will allow us to reach a new and diverse audience," said Desirée Duncan, Director of Content at WCTE.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, a charitable organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the 40 Middle Tennessee counties it serves, announces more than \$1.65 million in grants to 265 nonprofit organizations as part of The Foundation's annual discretionary grantmaking process. "The Community Foundation is honored to connect generosity with need through these annual

grants and other avenues throughout the year, but we couldn't have an impact without the array of quality nonprofits offering solutions to our community's needs and vital services to our neighbors," said Ellen Lehman, president of The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

The Community Foundation awards discretionary grants annually from its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds, through an open application process, to Middle Tennessee nonprofit organizations addressing community needs and benefiting the well-being of citizens through valuable programs and innovative services. More information on the grant process is online at [cfmt.org/request/grants/](http://cfmt.org/request/grants/).



Photos attached: WCTE's Desirée Duncan and Allison Fox receive the station's grant contract from Jerry Williams during CFMT's recent Grant Celebration event.

## Tennessee makes progress but still ranked 45th in overall health



Rising rates of obesity and physical inactivity threaten Americans' quality of life, even as Americans progressed in several key health metrics in 2014, according to the landmark 25th Anniversary Edition of America's Health Rankings®: A Call to Action for Individuals & Their Communities.

Nationwide, obesity increased 7 percent from 27.6 percent to 29.4 percent of adults. Likewise, the percentage of adults who reported not participating in any physical activity in the last 30 days increased from 22.9 percent to 23.5 percent. At the same time, the number of Americans who smoke continued to decrease, declining by 3 percent this year, and has consistently declined over the past decade.

### Tennessee's Overall Health

According to the special 25th Edition of America's Health Rankings, Tennessee ranks 45th this year compared with other states. The 2014 report illustrates Tennessee has its share of strengths and challenges.

#### Tennessee's Strengths

- Low prevalence of binge drinking (Rank: 1)
- Low incidence of pertussis (Rank: 10)
- Ready availability of primary care physicians (Rank 19)

#### Tennessee's Challenges

- High prevalence of obesity (Rank: 47)
- High prevalence of physical inactivity (Rank: 49)
- High violent crime rate (Rank: 50)

A highlight of the 2014 report is that infant mortality decreased from 8.0 deaths per 1,000 live births to 7.3, moving Tennessee up six places in the rankings to 41st relative to other states.

#### Key Tennessee Challenges Addressed by UnitedHealthcare Programs

UnitedHealthcare watches America's Health Rankings closely to better understand the health of individuals and communities across the nation and in Tennessee. UnitedHealthcare has several programs to address the nation's health challenges at a state level. These programs help educate people on living healthier lives and empower communities to take action to improve their health.

One of the programs making a difference in Tennessee is UnitedHealthcare's Baby Blocks™, a proven mobile, interactive incentive program to encourage pregnant women and new parents to make and keep doctor appointments during pregnancy and the first 15 months of their baby's life. Women who enroll can earn rewards for completing prenatal, postpartum and healthy-baby appointments, receive appointment alerts and wellness-related text messages and connect directly with maternity nurses. Rewards include gift cards to retail outlets and maternity-related items such as teething rings, diaper bags, thermometers and other items.

UnitedHealthcare also actively supports Healthier Tennessee, an initiative of the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, created to improve the state's health by increasing the number of Tennesseans who are active physically, encouraging people to eat a healthier diet, and reducing the number of people who use tobacco.

Additionally, United Health Foundation provides a variety of tools to help communities and individuals make healthy choices, including customizable reports, enhanced

social media and other innovative online resources on its website, [www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org).

"For the last 25 years, United Health Foundation's annual America's Health Rankings has provided an invaluable look at the challenges and opportunities facing Tennessee and how the picture of health in our state compares with those of our region and our nation," said Catherine E. Palmier, M.D., chief medical officer, East Region, UnitedHealthcare. "We look forward to continuing to use the report as a key tool for identifying and implementing solutions to our most pressing challenges and measuring the strides we've made to date."

#### 50-State Snapshot: Hawaii the Healthiest; Mississippi Least Healthy

Hawaii has again taken the title of healthiest state. Vermont came in second, followed by Massachusetts, which improved to third after being ranked fourth for two years. Connecticut came in fourth, rising three slots from last year. Utah came in fifth. Mississippi ranked 50th this year, preceded by Arkansas (49), Louisiana (48), Kentucky (47) and Oklahoma (46). West Virginia and Alabama moved out of the bottom five.

To see the Rankings in full, visit [www.americashealthrankings.org](http://www.americashealthrankings.org).

#### Nationwide: Obesity and Physical Inactivity Increase after Short-Lived Improvements

"We applaud hard-won advances in several key measures, including smoking prevalence, even as this year's America's Health Rankings is a solemn reminder that we have a lot more work ahead of us," said Reed Tuckson, M.D., senior medical adviser to United Health Foundation. "It is inevitable that increases in the rates of obesity and physical inactivity will result in more people suffering from significant chronic diseases that compromise the quality of their lives, adversely affect their families and are unaffordable for the nation."

United Health Foundation is marking 25 years of America's Health Rankings by introducing new online tools to inspire health advocacy across states and communities.

A "Change My Rank" online tool allows users to see how improving several key measures affects the state's overall rank (for example, if a state reduced its prevalence of obesity by 5 percent, what would its overall rank be?).

A Thought Leader Perspectives portal showcases notable leaders from the public health, government, academic, business, technology and consumer arenas reflecting on the achievements and challenges in America's health over the last 25 years, and their thoughts for the next 25 years.

#### 25th Anniversary Report Reveals Major Long-Term Health Strides, Challenges

With the launch of this year's report, America's Health Rankings commemorates 25 years of comprehensive health reporting and advocacy for a healthier America. The special 25th anniversary America's Health Rankings report finds Americans have made meaningful strides in health since 1990, particularly as it relates to life expectancy:

At 78.8 years, Americans' average life expectancy is at a record high.

The past 25 years have seen considerable declines in: infant mortality, decreasing 41 percent cardiovascular death, decreasing 38 percent premature death, decreasing 20 percent U.S. cancer mortality rates have also shown a steady decline, dropping 8 percent between 1996 and 2014.

The decline in smoking rates stands out as a significant health improvement over the past 25 years. Since 1990, smoking rates have decreased 36 percent, from 29.5 percent to 19.0 percent of adults who smoke regularly. Cigarette smoking is still associated with one of every five deaths in the United States, making it the leading cause of preventable death in the country.

While Americans are living longer, the past 25 years have seen a steady rise in chronic conditions, many of them preventable, that compromise their quality of life.

Obesity – now a leading contributor to death in the United States – more than doubled over the last 25 years, from 11.6 percent of adults in 1990 to 29.4 percent of adults today. One possible explanation for the increase: levels of

physical inactivity remain high, with 23.5 percent of adults reporting no physical activity or exercise in the last 30 days.

Adults who say they have diabetes currently stands at 9.6 percent, more than double the number from 20 years ago when America's Health Rankings first started tracking diabetes.

"The challenge for the next 25 years is to achieve widespread, uniform success in fighting the chronic conditions that threaten Americans' quality of life and adversely affect our nation's health care system," said Rhonda Randall, D.O., senior adviser to United Health Foundation and chief medical officer and executive vice president, UnitedHealthcare Retiree Solutions. "Obesity, diabetes and physical inactivity rates are troublingly high. We must continue to promote positive health behaviors and help prevent the devastating consequences of chronic illnesses that are often left unchecked."

## Arrest and Inmate Count at the Cannon County Jail

Arrests from 12/12/14 - 12/18/14

### INMATE COUNT

The Cannon County Jail was built to house 42 inmates.

| Date  | Males | Females | Total |
|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 12/12 | 40    | 19      | 59    |
| 12/13 | 40    | 19      | 59    |
| 12/14 | 43    | 19      | 62    |
| 12/15 | 40    | 19      | 59    |
| 12/16 | 48    | 20      | 68    |
| 12/17 | 43    | 20      | 63    |
| 12/18 | 44    | 16      | 60    |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Driving on Suspended/Revoked License | 4 |
| DUI 2nd                              | 1 |
| Leaving Scene of Property            | 1 |
| Damage Accident                      | 1 |
| Vandalism \$5,000 to \$10,000        | 1 |
| Vandalism over \$10,000              | 1 |
| Worthless Checks                     | 2 |
| Violation of Probation               | 4 |
| Violation of Protection Order        | 1 |
| Sealed Indictment                    | 1 |
| Capias                               | 1 |
| Assault                              | 1 |
| Indecent Exposure                    | 1 |
| Simple Possession/Casual Exchange    | 1 |
| Simple Possession Schedule II Drugs  | 1 |
| Underage Consumption of Alcohol      | 1 |

## Worthless Checks



Steven Kyle Medley



Janie Lynn Kaufmann



# PUBLIC NOTICES



## NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust Note dated June 10, 2013, and the Deed of Trust of even date securing the same, recorded June 17, 2013, in Book No. 146, at Page 929, in Office of the Register of Deeds for Cannon County, Tennessee, executed by **BONNIE A. PEELER AND JAMES W. PEELER**, conveying certain property therein described to Kerry Webb as Trustee for Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. as nominee for Acopia, LLC, its successors and assigns; and the undersigned, Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., having been appointed Successor Trustee by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A..

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable; and that an agent of Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., as Successor Trustee, by virtue of the power, duty, and authority vested in and imposed upon said Successor Trustee, by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., will, on **January 16, 2015 on or**

**about 3:45 PM, at the Cannon County Courthouse, Woodbury, Tennessee,** offer for sale certain property hereinafter described to the highest bidder FOR certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale, or credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the successor trustee. The sale is free from all exemptions, which are expressly waived in the Deed of Trust, said property being real estate situated in Cannon County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of land located in Cannon County, Tennessee, described as follows to-wit:

Situated and lying on the East side of Sycamore Road about 7 miles North of Woodbury and bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the East side of Sycamore Road and the North side of the road leading down the hollow to the Joel C. Smith farm, and running about North with said Hollow Road 625 feet to a sharp left turn; thence continuing with the road 225 feet to a corner post around the far corner of the next turn in the road; thence about West up the hill about 225 feet to a pile of rocks on the East

side of Sycamore Road where a corner post is to be erected; thence South with the East side of said Road 600 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately four (4) acres, more or less.

**ALSO KNOWN AS: 850 Sycamore Creek Road, Woodbury, TN 37190**

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following parties may claim an interest in the above-referenced property: **PEELER, BONNIE A. PEELER, JAMES W.**

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the Successor Trustee's option at any time. The right is reserved to adjourn the day of the sale to another day, time, and place certain without further publication, upon announcement at the time and place for the sale set forth above. W&A No.

300649  
DATED December 15, 2014  
**WILSON & ASSOCIATES, P.L.L.C.,**  
Successor Trustee  
1732367646  
FOR SALE  
INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.MYFIR.COM](http://WWW.MYFIR.COM) and [WWW.REALTYTRAC.COM](http://WWW.REALTYTRAC.COM)  
3t-Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of **LYNDEL DWIGHT SISSOM**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of December, 2014, letters of administration of letters testamentary in respect of the estate of Lyndel Dwight Sissom, deceased were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Cannon County, Tennessee. All persons both resident and non-residents, having claims matured and unmatured against said estate are required to file same with the clerk of the above named court within four months of the first publication of this notice, otherwise therein claims will be forever barred.

This 15th day of December 2014.

Shelia Deneen Stotts  
Executrix of the estate of

Lyndel Dwight Sissom,  
*deceased*  
William H. Bryson,  
Clerk & Master  
Johnathon C. Hershman,  
Attorney  
2t-Dec. 24, 31-P

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of **TEDDY LAFAYETTE POWERS**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of December, 2014, letters of administration or letters testamentary in respect of the estate of Teddy LaFayette Powers, deceased were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Cannon County, Tennessee. All persons both resident and non-residents, having claims matured and unmatured against said estate are required to file same with the clerk of the above named court within four months of the first publication of this notice, otherwise therein claims will be forever barred.

This 15th day of December 2014.

Steven Powers  
Administrator of the estate of  
Teddy LaFayette Powers,  
*deceased*  
William H. Bryson,

Clerk & Master  
Susan Melton, Attorney  
2t-Dec. 24, 31-P

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of **HELEN WEST ALEXANDER**

Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of December, 2014, letters of administration or letters testamentary in respect of the estate of Helen West Alexander, deceased were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Cannon County, Tennessee. All persons both resident and non-residents, having claims matured and unmatured against said estate are required to file same with the clerk of the above named court within four months of the first publication of this notice, otherwise therein claims will be forever barred.

This 15th day of December 2014.

Carroll Van West and  
Bryan West  
Co-Administrators, C.T.A.  
of the estate of  
Helen West Alexander,  
*deceased*

William H. Bryson, Clerk  
& Master  
Susan Melton, Attorney  
2t-Dec. 24, 31-P

## IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT WOODBURY

**CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AND TOWN OF WOODBURY, TENNESSEE Plaintiffs,** )

vs. )

**2012 DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS Defendants** )

**Case No. 14-50**

### PUBLICATION NOTICE

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 21-1-203 and T.C.A. § 21-1-203, service of process by publication having been designated for this Complaint for collection of ad valorem delinquent taxes against the following defendants:

**Ruth Arledge** Property Address: Haley Rd.  
District: 05, Map: 079, Control Map: 079  
Group:--, Parcel: 002.00, Special Interest: 000

**Christopher & Jessica Bates** Property Address: Big Hill Rd.  
District: 10, Map: 021, Control Map: 021  
Group:--, Parcel: 055.00, Special Interest: 000

**Don & Rilla Sue Bogle** Property Address: Mingle Rd.  
District: 14, Map: 018, Control Map: 018  
Group:--, Parcel: 007.00, Special Interest: 000

**Brandon & Brandy Croasmun** Property Address: 1078 Gassaway Main Street  
District: 10, Map: 015, Control Map: 015  
Group: -, Parcel: 003.00, Special Interest: 000

**Clifton Ford** Property Address: 383 Billy West Rd.  
District: 08, Map: 054, Control Map: 054  
Group: -, Parcel: 003.00, Special Interest: 000

**Paula Kay Hale** Property Address: 7811 Auburntown Rd.  
District: 11, Map: 012, Control Map: 012  
Group: -, Parcel: 012.00, Special Interest: 000

**Jamie Mullinax** Property Address: 246 Cooper Ave,  
District: 11, Map: 007, Control Map: 007  
Group: -, Parcel: 040.00, Special Interest: 000

**Spring 2 Life Addiction Recovery** Property Address: 3180 Hill Creek Rd.,  
District: 08, Map: 053, Control Map: 053  
Group: -, Parcel: 068.00, Special Interest: 000

**Robin Thomas** Property Address:4263 Sycamore Creek Rd.,  
District: 10, Map: 009, Control Map: 009  
Group: -, Parcel: 041.00, Special Interest: 000

**Lester & Mittie Alexander** Property Address: 103 N Clinch St.  
District: 06, Map: 039K, Control Map: 039K  
Group: A, Parcel 055.00, Special Interest: 000

**Kayla Arledge** Property Address: 7446 Jim Cummings Hwy.,  
District: 05, Map: 071, Control Map: 071  
Group:--, Parcel: 068.00, Special Interest: 000

**Xavier Rodriguez** Property Addresses: 203 E. Main St.  
District: 06 Map: 39K, Control Map: 39K  
Group: A, Parcel: 033.00, Special Interest: 000

Bryant Lane,  
District: 06 Map: 46, Control Map: 46  
Group:--, Parcel: 066.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 001.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 004.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 005.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 011.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 013.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 014.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane,  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 015.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane, Woodbury, TN 37190  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 017.00, Special Interest: 000

Hickory Ridge Lane, Woodbury, TN 37190  
District:06, Map: 46B, Control Map: 46B  
Group: B, Parcel: 007.00, Special Interest: 000

720 W. Main St. Woodbury, TN 37190  
District:06, Map: 039J, Control Map: 039J  
Group: A, Parcel: 001.00, Special Interest: 000

Off W Main Street, Woodbury, TN 37190  
District: 06, Map: 039J, Control Map: 039J  
Group: A, Parcel: 002.00, Special Interest: 000

**Bobby Mathis** Property Address: 728 Goodridge Dr.  
District: 09, Map: 041, Control Map: 041  
Group: -, Parcel: 036.00, Special Interest: 000

The Complaint in this cause was filed by CANNON COUNTY, TENNESSEE and the TOWN OF WOODBURY, TENNESSEE, through counsel, Thomas H. Bray, who can be contacted at 108 North Church Street, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 37130, (615) 962-7606. The Defendants named herein have 30 days from the date of the last publication of this notice to file an answer. If no answer is filed a default judgment may be granted. By order of the Court this notice shall be published in the Cannon Courier, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, once weekly for four consecutive weeks, beginning December 23, 2014.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
**WILLIAM H. BRYSON**  
Cannon County Clerk and Master

# CLASSIFIEDS

| Mobile Homes | Scrap Prices | Wrecker | Reopened | For Rent | For Sale |
|--------------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
|--------------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|

**WHY BUY YOUR HOME FROM DAVIS HOMES?** We have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau. We are locally owned and operated, been in business 26 years. We sell quality homes that have super warranties. We even warranty our used homes. We are friendly and courteous and will treat you with respect. Most of our business is word of mouth advertising which has to be earned and not bought, so come see what makes us special!!!

**Davis Homes, Inc., 2168 Smithville Hwy. McMinnville 1-888-311-5030 www.davishomesinc.net** TF-June 11-C

**Services**

**PATTERSON'S HANDYMAN SERVICE**  
Painting - Plumbing - Minor Electrical - Carpentry - Roofing - Vinyl Siding - Deck Building - Pressure Washing - and more. No job too small. Free estimates. **Home 563-5057 or cell 464-8177.** TF-Jan. 30-C

**ABUNDANCE ALL SERVICE**  
Remodels, Decks, New Construction, Electrical, Plumbing, Free Estimates. **JOSH STANSBURY Home (615) 563-1914 Cell (615) 416-9009** TF-May 1-C

**ATTENTION CONTRACTORS AND EXCAVATORS**  
Top soil and fill dirt delivered. No job too big. **Tim Cooper, shop (615) 273-2854 or cell (615) 464-3736.** TF

**FLEA MARKET**  
**Woodbury Flea Market** open every weekend. If you have too much stuff and not enough space, sell it at the Flea Market. Estate sales welcome. Great place to buy and sell. Rentals by the week or month. Call (615) 563-2159 for booth space or information. Open rain or shine.

**UPG United Propane Gas SALESMAN DRIVER INSTALLER**  
Quality Propane Gas in Lebanon has an opening for a local propane gas delivery salesman truck driver and tank installer. Must have CDL-HazMat Tanker, best job with excellent pay and benefits. Please call (615) 453-1081 or 1-800-874-4427 ext. 144 or email: [kwalker@upgas.com](mailto:kwalker@upgas.com)

**SMITH'S TRUCK SALVAGE** - Let us bid on your scrap vehicle. Extra driver on weekends. **615-563-4343.** TF-Nov. 13-C

**Lawncare**

**ROOTED AND GROUND LAWN CARE** - Locally owned and operated, insured. 17 years experience. Dependable, affordable, quality service for commercial and residential clients. We mow, weedeat, trim hedges, mulch, seed, prune, etc. Visa, MC, AmerExp accepted. **931-314-4167 or 615-318-6093.** TF-July 5-C

**Set Your Own Salary!**  
Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit and excellent customer skills? You can work for a leading propane gas company for over 50 years, with potential to earn up to \$30,000 the first year and build to \$50,000 or more.

**Route Manager - Lebanon, Tn.**  
You will operate and manage a route of customers making the sale and delivery of propane gas and tanks in an assigned territory.

**Training and Benefits**  
We offer paid required training, medical-dental, life insurance, 401(k), paid vacation, sick leave and personal days and more!

**Requirements**  
You must 25 years old with good driving and safety record with a CDL with Haz-Mat and Tanker endorsement.

**Contact**  
Please call (615)453-1081 or toll free 1-800-UPG-4-GAS ext 144 for more details or email us at [kwalker@upgas.com](mailto:kwalker@upgas.com).



**TIRED OF YOUR PROPANE SUPPLIER PRICE GOUGING YOU?**  
Are you tired of your propane supplier price gouging you almost \$3 a gallon for propane gas every time it gets cold? You don't have to take it or pay it, give us a call we can furnish you a new tank, free swapout and a much lower gas price.



**NO DELIVERY FEES**  
Quality Propane Gas  
209 Knoxville Ave.  
Lebanon, Tennessee  
453-1081 • toll free 888-453-1081

**HOME MAINTENANCE**  
Remodeling - Plumbing and Electrical, Carpentry, Painting, 32 years experience. Call **563-5424** and ask for Gary.

**NEED A STARTER OR ALTERNATOR?** We stock over 2200 starters and alternators. Full coverage for your industrial and agricultural equipment! Road and field starter service, **McMinnville 931-939-2727.** thru Jan 7-P

**SMITH'S WRECKER SERVICE**  
is running 24 hour wrecker service. Towing for 29 years  
**Day is 615-563-4343**  
**Night is 615-653-5643.** TF-Nov. 5-C

**Mobile Homes**

**WE TAKE TRADES:** Mobile homes, land, cars, boats, RV's, guns, ANYTHING OF VALUE. Call **Meadows Homes, McMinnville, at 931-668-7300.**

**NINE FOOT CEILINGS!** All new TENNESSEAN 3 br, 2 ba stand alone SOAKER TUB, ISLAND kitchen, GRAND entrance! All for \$65,900 MUCH MORE!  
**Meadows Homes, McMinnville, at 931-668-7300.**

**"Where Great Deals Happen Everyday!"** Tennessee's largest Independent Retailer BRAND NEW finished sheetrock DOUBLEWIDES starting as low as \$39,900!  
**Meadows Meadows Homes, McMinnville 931-668-7300, www.meadowshomes.com.**

**NEW!** - Vinyl siding, shingle roof \$23,900! Dealers and park owners welcome!  
**Meadows Homes, McMinnville, 931-668-7300, www.meadowshomes.com**

**3 br-4 br-5 br** - Come see "The Big House" over 2,200 sq. ft. 20x30 GREAT ROOM, 8 foot ceilings, GREAT DEAL! \$69,900. **Meadows Homes of McMinnville, 931-668-7300, www.meadowshomes.com**

**3 or 4 br!** Finished sheetrock, brand NEW! Many, many extras! GREAT DEAL at \$49,900. **Meadows Homes, McMinnville 931-668-7300, www.meadowshomes.com**

**WE NEED SALESPEOPLE!** Due to our demand in business we need experienced salespeople. Salary PLUS commission to start. Benefits. Apply in person at **Meadows Homes, McMinnville 931-668-7300 www.meadowshomes.com.**

**REOPENING - L&S Sales has reopened at 5701 McMinnville Highway.** Good used appliances, large selection of collectables, glassware & more. 5 miles E of Woodbury on Hwy. 70. Call **615-684-0000.** 6t-thru Jan. 14-P

**Drivers**

**DRIVERS** - New dedicated route openings! Top pay, weekly home-time! Over 50 years strong, stable. Werner Enterprises: **1-855-515-8447.** 4t-Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, 14-P

**DRIVERS** - New dedicated Lane! CDL-A 1 yr Exp. Paid Orientation including Travel/Meals! Excellent pay and benefits! Bonus programs! No slip seating! 24 hour live dispatch! **855-488-6759.** 2t-Dec. 24, 31-P

**FOR RENT** - Brick home in Auburntown, 2 BR, 1 bath, living room, kitchen, laundry room, carport, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, all curtains furnished, no pets, Veterans welcome, limited to 2 adults \$650.00. **615-464-2441** 1t-Dec. 24-P

**Want to Buy**

**WANT TO BUY USED MOBILE HOMES** - Call **931-668-2031.** TF-Aug. 1-C

**Tree Service**

**GOFF'S TREE SERVICE** - Complete tree service, free estimates. We remove trees and climb those impossible ones. Licensed and insured. **615-943-TREE (8733).** TF-July 23-C

**FOR SALE** - Bedroom suite including full size bed, dresser and mirror, chest of drawers and night stand. Call **615-904-4051** if interested. 1t-Dec. 24-P

**FOR SALE** - 2001 16x60 mobile home for sale, to be moved. It is currently located in the Woodland community. Bought new. New water heater. \$7,500.00 OBO. Please call **615-668-2655.** 6t-thru Jan. 14-C

**USED APPLIANCES AND A/C UNITS FOR SALE** - Please call **615-427-3193.** TF-Nov. 7-C

**Looking to rent**

**LOOKING FOR A HOUSE TO RENT** - We are a young Christian couple about to get married. Call **615-542-1815.** Serious calls only. Anywhere in Cannon County would be great. 4t-Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24-P

## Christmas Coal Popcorn is a tasty treat

Naughty or nice, this easy Christmas popcorn recipe will have everyone on their best behavior just to get a taste! Serve at Christmas parties or place in goody bags to give lumps of coal that anyone on your gift list will love to receive!

**Ingredients**  
2 Bags Microwave Popcorn, Popped  
1 (6 oz.) Box Candy Canes, Crushed

1 Pack Oreo® Cookies, Crushed  
1 1/2 pack Almond Bark  
1 1/2 tsp. Peppermint Extract or a Few Drops of Peppermint Oil  
Tag Printable

**Instructions**  
Melt the white chocolate almond bark according to the directions on the package. Add the peppermint extract or oil to

the almond bark and pour over popcorn.  
Pour the popcorn in a very large bowl. Mix in crushed candy canes, Oreo® cookies and half of the melted almond bark over the popcorn and stir. Repeat using the remaining almond bark.  
Pour popcorn on waxed paper and allow to harden. Once the popcorn has hardened, break into pieces and enjoy!



Merry Christmas

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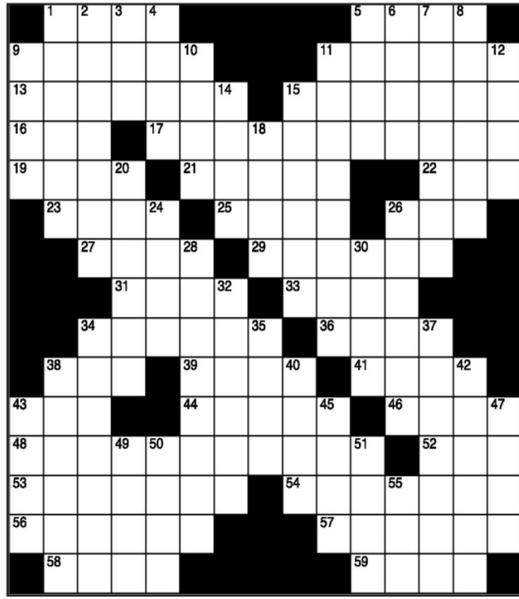
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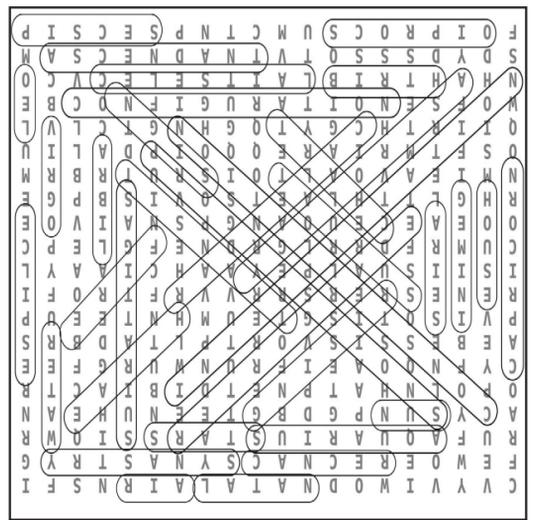
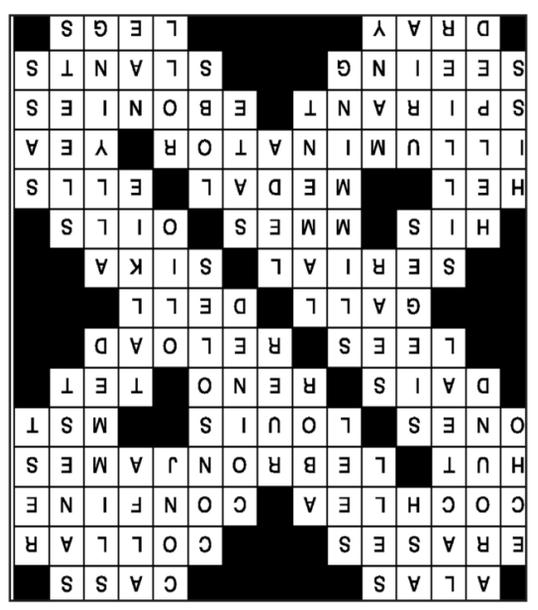
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# TEASERS & TRIVIA



## This week puzzle answers

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 |



## Guess Who?

What is the other name for Wildebeest?

UNG

## Guess Who?

Which playwright wrote The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, and The Cherry Orchard?

Anton Chekov

## Guess Who?

Which Bond villain has been played by Telly Svalas, Donald Pleasance, Charles Gray, and Max Von Sydow?

Blofeld (Ernest Stavro)

## Guess Who?

Which is the smallest member of the flute family?

Piccolo

## Guess Who?

What is Canada's national animal?

Beaver

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Mama \_\_\_, rock singer
- 9. Takes off
- 11. Make an arrest
- 13. Ear tube
- 15. Limit
- 16. Small shelter
- 17. Cavaliers' #23
- 19. Digits
- 21. French kings' name
- 22. Winter time in Colorado
- 23. Platform
- 25. Gambling town
- 26. Vietnamese offensive
- 27. Fermentation sediment
- 29. Load anew
- 31. Bile
- 33. A wooded valley
- 34. Soap opera
- 36. Cervus nippon
- 38. Belong to he
- 39. Women (French)
- 41. Olive, motor and mineral
- 43. Norse goddess of death
- 44. Military award
- 46. Annexes
- 48. One who adorns book pages
- 52. Affirmative
- 53. Fricative
- 54. Coal blacks
- 56. Faculty of sight
- 57. Leans
- 58. Low, sideless cart
- 59. Locomotion limbs

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Close to
- 2. Lactic
- 3. Burn residue
- 4. Offer for sale
- 5. Verb formation (abbr.)
- 6. \_\_\_ Romeo
- 7. Lost weight
- 8. Soundest mind
- 9. Sound repetition
- 10. Sew up the eyelids of falcons
- 11. Allays sorrow
- 12. Repose
- 14. Mirish
- 15. Devised a new phrase
- 18. One who feels regret
- 20. War encirclements
- 24. Burn the surface
- 26. "The Jazz Singer"
- 28. Process of achieving #7 down
- 30. Miscellaneous collection
- 32. Express sorrow
- 34. More foolish
- 35. Queen of Sparta
- 37. Associating by treaty
- 38. Served
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Frozen rains
- 43. Snake sound
- 45. High arc tennis shots
- 47. Cheek
- 49. Murre genus
- 50. Multiple
- 51. List of names called
- 55. No (Scot.)

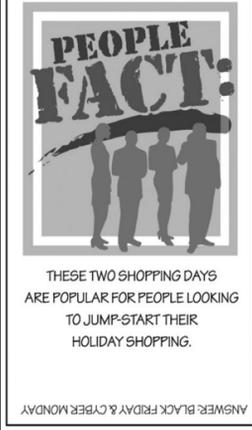
|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 1 |   |   | 2 |  |   | 3 |
| 3 |   |   | 4 |  |   | 5 |
|   | 5 | 6 | 7 |  |   | 4 |
|   | 4 |   |   |  | 7 | 3 |
|   | 8 |   |   |  |   | 9 |
| 9 |   | 5 |   |  |   | 6 |
|   | 9 |   | 5 |  | 8 | 1 |
| 2 |   |   | 1 |  |   | 4 |
|   | 1 |   | 3 |  |   | 7 |

## ASTROLOGY WORD SEARCH

C V Y V I W O D N A T A L A I R N S F I G  
 F E W O E R E C N A C S Y N A S T R Y G  
 R U F A Q U A R I U S T A R S S I Q W R  
 A C Y S U N P G D B G T E E N U H E A N  
 O P O L N H A T P N E T D I B I A C T R E  
 C Y F N Q O A E I F R U N W U R G F B E E  
 A E B E S S I S V O R T P L T A D E B R E S  
 P V I S Q T I S G T E U M H N T E E U P  
 R E N E S R E R S R R V V R F T R O F I  
 I S I I S U A L P E Y A A H C I A A Y L  
 C U M R F D R R L G R D N E F G L E P C E  
 O H E A E C E U O A N G P S N A I V O E E  
 R H G L T T H L A E T S O V I S B P G E E  
 N M I E A V O A L T O I S R U T R B B R M  
 O S F T M R I A R E Q Q O I P D A L I U L  
 Q I I R T H C G Y T Q G H N G T C L V L L  
 W O F S E N O I T A R U G I F N O C B E  
 N H A H T R I B L A I T S E L E C V C O  
 S D Y D S S S Q T V T N A D N E C S A M  
 F O I P R O C S U M C T N P S E C S I P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

- AIR - AQUARIUS - ARIES - ASCENDANT - ASTROLOGY - BIRTH -  
 CALENDAR - CANCER - CAPRICORN - CELESTIAL - CHART -  
 CONFIGURATION - CONSTELLATION - EARTH - ECLIPSE - FIRE -  
 GEMINI - HOUSE - INTERPRET - LEO - LIBRA - NATAL - PISCES -  
 PROGRESSIONS - RETROGRADE - RISING - SAGITTARIUS -  
 SCORPIO - SIGN - STARS - SUN - SYNASTRY - TAURUS - TRANSIT  
 - VIRGO - WATER



### What's the Difference?

There are five things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. Woman's hair is orange 2. Man has a goatee 3. Wrapping paper missing gold design 4. Girl has bow 5. Stocking has name



**HISTORY**

- 1814: THE WAR OF 1812 BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BRITAIN ENDS.
- 1818: THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF "SILENT NIGHT" TAKES PLACE IN AUSTRIA.
- 1871: THE OPERA "AIDA" PREMIERES IN CAIRO, EGYPT.



How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Buy  
**SPANISH:** Comprar  
**ITALIAN:** Comprare  
**FRENCH:** Acheter  
**GERMAN:** Kauf

Did you know?

THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SPENDS ROUGHLY \$1,000 ON HOLIDAY GIFTS, DECORATIONS, FOOD, CARDS, AND POSTAGE.



# SPORTS

## Lions winning streak ends at York

**JUSTIN BEASLEY**  
**Courier Sports Writer**  
 MANCHESTER

Cannon County's five-game win streak came to an end Tuesday at York Institute as the Lions lost hold of their fourth quarter lead, falling 70-67 in overtime.

Up eight heading into the fourth period, the Lions surrendered 19 points while only scoring 11 to force overtime.

The Dragons took advantage of the momentum, outscoring the Lions 10-7 and giving Cannon County its first district 8-AA loss.

The Lions (8-3, 3-1) had previously won four consecutive games over the Dragons.

The Lions shot 61 percent (21 of 34) from the charity stripe.

Josh Ruelhien led the Lions with 16 points followed by Jacob Nave with 14. Marshall McReynolds added 13.

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b>  | <b>20 19 11 67</b>    |
| <b>York Institute</b> | <b>17 13 11 19 70</b> |

Cannon County: Josh Ruelhien 16, Austin Martin 9, Jacob Nave 14, Marshall McReynolds 13, Garret McReynolds 9, Briar Jakes 3, A.J. Daniel 6.

York Institute: Seth Baldwin 16, Pacey Pyle 13, Colton Blevins 21, Blake Asberry 1, Damon Johnson 5, Jordon Wright 4, Garreth Moody 10.

### CC wins game one of Rhea Co. Classic

MANCHESTER – Despite only scoring two points in the opening frame, the Lions got off to a good start in the Rhea County Classic with a 53-49 win at Soddy Daisy on Thursday night.

Of the 14 shots taken in the first quarter, the Lions



Josh Ruelhien and Jacob Nave earned All-tournament at the Rhea County Classic Tournament.

RONNY BURKS photo

made zero. In the same span, Cannon County turned the basketball over seven times. The lone points came off the bench at the free-throw line from Austin Brock.

The Lions (9-3, 3-1) did their best to make up for it in the second period, scoring 18 points and trimming the lead down to seven at the break.

And then Cannon County started playing some defense of its own, forcing the Trojans to just 2-of-15 shooting, resulting in only seven points allowed in the third.

Cannon County shot 2-of-23 from 3-point range.

The Lions would capitalize on their third quarter momentum in the final period, outscoring the Trojans 20-15, and giving Cannon County the final 53-49 edge.

Marshall McReynolds and Jacob Nave led the Lions with 14 points each. Austin Martin finished with 10 points.

### Cannon County

|                       |
|-----------------------|
| <b>02 18 11 20 53</b> |
| <b>Soddy Daisy</b>    |
| <b>14 13 07 15 49</b> |

Cannon County: Josh Ruelhien 4, Austin Brock 2, Austin Martin 10, Jacob Nave 14, Marshall McReynolds 14, Garret McReynolds 5, A.J. Daniel 4.

Soddy Daisy: Dillon Treadway 1, Gavin Rogers 12, Tre Carter 9, Andy Wright 7, Marshae Jeffries 6, Bradley Whymer 7, Jacob Floyd 7.

### CC wins another close game, 61-58

MANCHESTER –

Trailing in the fourth quarter, Cookeville made Cannon County earn their points from the free line in order to maintain a slim lead.

The Lions went on to make 9-of-10 from the charity stripe in the fourth quarter, giving Cannon County the 61-58 win over Cookeville at Rhea County Friday night.

Aside from knocking

down only one 3-pointer the entire contest, the Lions shot 66 percent (24 of 36) inside the arc.

Jacob Nave scored 16 points on 8-of-12 shooting. Josh Ruelhien and Austin Martin added 15 and 11 respectively.

The Lions (10-3, 3-1), down 35-30, trailed at halftime for the second straight game in as many days.

But Cannon County would outscore the Cavaliers in both the third and fourth quarters to give the Lions a decisive 61-58 victory.

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b> | <b>15 15 14 17 61</b> |
| <b>Cookeville</b>    | <b>14 21 12 11 58</b> |

Cannon County: Josh Ruelhien 15, Austin Martin 11, Jacob Nave 16, Marshall McReynolds 2, Garret McReynolds 7, A.J. Daniel 8, Anton Knox 2.

Cookeville: Jadon Richmond 6, Will Buford 20, Jacob Wilberscheid 4, Solon Carver 6, Bryric Savage 13, Trey Bundrant 9. Hamilton Heights take down Lions 69-52

### Despite loss, Rigsby "proud" with performance

MANCHESTER – Head coach Matt Rigsby is well aware that no team in district 8-AA has the same height or athleticism that Hamilton Heights Christian Academy's international players displayed on Saturday.

His players though, didn't seem to care as the Lions gave the Hawks every bit of effort they had, eventually falling 69-52 in Rhea County.

Hamilton Heights star Abdul Ado, a 6'9, 220-pound center ranked No. 23 on the ESPN 60 junior rankings, was held to seven points on the game.

"Our guys fought,

battled, and competed so much in that game," Rigsby said proudly.

In fact, Rigsby was so pleased with his team's competitiveness that he posted the following via his Facebook: "I could not be more honored to say I Coach a group of 15 young men... due to the simple fact they battled as a group the entire way."

Trailing 29-18 at the break, Cannon County (10-4, 3-1) would cut the lead to within two points with three minutes left in the third stanza.

Josh Ruelhien scored 15 points to lead the Lions and Jacob Nave added 13.

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b>    | <b>09 09 21 13 52</b> |
| <b>Hamilton Heights</b> | <b>10 19 17 23 69</b> |

Cannon County: Briar Jakes 3, Josh Ruelhien 15, Austin Martin 7, Jacob Nave 13, Marshall McReynolds 8, Garret McReynolds 6.

Hamilton Heights: Zhimaal Laing 5, Joan Duran 13, Abdul Ado 7, Ezekiel Balagun 10, Strahinja Micakovic 17, Lanre Olatunji 1, Silas Adheke 5, C.J. Massengill 11.

### Lions finish 3rd in Rhea Co. Classic

MANCHESTER – Cannon County was playing its fifth game in as many days and its second game of a double header Saturday.

Head coach Matt Rigsby worried his team's gas tank was empty.

He found out quickly that it wasn't.

Cannon County scored 41 points in the opening half, a tournament-high for the Lions, and finished in third place at the Rhea Co. Classic after its 72-52 win over Rhea County in Evensville on Saturday.

Josh Ruelhien led all scorers with 29 points, a tournament-high for the Lions. He was named to the All-Tournament team with teammate Jacob Nave who poured in 17.

Ruelhien and Nave averaged 15.7 and 15.0 points per game respectively during the tournament.

The Lions trailed 24-18 after the first quarter, but Rigsby says the sluggish period wasn't going to show itself again in the first half.

"We didn't let being tired and losing our legs be an excuse for us," Rigsby said. "(The) beauty of our bunch is they don't lose energy" and their "will to win."

Consequently, the Lions (11-4, 3-1) held Rhea County to only two points in the second period from a lone Gavin Downey basket.

"(We) finally got that mental focus back and adhered to the adjustment we were suppose to be making," Rigsby said.

Overall, the Lions shot 53 percent (25 of 47) from the floor and made 13-of-16 free throws.

Garrett McReynolds missed the classic finale due to flu-like symptoms.

Up Next: The Lions travel to Panama City, Fla. for the Marlin Classic Dec. 26-30.

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b> | <b>18 23 13 18 72</b> |
| <b>Rhea County</b>   | <b>24 02 12 14 52</b> |

Cannon County: Briar Jakes 5, A.J. Daniel 2, Josh Ruelhien 29, Austin Brock 4, Austin Martin 6, Jacob Nave 17, Marshall McReynolds 7, Tyler King 2.

Rhea County: Noel Patterson 5, David Coden 2, Preston Pugh 7, Logan Hunter 19, Gavin Downey 8, Lee Hill 11.

## Lionettes win at York Institute

### Davis scores 22, 3 in double figures

**JUSTIN BEASLEY**  
**Courier Sports Writer**  
 ANCHESTER

Behind Kelli Davis' 22 points, Cannon County defeated York Institute on the road 62-52 on Tuesday.

Two other Lionettes scored in double figures as Kendra Maynard accounted for 13 points and Kristen Hale added 10.

After a low scoring first half in which both teams were tied at 20, the Lionettes outscored the Dragons 18-11 to give to Cannon County a 38-31 lead.

The Lionettes (9-2, 2-2) added to the lead after a 24-point fourth quarter in which both Maynard and Davis combined for 16.

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b>  | <b>15 05 18 24 62</b> |
| <b>York Institute</b> | <b>14 06 11 21 52</b> |

Cannon County: Kendra Maynard 13, Erin McReynolds 5, Kristen Hale 10, Autumn King 7, Kelli Davis 22, Haylee Mooneyham 3, Maleah Scott 2.

York Institute: Camille King 3, Emily Sewell 5, Taylor Crouch 3, Maddie Sandman 25, Suellen Cope 12, Madison Clark 4.

### Balanced Lionette attack powers past Ooltewah CC gets its 10th win

MANCHESTER – Cannon County's balanced



Kelli Davis scored 22 to lead Cannon County's victory over York Institute.

RONNY BURKS photo

scoring attack was the difference maker Thursday night in Soddy Daisy as Ooltewah fell to the Lions 62-44.

The Lionettes (10-2, 2-2) built an early lead after the first stanza with a 14-7 lead.

The Lionettes were led by Autumn King's 16 points. Kelli Davis accounted for 15 points.

Davis finished 2-of-4 from the 3-point line.

At one point, Cannon County led by as much as 24 with a 55-31 lead going

into the final quarter.

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b> | <b>14 21 20 07 62</b> |
| <b>Ooltewah</b>      | <b>07 16 08 13 44</b> |

Cannon County: Kendra Maynard 7, Erin McReynolds 6, Kristen Hale 9, Autumn King 16, Kelli Davis 15, Haylee Mooneyham 3, Samantha Gaither 4.

Ooltewah: Gracey Hall 2, Courtney Swafford 8, Kyra Reed 3, Tomiyah Baker 10,



Autumn King puts in two as the Lionettes defeated Red Bank 74 to 40.

RONNY BURKS photo

Bailey Kennedy 2, India Corley 10, Reghan Jones 2, Hannah Henderson 3, Kyla Jones 4.

### Wilson Central hands CC first tournament loss Strong 2nd half propels WC past Lionettes

MANCHESTER – A strong second half from Wilson Central was too much for Cannon County Friday as the Lionettes lost 57-40 in Evansville.

Kendall Spray led all scorers with 25 points, hitting 6-of-12 from beyond the arc.

Kelli Davis led the Lionettes (10-3, 2-2) with 18

points and Kendra Maynard added 10. Cannon County had no points scored off the bench.

With a slim 22-20 lead entering the second half, Wilson Central outscored Cannon County 21-13 in the third.

The Wildcats went on to add 14 in the fourth for the 57-40 win.

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b>  | <b>11 09 13 07 40</b> |
| <b>Wilson Central</b> | <b>09 13 21 14 57</b> |

Cannon County: Kendra Maynard 10, Erin McReynolds 5, Kristen Hale 3, Autumn King 4,

Kelli Davis 18.

Wilson Central: Addison Byrd 18, Piper Elrod 2, Kendall Spray 25, Nathalie Ventura 2, Kathryn Bean 5, Kayla Jackson 5.

### CC ends the Rhea Co. Classic with a W Lionettes score 31 in first quarter

MANCHESTER – The Lionettes scored 31 points in the opening quarter to give Cannon County an easy 74-40 win over Red Bank in Rhea County Saturday.

Kelli Davis, who finished with a team-high 24 points, scored 10 points in the first quarter. She made 8-of-14 shots on the game and added in seven three throws.

Kendra Maynard finished with 12 and Kristen Hale added 11 points.

After a 19-7 run in the third quarter, Cannon County's lead was 69-31.

Up Next: The Lionettes travel to Panama City, Fla. for the Marlin Classic Dec. 26-30.

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Cannon County</b> | <b>31 19 19 05 74</b> |
| <b>Red Bank</b>      | <b>06 18 07 09 40</b> |

Cannon County: Kendra Maynard 12, Erin McReynolds 6, Kristen Hale 11, Autumn King 9, Kelli Davis 24, Emily Sissom 3, Haylee Mooneyham 2, Maleah Scott 4, Lindsey Bowman 3.

Red Bank: Jasmine Simpson 22, Kiki Evers 7, Haley Claiborne 4, Layla Babb 5, Ashley Brown 2.

# CHRISTMAS WREATHS ON THE SQUARE



*We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

**Huff & Puff**  
Trucking, Inc.

# Merry Christmas

*May we always hold tight to the true meaning of the season.*

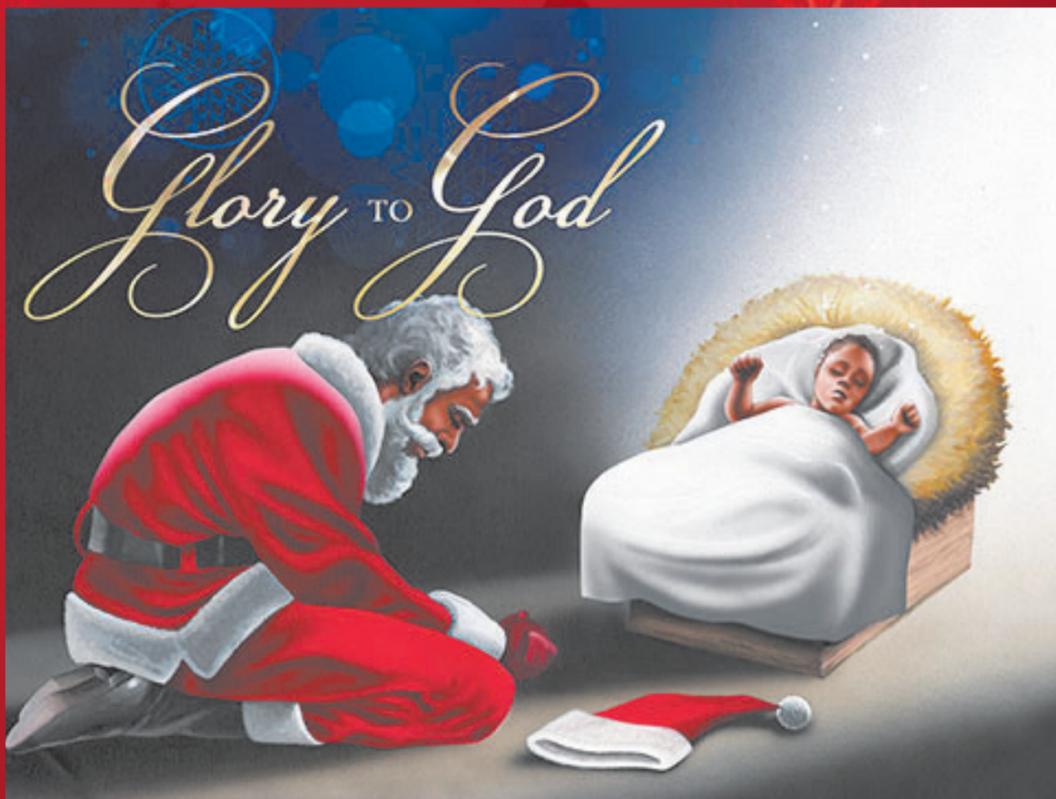
*Just remember, the great gifts of this season, or any season, can't be put under the tree; you can't wear them or eat them or drive them or play with them.*

*We spend so much time on the lesser gifts--toys, sweaters, jewelry, the new car, electronics--and so little on the great gifts--understanding, grace, peace, forgiveness and salvation.*

*It's no wonder that the holiday leaves us empty, because when it's over, the only reminders we have are the tall mountains of used gift wrapping paper and the January bills.*

*We should forget about everything being perfect from our decorations and the food and really concentrate on the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the sacrifices that Mary and Joseph made and the humbleness that baby Jesus was born into.*

*Then we will truly experience Christmas.*



From our family to yours...

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# Dear Santa Claus,

Mrs. Melisha's Kindergarten Woodland Elementary School

Dear Santa,  
I Love You! I really want a bicycle for Christmas. I would like a red and white candy cane too. HO HO HO!!!  
**Chloe Adcock**

Santa,  
I want an iPod for Christmas. I also want a trampoline and a Fat Head picture on the wall. Gunner and I will leave you milk and cookies!  
**Tuff Alford**

Dear Santa,  
I want a pony for Christmas! I want a Barbie doll. I have been a good girl all year!  
**Izabella Allmon**

Dear Santa,  
I want a trampoline for Christmas. I also want a

bike. Please bring my baby brother named Ethan a toy.  
**Brooklyn Bevelacqua**

Dear Santa,  
I would like the doll Anna from Frozen for Christmas! I have been a good girl all year long.  
**Abbie Cook**

Santa,  
I have been a good boy all year. I want you to bring me and my brother toys for Christmas this year. We will leave you milk and cookies!  
**Xander Cornelison**

Dear Santa,  
I want a bicycle and an army set for Christmas this year. I have been a good boy this year!  
**Colton Gater**

Santa,  
I want a Clone Wars Lego Set for Christmas this year.  
**Edward Heath**

Dear Santa,  
I want the Thomas Avalanche Escape Set for Christmas. My baby girl named Kara wants a baby doll. I know that is what she wants. We have been good all year!  
**Weston Lovett**

Dear Santa,  
This year, I don't know what I want. Please bring me whatever you think I need. I will leave you cookies!  
**Ava Martin**

Santa,  
I want a drum set this year. I also need a new guitar because brother stepped on my other one and broke. It was an accident!  
**Jacob Miller**

Dear Santa,  
I want a flying car this year. I also want a drum set for Christmas. That's all.  
**David Mooney**

Dear Santa,  
This year, I want a four-wheeler for Christmas. I have tried to be good all year. We will leave you milk and cookies!  
**Brandyn Murphy**

Dear Santa,  
I want a horse and a pony for Christmas. I want toy ones so I can keep them in my room! I have been a good girl all year. We will leave you cookies and milk!  
**Marlee Owen**

Dear Santa,  
I love you! I have been a very good girl all year. I want a My Twin Doll this year. Please!  
**Aubrey Phillips**

Dear Santa,  
I wish I could have an Anna Barbie for Christmas. I wish I had a mermaid tail too! I also want Anna sunglasses. Cassandra and I have been good all year!

**Katelynn Smyth**  
Dear Santa,  
I want a guitar this year. I am going to leave you cookies and milk on Christmas Eve!  
**Rylee Tucker**

Santa,  
I want a tablet for Christmas this year.  
**Audrey Williams**

Mrs. MaryBeth Young's Kindergarten  
Dear Santa,  
I want you to bring me some toys and presents for Christmas.  
**Love, Sara Austin**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I haven't even had to get a switch this year. I want a bicycle and a new horse with a saddle for Christmas. I also want a toy gun.  
**Love, Waylon Crawford**

Dear Santa,  
I have been a lot good this year. I want a guitar for Christmas. I can sing with it if you get it for me.  
**Love, Haley Frame**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year so there's a lot on my list this year. I want a trampoline with a slide that goes to another trampoline. I want a scary toy dog. It won't be scary for me though. I want a robot and a zombie suit. I want that dog from TV that uses the bathroom when you feed it.  
**Love, Nathan Frazier**

Dear Santa,  
I have been super, super good this year. I want an Elsa toy from Frozen. I need something to draw on with crayons or markers. I really need some paint too.  
**Love, Amber Heisey**

Dear Santa,  
I want an electric guitar for Christmas, but you don't have to bring speakers. I don't want it to

be too loud so my Mom and Dad can still watch TV. I have been good this year. Can you bring my baby sister a car with buttons?  
**Love, James McGee**

Dear Santa,  
I want little animals for the Littlest Pet Shop. They have the LPS logo on the back of their head. I also want a Doc mobile and a Zoomer Zuppie from Spinmaster. I know my name is on the nice list this year.  
**Love, Emily Parker**

Dear Santa,  
I want lots of Monster High stuff for Christmas this year. I will leave some cookies and milk out for you!  
**Love, Talmon Scott**

Dear Santa,  
I want a Frozen guitar for Christmas. I want a Paw Patrol playset and an American Girl doll horse and tent. I've been on the good list all year.  
**Love, Baylee Sissom**

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy boat that will swim in my bathtub upstairs. I also want a frog that will jump in my bathtub too! I want a picture of Jesus and the angels. I want a picture of my big brother, Tyler.  
**Love, Conner Smith**

Dear Santa,  
I want a new bike, some

toys and a tablet for Christmas. I want a DS and that's all. I have been pretty good this year.  
**Love, Lane Southworth**

Dear Santa,  
I want a four wheeler and a dirt bike for Christmas. I want some cowboy boots.  
**Love, Kail Spray**

Dear Santa,  
I want a transformer toy and a video game for Christmas. I want a new toy car and a fish tank. I'm going to leave you some cookies in my kitchen.  
**Love, Alexander Lyle**

Dear Santa,  
I want a backpack and a light bright for Christmas. I also want a play tunnel and singing animals. I would love new socks and hair bows this year!  
**Love, Abigail Moore**

Dear Santa,  
I want a race car for Christmas this year. I have been good all year.  
**Love, Braydon Scott**

Dear Santa,  
I want lots of Frozen toys this year. I really love Elsa and Anna. I have been a very good girl this year.  
**Love, Braeleigh**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good all year long. I want anything Ninja Turtle for Christmas this year.  
**Love, Alex Williamson**

**Sweet Tidings to you!**



*It's been a real treat for us to serve people like you!*

**Tri-Star Title Co., LLC**  
213 West Main Street



**Thanks... For The Gift of Your Friendship!**



*Of all the gifts one can give or receive, friendship is the most precious of all! With heartfelt gratitude for the gift of yours, and warmest wishes from both of us for a very, merry season.*

**Jean Anne & Judge Mark Rogers**



**We know you've been good...especially to us!**

May all your hopes and dreams come true this holiday season and beyond. For helping to make our dreams come true, we're deeply indebted to each one of you!

*Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you!*

**PARSLEY'S MARKET & DELI**  
809 Bradyville Road at John Bragg Highway

# Letters to Santa Claus

## Woodbury Grammar and Auburn Schools

*Children's letters are typed exactly as they are written.*

### WOODBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dear Santa  
This Christmas as i am 7 this old this year i have been nise my christsms  
A rumot cunchrol hellucopter  
A romot cunchrol plan  
A 3ds  
Merry christsms Santa ill be waiting for you on Christmas eve with cookes and milk!  
**Luve Jaden**

Dear Santa,  
I would like a bike for Christmas. This Christmas, I am 6 years old.  
**Love, Taylor**

Der Santa,  
This chRistmas, I am 6 old this years. I have been nice. My Christmas wshes are  
Woch and  
Bus and  
Pockkemon crs  
MeRRY chRistmas, Santa!  
I be waiting foR you on chRistmas Eve wth cookes 8 mlk!  
**Love, Logan**

Dear Santa  
This Christmas I am 6. this year I hav been good. My christma wishis are  
Modrsickl  
A moikichra  
Stuff anamo  
Merry Christmas. I'll be wading for you on Christmas eve with cookies in milk.  
**Love CAYDeN**

Dear SantA  
This ChRistmas I am 6 years. I have been nice. I want 0+9, T+f+m, B+b. MeRRY ChRistmas All. Waiting foR you on

ChRistmas E with Cookies and milk.  
**Love Kayley**

Dear Santa  
This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice. my Christas wishes are a markin doll and an markin close and a forwilr. Merry Christmas, Santa. i'll be whating for you with cookies and milk.  
**Love Amber Hunt**

DeaR Santa  
This ChRistmas, I am 6 YeaRs odd. This YeaR I have been good nice. MY ChRistmas wishes aRe  
BrBe DoLL  
Waup  
Poll  
**Love Leah Lafever**

Dear Santa  
This Christmas, I am 6. This year, I have been nice. My Christmas wishes are...  
Barbie and the driem Hous  
America Girl Doll  
Barbie  
Merry Christmas Santa! i'll be waiting for you on Christmas Eve with cookies and milk.  
**Love, Abi Alexander**

Dear Santa,  
this Christmas I am 7 years old. this year, I have been nice. My Christmas wshes are  
I want a Bady pupy.  
I want a Dart Bike.  
I want a flwir.  
**Merry Christmas, Love Jayda**

### AUBURN SCHOOL

*Mrs. Cindy's 1st Grade*  
Dear Santa,  
Ive been very good. I wish for a trumpet. I wish for a DS. I wish for a fish. I wish for a feurwelr. I wish

for a dirt bike.  
Your friend,  
**Corbett**

Dear Santa,  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
I want a T.V. and I wanta a dog.  
Your friend,  
**Ava**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this week. I hope I get my brother and my D.S. and D.S. games and a robot.  
Your friend,  
**Dalton**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I want a big dog and a big cat and bear.  
Your friend,  
**Mackenzie**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good today. I would Like a tablet, a four wheeler, a mP3 Player. I'm Going to leave you some cookies and milk.  
Your friend,  
**Tessa**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I want a fourwheeler. Will you get a eLf? I want a toy Santa and a mp3 player.  
Your friend,  
**Memphis**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I want a xbox 360 and a batman House and a giant rodot and a flat screen tV. I love you santa.  
Your friend,  
**Joshua**

Dear Santa,  
I want a t.v. and rocks and a dog.  
Your friend,  
**Corbin**

Dear Santa,  
I've been good. I want

something big and I want a baby doll. Is our elf a boy or a girl? I want some Toys. And I Love our elf. And I want a bike. You are the best! Merry Christmas to You, santa.  
Your friend,  
**Caitlin Dodd**

Dear Santa,  
Can I plees Have Hello kitty candy's. But they are a Hello Kity Head. I know to leave you some milk and cookies. I want some New makeup. And a bakeng new set and a LaLaLoopsy color Me.  
Your friend,  
**Josie V.**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Can you get my Dad a Harley? I want a fourwheeler.  
Your friend,  
**Michate**

Dear Santa,  
I have been good a lot. I would like a t.V. I would like legos. I would like a Elf on the Shlf.  
Your friend,  
**Landon**

Dear Santa,  
I Have been good Santa. MERRY ChrisTMaS Santa! I want to git you sumteng Santa.  
Your friend,  
**Jaydon**

Dear Santa,  
I know you have been very busy but I want a smartwatch and I want a tablet and I will leve you a cookie.

Your friend,  
**Cristyn**

Dear Santa,  
I want a lunch box and a flat T.V. and a BasketBol and a fourwelr and a Basket Bol gol and a xbox 380.  
Your friend,  
**Jessie**





**Have A Jolly Good Season!**

We sure do appreciate your dropping in this past year.  
**Merry Christmas and many thanks!**

**Hollandsworth Heating & Cooling**  
*Doug & Wes Hollandsworth*

*Friends like you make it all worthwhile for us - Thanks!*



## O'Grady's

### Wine & Spirits

**115 S. McCrary Street**  
615-563-4500

Wishing you have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



## Celebrate The Miracle!!



As we watch the holiday season unfold,  
We recall the greatest story ever told;

And join our friends in adulation  
Marked by joy and celebration.

As we honor our Savior's birth,  
We send this prayer for peace on earth

And pray that every one of you  
Receive His many blessings, too!

*With heartfelt thanks for your valued business this past year!*

# ROGER BATEY

## TRUCK & EQUIPMENT REPAIR

*In Shop or Mobile Service*

**Shop (615) 765-7415 or  
Mobile (615) 542-5241**

As another season gets in gear,  
We wish you joy, we wish you cheer  
And to all our friends both far and near,  
We give our thanks for stopping here!

To all the folks who have been so good to us this past year...  
**Merry Christmas and many thanks!**



Member FDIC  
**563-8011**



## A Time For Giving

In this season of giving, we'd like to offer you our very best wishes for a deeply satisfying holiday season. For the gift of your patronage this past year, we are sincerely grateful.

### Boyd's Garage

3030 Gassaway Road  
Boyd Pitts, Owner

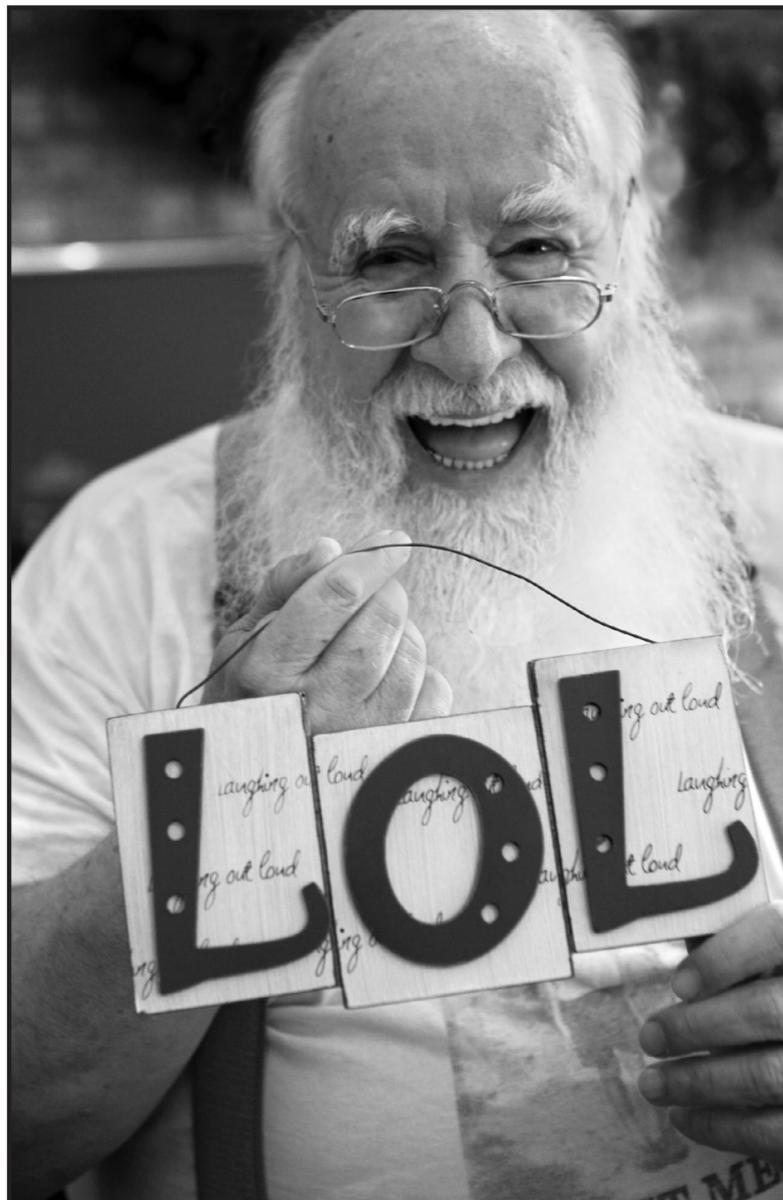
## Twenty five ways we're different this Christmas

1. Last Christmas we were thinking about all the things we didn't have; this Christmas we are thinking about all the things we do have.
2. Last Christmas we were placing wreaths on the doors of our homes; this Christmas we are placing wreaths on the graves of our heroes.
3. Last Christmas we were letting our sons play with toy guns; this Christmas we are teaching them that guns are not toys.
4. Last Christmas we were counting our money; this Christmas we are counting our blessings.
5. Last Christmas we were lighting candles to decorate; this Christmas we are lighting candles to commemorate.
6. Last Christmas we paid lip service to the real meaning of the holidays; this Christmas we are

7. Last Christmas we were digging deep into our bank accounts to find money to fly home for the holidays; this Christmas we are digging deep into our souls to find the courage to do so.
8. Last Christmas we were trying not to let annoying relatives get the best of us; this Christmas we are trying to give the best of ourselves to them.
9. Last Christmas we thought it was enough to celebrate the holidays; this Christmas we know we must also find ways to consecrate them.
10. Last Christmas we thought a man who could rush down a football field was a hero; this Christmas we know a man who rushes into a burning building is the real one.
11. Last Christmas we were thinking about the madness of the holidays; this Christmas we are thinking about the meaning of them.
12. Last Christmas we were getting on one another's nerves; this Christmas we are getting on our knees.
13. Last Christmas we

14. Last Christmas we were wondering how to give our children all the things that money can buy; this Christmas we are wondering how to give them all the things money can't (peace, security).
15. Last Christmas we were thinking about all the pressure we are under at the office; this Christmas we are thinking about all the people who no longer have an office to go to.
16. Last Christmas we were singing carols; this Christmas we are singing anthems.
17. Last Christmas we were thinking how good it would feel to be affluent; this Christmas we are thinking how good it feels to be alive.
18. Last Christmas we thought angels were in heaven; this Christmas we know they are right here on earth.
19. Last Christmas we were contemplating all the changes we wanted to make in the new year; this Christmas we are

- contemplating all the changes we will have to make in this new reality.
20. Last Christmas we believed in the power of the pocketbook; this Christmas we believe in the power of prayer.
21. Last Christmas we were sharing / spreading / listening to gossip; this Christmas we are sharing / spreading and listening to the Gospel.
22. Last Christmas we were complaining about how much of our earnings went to taxes; this Christmas we comprehend that freedom isn't free.
23. Last Christmas we valued things that were costly; this Christmas we value things that are holy.
24. Last Christmas the people we idolized wore sports uniforms; this Christmas the people we idolize wear police, firefighter and military uniforms.
25. Last Christmas peace on earth is something we prayed for on Sunday morning; now it's something we pray for every day.



Here's hoping that your holiday  
Leaves you laughing all the way...  
And when the holiday is through,  
May much good cheer remain with you!

### Cannon County Board of Education

Barbara Parker, Director of Schools  
Randy Gannon, Board of Chairman

Members: Randy Gannon, Bruce Daniel, Nathan Sanders,  
Shelly Walkup and Frank Walkup

## Could I interest you in making fudge?

### Nestle Toll House Famous Fudge

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
2/3 cup (5 fl.-oz. can) Nestle Carnation Evaporated Milk  
2 tablespoons butter or margarine  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 cups miniature marshmallows  
1 1/2 cups (9 oz.) Nestle® Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels  
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Directions

Line 8-inch-square baking pan with foil. Combinesugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt in medium, heavy-duty saucepan. Bring to a full rolling boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil, stirring constantly, for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in marshmallows, morsels, nuts and vanilla extract. Stir vigorously for 1 minute or until marshmallows are melted. Pour into prepared baking pan; refrigerate for 2 hours or until firm. Lift from pan; remove foil. Cut into 48 pieces.

Merry Christmas from your friends  
at Bob Parks Auction Company!

**BOB PARKS AUCTION**  
COMPANY LLC FIRM 3884

615.896.4600  
Toll Free 1.877.465.4600  
www.bobparksauction.com

## To All Our Friends at the Holidays



Front row, left to right, Brittany, Santa Claus, Teresa; Back row, Paige, Tabitha Smith, FNP-C, Nikki, Heather Melton, FNP-C, and Melissa

Christmas is our favorite time of year because it gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude for the good fortune of serving people like you. *Merry Christmas!*

## COMMUNITY WELLNESS CLINIC

Tabitha Smith, FNP-C

89 Mears Drive Woodbury, TN 37190  
615-563-7515

Partnering with Families  
for a Healthier Community



## Snowman Marshmallow Magic Hats for Christmas

Leave these cookies out for a surprise Christmas treat for the kids after building their snowman and they will believe there's magic in these yummy hats they find!

**Ingredients**

- Fudge Coved Cookies
- Large Marshmallow
- Chocolate Almond Bark
- Cinnamon Nonpareils
- Green Holly Sprinkles

**Instructions**

Melt the chocolate almond bark according to the

directions on the package. Lightly dip just the very bottom of a large marshmallow into the melted almond bark and place the marshmallow on top of a fudge-covered cookie. Allow to set.

Dip the top of the marshmallow into the melted chocolate, leaving a white band in between the cookie and the chocolate.

While the chocolate is setting apply holly sprinkles and nonpareils to embellish. Allow to set.

## Decorate with Snowman Milk Jugs

Make Santa proud! Recycle, Reduce and Reuse! Go green this Christmas by using recyclable milk jugs to create adorable Snowman Christmas decorations.

randomly cut triangles for nose. Glue pieces to clean milk jug.

Glue chenille stems to both sides of milk carton

creating an arch above eyes.

Glue pom-poms, jingle bells, etc. on the end of each chenille stem to create earmuffs.

**Supplies**

- Milk Jugs
- Chenille Stems
- Pom-poms
- Cardstock
- Adhesive

**Instructions**

From black cardstock, randomly cut eyes and mouth shapes; eyes should be larger than mouth pieces.

From orange cardstock,



# Merry Christmas



*During the Christmas season we would like to thank everyone that makes Cannon County great. There are so many things to be thankful for at this time of year, especially, family and friends, people that make our lives special and bring joy and happiness to all around them.*

*Our wishes to each of you for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

**SMITH FUNERAL HOME**



Rejoice! with exceeding great joy, we wish you, and your family much peace, love and harmony this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas from the **Lions Pizza Den**

113 N. Cannon Street  
563-1212

# Blessings of the Season

*May peace, love, harmony and joy be your constant companions, and may faith be your guide wherever you go this holiday season.*

From your friends at the Cannon County Courthouse



**LYNNE FOSTER**  
Circuit Court Clerk

**MIKE GANNON**  
County Executive

**DONALD PRESTON**  
Assessor of Property

**SANDY HOLLANDSWORTH**  
Register of Deeds

**BOBBY SMITH**  
County Court Clerk

**NORMA KNOX**  
County Trustee

**SUSAN MELTON**  
General Sessions Judge

# A joyful Christmas reunion with a tablecloth

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on DEC 8 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On DEC 19 a terrible tempest -- a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite

direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?"

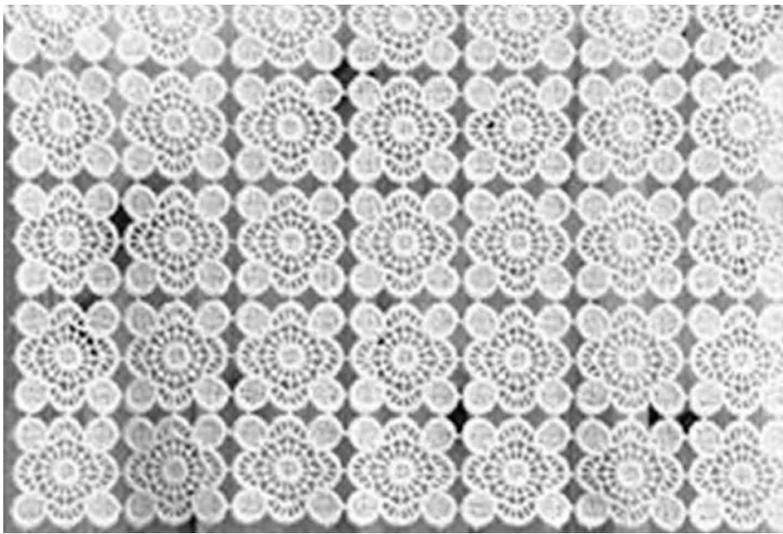
The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were.

These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on



Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

## The gift of forgiveness

by John William Smith

The Christmas of 1949 we didn't have a tree.

My dad had as much pride as anybody, I was stupid to clutter up suppose, so he wouldn't just say that we couldn't afford one.

When I mentioned it, my mother said that we weren't going to have one this year, that we couldn't afford one, and even if we could - it was stupid to clutter up your house with a dead tree.

I wanted a tree badly

though, and I thought - in my naïve way - that if we had one, everybody would feel better.

### Taking Matters into my Own Hands

About three days before Christmas, I was out collecting for my paper route.

It was fairly late - long after dark - it was snowing and very cold.

I went to the apartment building to try to catch a customer who hadn't paid me for nearly two months - she owed me seven dollars.

Much to my surprise, she was home.

She invited me in and not only did she pay me, she gave me a dollar tip!

It was a windfall for me - I now had eight whole dollars.

What happened next was totally unplanned.

On the way home, I walked past a Christmas tree lot and the idea hit me.

The selection wasn't very good because it was so close to the holiday, but there was this one real nice tree.

It had been a very expensive tree and no one had bought it; now it was so close to Christmas that the man was afraid no one would.

He wanted ten dollars for it, but when I - in my gullible innocence - told him I only had eight, he said he might sell it for that.

I really didn't want to spend the whole eight dollars on the tree, but it was so pretty that I finally agreed.

I dragged it all the way home - about a mile, I think - and I tried hard not to damage it or break off any limbs.

The snow helped to cushion it, and it was still in pretty good shape when I

got home.

You can't imagine how proud and excited I was.

I propped it up against the railing on our front porch and went in.

My heart was bursting as I announced that I had a surprise.

I got Mom and Dad to come to the front door and then I switched on the porch light.

Surprise!! "Where did you get that tree?" my mother exclaimed.

But it wasn't the kind of exclamation that indicates pleasure.

"I bought it up on Main Street. Isn't it just the most perfect tree you ever saw?" I said, trying to maintain my enthusiasm.

"Where did you get the money?" Her tone was accusing and it began to dawn on me that this wasn't going to turn out as I had planned.

"From my paper route." I explained about the customer who had paid me.

"And you spent the whole eight dollars on this tree?" she exclaimed.

She went into a tirade about how stupid it was to spend my money on a dumb tree that would be thrown out and burned in a few days.

She told me how irresponsible I was and how I was just like my dad with all those foolish, romantic, noble notions about fairy tales and happy endings and that it was about time I grew up and learned some sense about the realities of life and how to take care of money and spend it on things that were needed and not on silly things.

She said that I was going to end up in the poorhouse because I believe in stupid things like Christmas trees, things that didn't amount to anything.

### I Just Stood There

My mother had never talked to me like that before and I couldn't believe what I was hearing.

I felt awful and I began to cry.

Finally, she reached out and snapped off the porch light.

"Leave it there," she said. "Leave that tree there till it rots, so every time we see it, we'll all be reminded of how stupid the men in this family are."

Then she stormed up the stairs to her bedroom and we didn't see her until the next day.

Dad and I brought the tree in and we made a stand for it.

He got out the box of ornaments and we decorated it as best as we could; but men aren't too good at things like that, and besides, it wasn't the same without mom.

There were a few

presents under it by Christmas day - although I can't remember a single one of them - but Mom wouldn't have anything to do with it.

It was the worst Christmas I ever had.

### Fast Forward to Today

Judi and I married in August of 1963, and dad died on October 10 of that year. Over the next eight years, we lived in many places. Mom sort of divided up the year - either living with my sister Jary or with us.

In 1971 we were living in Wichita, Kansas - Lincoln was about seven, Brendan was three and Kristen was a baby. Mom was staying with us during the holidays. On Christmas Eve I stayed up very late. I was totally alone with my thoughts, alternating between joy and melancholy, and I got to thinking about my paper route, that tree, what my mother had said to me and how Dad had tried to make things better.

I heard a noise in the kitchen and discovered that it was mom. She couldn't sleep either and had gotten up to make herself a cup of hot tea - which was her remedy for just about

down her face and she cried, "Oh, son, please forgive me."

"That time and that Christmas have been a burden on my heart for twenty-five years. I wish your dad were here so I could tell him how sorry I am for what I said. Your dad was a good man and it hurts me to know that he went to his grave without ever hearing me say that I was sorry for that night. Nothing will ever make what I said right, but you need to know that your dad never did have any money sense (which was all too true).

We were fighting all the time - though not in front of you - we were two months behind in our house payments, we had no money for groceries, your dad was talking about going back to Arkansas and that tree was the last straw. I took it all out on you. It doesn't make what I did right, but I hoped that someday, when you were older, you would understand. I've wanted to say something for ever so long and I'm so glad it's finally out."

Well, we both cried a little and held each other and I forgave her - it wasn't hard, you know.



everything. As she waited for the water to boil, she walked into the living room and discovered me there. She saw my open Bible and asked me what I was reading. When I told her, she asked if I would read it to her and I did.

Then we talked for a long time, and I did understand; I saw what I had never seen and the bitterness and sadness that had gathered up in me for all those years gradually washed away.

It was marvelously simple.

The great gifts of this season - or any season - can't be put under the tree; you can't wear them or eat them or drive them or play with them. We spend so much time on the lesser gifts - toys, sweaters, jewelry, the mint, anise and dill of Christmas - and so little on the great gifts - understanding, grace, peace and forgiveness. It's no wonder that the holiday leaves us empty, because when it's over, the only reminders we have are the dirty dishes and the January bills.

### The Truth Comes Out

When the kettle began to whistle, she went and made her tea. She came back, and we started to visit. I told her how happy I was that she was with us for Christmas and how I wished that Dad could have lived to see his grandchildren and to enjoy this time because he always loved Christmas so. It got very quiet for a moment and then she said, "Do you remember that time on Twelve Mile Road when you bought that tree with your paper route money?"

"Yes," I said, "I've just been thinking about it you know."

She hesitated for a long moment, as though she were on the verge of something that was bottled up so deeply inside her soul that it might take surgery to get it out. Finally, great tears started



**Save a lot**  
Merry Christmas to all our friends and neighbors!  
950 S. McCrary Street  
Woodbury 615-563-4112

How sweet it is to know people like you!

Serving you has been a real treat for us.  
**Merry Christmas!**  
**State Farm Insurance**  
Mitch Wilson, Agent

**Nail Down A Great Season!**

While the holiday spirit is building, we'd like to jump in with our best wishes and gratitude. We truly appreciate your helping to make this year a merry one for us.

**Reed's Builders Supply**  
831 McMinnville Hwy. Jeff Reed, Owner

# Dear Santa, I would like...



Dear Santa,  
I hope the evlfs are doing good. Think you for giving me my presints last year. I would like a seattle seahoke blankint, books, close. Santa tell roddalf I said hello. Don't forget my house.

Love,  
Kylie Schoepp  
8 years old

Dear Santa,  
How are your elf's doing? I hope you stay warm. Santa what I want for Christmas I wood like a lego friend movie, a lego friend book, and a strawberry shortcake set. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas,  
Kinley Wieland  
7 years old

Dear Kinley,  
The elves are doing wonderful. They are making all the toys at an exceptional rate and they are beginning to get everything ready for Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,  
I hope you have a good flite. Where are your rain dear. Can you giv me duel mosters. Can you giv me the card of a exidyin. Can I have a blue wite ice drags.

Your friend,  
Paul Gonzalez  
7 years

Dear Santa,  
I wood like a toy teddy bare that smells like sweet pea.

Luve,  
Kacie Pierce  
8 years old

Dear Santa,  
How are your elves? Am I on the bad or good list? Can I have a nerf mega thunder bow, candy coal, and all the legos I want.

Love,  
Jaydon Waddington  
Age 8

Dear Jaydon,  
The elves are doing fantastic! They are working on your presents right now! The naughty and nice lists are classified information; but I have been paying special attention to all the times that you have done something good.

Love Santa

Dear Santa,  
I whont a ice fishing rode. And I jig hed that glos in the durce. And I aero for my bow. Santa I hop you injo yor cuces and malc.

Form,  
Parker Moore

big comfy blanket. How are you and Mrs. Claus? I have a treat for you and Mrs. Claus. I really really really love you. Merry Christmas Santa.

Love,  
Chelsea Breuer  
Age 8

Dear Chelsea,  
You are very welcome for all the toys last year. Mrs. Claus and I are doing quite swell. We are preparing things for Christmas so make sure that you're a good girl so I can deliver you presents again this year! I love you too.

Merry Christmas,  
Santa

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I would like a remote control truck and some fishing gear. Then I would like a book about how to make rubber band bracelets and a bracelet loom.

By Gabriel Tora  
Age 7

Dear Gabriel,  
Mrs. Claus and I are doing wonderful! I hope that you have a very Merry Christmas!

Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
You are the best Santa. I want a teddy and new shoes and a barby.

By Olivia Suerdrup  
Age 7

Dear Santa Claus,  
Thanks for the last year gifts. I hope you like the cookies this year. I want chochlate brownies and I want gumpacks. And I want high heels.

Devony Pelton  
Age 7

Dear Santa,  
Can I have a monster high doll? Can I have a ball? Can I have a monster high toy jaklary.

By Lacie Moore  
Age 7

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for the toys I got last year. I want a tank and a tub of clay and a ipad.

Love,  
Matthew Savage  
Age 8

Dear Santa,  
How are you? I want a mip, a ps3, and a watch too.

Your friend,  
Edwin Palacios  
Age 8

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Clas doing? What I want for Chrismis is a inpeareel star deastrarer and Anakins Jedi star fiter and Luke's snow ship.

Love, Ryan Unrun  
Age 7

Dear Ryan,  
Mrs. Claus and I are doing wonderful! Please continue to be good for the rest of the year and I will try my best to bring you what you wished for!

Merry Christmas,  
Santa

Dear Santa,  
Hi, this is Bryan. How are you? Did you make your elvs do there jobs? I wont all the lago sets in the world. I wont a mansion to mi self. Thank you four the preses.

Bryan Allen  
8 years old

Dear Bryan,  
I am doing fantastic! As much as I would love to sit around and play with the elves all day, I unfortunately have to enforce rules and have the elves make presents. Without the elves doing their jobs you wouldn't be able to receive your presents.

Merry Christmas,  
Santa

Dear Santa,  
Hi this is Dylan. Are the raindeer healthy and ready. And I hope you find the cookies that I made you. They are jinderbread. I want a white haro bike and a skaeteboard that I can control. I hope you have a safe Chrismus.

Love,  
Dylan Edd  
7 years old

Dear Santa,  
How are you feeling? I hope you find the cookies and carits. I hope you get me a playstashin sky landers trapeam and skylanders giants. I hope Rudolph has a brite nose.

Your friend,  
Aaron See  
8 years old

Dear Aaron,  
I am feeling quite well. We are all getting ready for the big day here at the North Pole. I hope that you are getting ready for Christmas! And continue to be good!

Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
Hi, this is Mikey. How are you? For Crismis I wued

like flat ball, a scatebored, and a te dey bear. Is Rudolf ready for crismiss?  
Merre Crissmiss,  
Mikey Huggins

Dear Mikey,  
I am doing very well. I am getting things prepared for Christmas to come. The elves are making toys and the reindeer are getting ready to fly! Rudolph is definitely ready for Christmas. He can't wait until he gets to help deliver presents!

Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
Are the raindire rede? I hope you get my melk and cokes. I wont a boxx with the mincraft. I think I have ben good.

Parker Brother  
8 years old

Dear Parker,  
Yes, the reindeer are getting all prepared and ready to fly for Christmas. The elves will have them well trained by the time the big day comes!

Love, Santa

A very Merry Christmas to each and everyone. Thank you for your business this past year. We certainly appreciate it.

**Briar Rose  
Flower & Gifts**  
115 N. Cannon  
615-563-4403

**Merry Christmas**

As the 2014 holiday season approaches and we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we want to take a moment to tell you how much we appreciate you and your continued patronage.

*We wish for you and your family a blessed Christmas and a very prosperous 2015!*

George & Trish  
**Antiques & More**

*The Magic of Christmas*

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

Norman Vincent Peale

**BobandJules  
General Store & Vapors**

111 West Main  
615-796-4131

**In the Spirit of Giving**

We'd like to give you our warm wishes for a holiday that's filled with peace, love, joy, hope and lots of other wonderful surprises. It's been a pleasure serving you and we look forward to your continued friendship.

*I'll Be Back*  
Antiques, Gifts, etc.

110 West High Street  
Tommy & Linda Malone, Owners  
615-556-6799

**There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays!**

There's just no place we'd rather be, At Christmas than with all of thee; May many blessings come your way As we celebrate the holiday.

**GERALD MELTON**  
Public Defender for the 16th Judicial District  
Cannon and Rutherford Counties

# One of the most special Christmas Stories ever

In September 1960 I woke up one morning with six hungry babies and just 75 cents in my pocket. Their father was gone. The boys ranged from three months to seven years; their sister was two.

Their Dad had never been much more than a presence they feared. Whenever

they heard his tires crunch on the gravel driveway they would scramble to hide under their beds. He did manage to leave \$15 a week to buy groceries. Now that he had decided to leave, there would be no more beatings, but no food either.

If there was a welfare

system in effect in southern Indiana at that time, I certainly knew nothing about it.

I scrubbed the kids until they looked brand new and then put on my best homemade dress. I loaded them into the rusty old 51 Chevy and drove off to find a job. The seven of us went to every factory, store, and restaurant in our small town. No luck.

The kids stayed crammed into the car and tried to be quiet while I tried to convince whoever would listen that I was willing to learn or do anything. I had to have a job. Still no luck.

The last place we went to, just a few miles out of town, was an old Root Beer Barrel drive-in that had been converted to a truck stop. It was called the Big Wheel.

An old lady named Granny owned the place and she peeked out of the window from time to time at all those kids. She needed someone on the graveyard shift; 11 at night until seven in the morning. She paid 65 cents an hour, and I could start that night. I raced home and called the teenager down the street that baby-sat for people.

I bargained with her to come and sleep on my sofa for a dollar a night. She could arrive with her pajamas on and the kids would already be asleep. This seemed like a good arrangement to her, so we made a deal. That night when the little ones and I knelt to say our prayers, we all thanked God for finding Mommy a job. And so I started at the Big Wheel.

When I got home in the mornings I woke the baby-

sitter up and sent her home with one dollar of my tip money -- fully half of what I averaged every night.

As the weeks went by, heating bills added a strain to my meager wage. The tires on the old Chevy had the consistency of penny balloons and began to leak. I had to fill them with air on the way to work and again every morning before I could go home.

One bleak fall morning, I dragged myself to the car to go home and found four tires in the back seat. New tires. There was no note, no nothing, just those beautiful brand new tires. Had angels taken up residence in Indiana? I wondered.

I made a deal with the owner of the local service station. In exchange for his mounting the new tires, I would clean up his office. I remember it took me a lot longer to scrub his floor than it did for him to do the tires. I was now working six nights instead of five, and it still wasn't enough.

Christmas was coming, and I knew there would be no money for toys for the kids. I found a can of red paint and started repairing and painting some old toys. Then I hid them in the basement so there would be something for Santa to deliver on Christmas morning. Clothes were a worry too. I was sewing patches on top of patches on the boys pants, and soon they would be too far gone to repair.

On Christmas Eve the usual customers were drinking coffee in the Big Wheel. These were the truckers, Les, Frank, and Jim, and a state trooper

named Joe.

A few musicians were hanging around after a gig at the Legion and were dropping nickels in the pinball machine. The regulars all just sat around and talked through the wee hours of the morning and then left to get home before

quickly opened the driver's side door, scrambled inside and kneeled in the front facing the back seat. Reaching back, I pulled off the lid of the top box. Inside was whole case of little blue jeans, sizes 2-10! I looked inside another box: It was full of shirts to go with the



*A Christmas Wish For You*

May your friends be many...  
 May your heart be light...  
 May your home be merry...  
 May your days be bright...  
 May your joy be plenty...  
 May your cares be few...  
*And may all your hopes and dreams come true.*

**Judge Don R. Ash**  
 16th Judicial District  
 Cannon and Rutherford Counties



the sun came up. When it was time for me to go home at seven o'clock on Christmas morning I hurried to the car. I was hoping the kids wouldn't wake up before I managed to get home and get the presents from the basement and place them under the tree. (We had cut down a small cedar tree by the side of the road down by the dump.)

It was still dark and I couldn't see much, but there appeared to be some dark shadows in the car -- or was that just a trick of the night? Something certainly looked different, but it was hard to tell what.

When I reached the car I peered warily into one of the side windows.

Then my jaw dropped in amazement. My old battered Chevy was filled full to the top with boxes of all shapes and sizes. I

jeans. Then I peeked inside some of the other boxes: There was candy, nuts, bananas, and bags of groceries. There was an enormous ham for baking, and canned vegetables and potatoes.

There was pudding and Jell-O and cookies, pie filling and flour. There was a whole bag of laundry supplies and cleaning items, and there were five toy trucks and one beautiful little doll. As I drove back through empty streets as the sun slowly rose on the most amazing Christmas Day of my life, I was sobbing with gratitude. And I will never forget the joy on the faces of my little ones that precious morning.

Yes, there were angels in Indiana that long-ago December . . . and they all hung out at the Big Wheel truck stop.

## Letters to Santa Claus



Dear Santa,  
 I hope you are well. Marey Crimese! I would like a modle airplane. Why is ruffl nose red?  
 Jordan Skeens  
 9 years old

Dear Jordan,  
 The reason why Rudolph's nose is red because if we ever have bad weather or if it is too dark then we can use his bright nose to light the way!  
 Merry Christmas,  
 Santa

Dear Santa,  
 How was your year? I hope you fond the food I am going to get you. I would like a doll house and a doll and a phone. How old are all of the raindeers?  
 Merry Crismas,  
 Alice Thogersen  
 8 years old

Dear Alice,  
 My year has been fantastic! And I hope yours

has been too! There are mommy, daddy, and even baby reindeer! And it's the same way for the elves too!  
 Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
 Are the raindeer redy and heathy. I hope you like tiny cookies. I would like frozen stuff and I woud like a cupeter and school stuff. I will be good this year.  
 Mary Christmas,  
 Haylee

Dear Haylee,  
 The reindeer are very healthy and they are very anxious for Christmas! Don't worry about the tiny cookies, because I love all kinds of cookies!  
 Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
 Are the raindeers ready and heathy. I hope you like my cookies. Is what I want for chismas is a American girl doll. And a billdabear raindeer. And a Elsa and Anna doll. Two years ago witch raindeer ate the food?  
 Mary Chismas,  
 Ellie Burns  
 8 years old

Dear Ellie,  
 The reindeer are very healthy and they are very excited for Christmas! If children ever leave the reindeer food I always try to divide the food evenly between them. Even reindeer have to share!  
 Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
 Hi, this is Mason. How are you? I what a xbox 360 game diseney in finudey 2.0 a toy car and a nother xbox 360 I will be good.  
 Mary Crasmasis,  
 Mason Hagwood  
 7 years old

Dear Mason,  
 I am doing incredibly well. I am starting to get things ready for Christmas. Remember to be good for your teachers and family!  
 Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
 Hi it's me Sam. Did you have a nice summer? I'm leaving some milk and cookies out for you this Cristmas eve. I don't have

much I wan for Cristmas. I've been good this year. Cristmas list mind for gems.

Your friend,  
 Samuel Griffith  
 Age 7

Dear Samuel,  
 I had a wonderful summer. Mrs. Claus and I visited Florida this year and we had a wonderful time! I'm sure that I will love your cookies and milk! Continue to be good!  
 Love, Santa

Dear Santa,  
 Hi Santa how are you. I hope your ready to go. I would like a lala loopsy, baking oven and a sew cool kit and a gitar. How is Snowflake doing? Tell her I miss her.

Cincerle,  
 Myah

*Merry Christmas*

**Smith's Truck Salvage & Wrecker**  
 563-4343  
 The Smith's - John, J.C. & Tyler  
 Thank you for 26 years of serving you!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*to You and Yours!*

It definitely is the most wonderful time of the year so don't make a tragic mistake and mix alcohol or drugs with driving.

*Have a designated driver and help save a life.*

**Cannon County Sheriff's Department**  
**Darrell Young, Sheriff**

*Merry Christmas!!*

**FAITH & HOPE CONSIGNMENT**

108 West Main  
 563-5524

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from*

**PLATINUM VAPORS**

110 N. Tatum Street  
 563-VAPR (8277)

# Is Christmas here already?



It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and

renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2: 4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the

glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus

to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a

new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last a l l



Thank you to all of our loyal clients for your continued support.

**Purrfectly Pawlished Pet Salon**  
217 West Main  
563-PETS (7387)

Angela, Katelyn, Jessica & Kaylee

I'm old school and I like to hear people say "Merry Christmas!"

**To All Our Friends at the Holidays**

Christmas is our favorite time of year because it gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude for the good fortune of serving people like you. Merry Christmas!

**ESTES BUS SERVICE, INC.**  
Mark, Penny, Brittany and Kyle

Merry Christmas & Many Thanks!

Nothing makes us prouder than knowing we serve good people like you! We feel truly blessed by your friendship and trust.

**Jennings Jewelers**  
215 W. Main St., Woodbury 615-563-2421  
Windol, Joann, Dottie and Erica

There's no place we'd rather spend the holidays, than here among our neighbors and friends!

**BRUCE TODD APPRAISALS**  
Murfreesboro  
631-7350

**Harmony - Love - Good Fortune - Contentment Peace - Joy**

Hope your holiday delivers it all! For all you've given us, we are sincerely grateful.

**TOWN OF WOODBURY**

**HAROLD PATRICK**  
MAYOR

*Aldermen:*  
Charlie Harrell, Dottie Duggin, JoAnn Davis, Faye Northcutt-Knox, Lois Larimer and Adam Melton

# Dear Santa, Would you please bring me...

*Children's Santa letters are typed exactly as written.*

**Mrs. Josie's 1st grade  
West Side Elementary**

Dear Santa,  
These are the things I want for christmas a 2DS, ipad mini 3, DS, gameBoy advance Sp, Macbook pro, bose headphones, and a gamecube. And santa I have been good this year.

Merry Christmas!  
Love,  
Ty mullins

Dear Santa,  
I want a new easel, Ipad 5 camo case, Lego set, any teacher things, Ipad mini, orbize body and luxery spa, Ole miss blanket and pillow, olaf comforter, olaf jumbo stuffed, chair mini for my room says Charlee Kate, pj's olaf, 3DDSIXL.

Love,  
Charlee

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: I won't a fourwillr. elf on the shelf. I won't a kindle fire.

Love, Addie

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: A Gun a banket kinbel.

Love,  
Niko

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toy like: Grimlock.

Love,  
Preston Hamby

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: legos Kindle Books

Love  
Dylan

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: frozen boll, frozen dolls, frozen Horse.

Love,  
Abby

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: Elf on the shelf Lockdown tadat

Love,  
Landon

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: Elf on the shelf.

Love,  
Jaxsen

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toy like: a big Transit. Elf on the shelf, Kindle,

Love,  
Jayden

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Ples bring Me some toys like: Frozen Horse, Frozen baby doll, Frozen dress, Frozen bike, kindle

Love,  
Averylee

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Ples bring me some toy like: Gymnastics bar, Doll bay bed, Frozen doll

Love,  
Madison

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: elfe, kindle, frozen dool.

Love,  
Alivia

Der Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: Elso anna an Elf on the Shelf

Love,  
Alexis

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: Doll lion, Bow

Love,  
Hunter

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toy like: Kindle, Elf on the shelf, frozen doll and dress that sings.

Love,  
Emily

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: Frozen baby doll bady boll Dollbady doll,

Love,  
Hannah

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Please bring me some toys like: A Frozen babydoll

Love,  
Elizabeth

**Mrs. Britan's 3rd Grade  
West Side Elementary**

Dear Santa,  
What a nice man you are. What i want for christmas i want a 9ku7 toy gun and

mastercheif suit and a xbox 360.

love  
Dylan Gunter

Dear Santa,  
I have benn very good this year. Santa I want a fool DirtBikeSoot and boots, couvols and the beet head phones and a big rc, ipod and a case.

I love you Santa,  
Colby

Dear Santa  
What I whant for Christmas is Starwars Reble Legos, an Xbox at my mom, and a great Christmas.

Love,  
Caden Miles

Dear Santa,  
all I Whant is paint and art bord and all art's stuff and eisle and a lot of bord so i can paint on so I Love you Santa tall Redohe hi.

Love  
Haliey Welcs

dear Santa,  
I want a ipod a 1150 a nerfgun and a foot ball and a poket nife and pokemon and a streethog thank you so much I am taahckfull.

love,  
Keateh

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for bringing all of my family presents over the years. You have been very nice to me. I think I am on the nice list. I would like toys for my cat, Marie. I am not very picky so I don't care what I get for Christmas. I belive in you, so you don't have any problems. I hope you have a very merry Christmas.

Love,  
Katie

Dear Santa,  
I won't a two games for my wii called wii play, just dace, ex pkemon cards, bitty baby, baby alive, American girl doll named Isbell, closes for her, and for the bitty baby. Iphone 5 for my Mom plece buy one for her. A ceerling, basketball,

kote outfit for my American girl doll. And a pet grooming set. And a bitty baby bath tub. And a baby swig.

Love,  
Zoe Nichols

Dear Santa,  
I wont a KX 65 dirt bike, gear, rc gps truck, xbox 360, pool, pool table, and a new bike.

Love,  
Theo

Dear, Santa Claus,  
Thank you Santa for visiting me every year for the past 2014 years, or even more. It is a blesure of you to bring everyone a few presents every year. I try really hard to work as hard as I can. I really want a computer and that is it.

(No name was given)

Dear Santa  
Thank you for being so nice to all of the kids. And bring all the presents we want. I want shoes, boots, close, pants, jackets, and a ipod. And a barby house.

Love,  
Stephanie

Dear Santa,  
I want to thank you for bringing my dirt bikes! Can you please bring me a bicycle, xbox 360, with mx vs Atv, and please bring my family alot of presents!!! I beleve Santa!!!!

Love,  
Spencer

Dear Santa  
Thank you for the presidut. this is wot I wont for this crismis.

1. phone
2. toys
3. Tenrsos
4. 4welr
5. dritdike
6. dog

Thank you for evring. i wish you a good crismis. I think i will got you a present. I hope i am on the good list.

Love,  
Korad

Dear, Santa,  
Thank you you have

made m laght and smile i have bene good These were i helped my friend with homework this is the stuff i want

Relle docter towels, A tablet, Moster Hight doll i love you santa.

Love  
Lilly

Dear, Santa  
I have been very good this year. I helped my Grampa, done my chores helped with grosheys. I helped alot of people even my teacher. I want to thank you for the things you broght me and my sister. I want a zoomerdino a rodot bird that talks back to me. Merry Chrismas. happy new year.

love  
Marlee

Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year. I've picked up from my dog, I did the dishes, and I've been nice to my brother. Talk about a hard year. I want a cool sew, and the babysitters club 2.

Love,  
Madalyn Phillips

Dear Santa,  
Thank you for bringing presents every year. I have been good this year. For cristmas I would like a computer a big olaf snowman and a hide away pet. Santa please deliver one of those things I asked for.

Love,  
Treavor Lance

Dear, Santa  
Iv'e been good this year. I want a youth hunting bow and a molcontrol backhoe. Then i want a ipad and a ak47 airsoft gun and a pool table.

Love,  
Tucker Travis

Dear, Santa  
I've been good this year I've picked up my brother toy's I've folded the londry. I wated a toy turck.

love  
Landon Booth

Lynn's Pickett Fence wants to wish you a Merry Christmas. Thank you for the first six months of business.



**Lynn's Pickett Fence**  
203 West Main Street  
on the square in Woodbury  
563-1222

**PEACE ON EARTH**



The beauty of the winter season reminds us of how blessed we are in so many ways, including the friendship of neighbors like you.

**WOODBURY FARMER'S CO-OP**  
400 McMinnville Hwy.

## Delicious Santa cookies to make

Ho-Ho-How easy these Santa cookies are to make. You don't have to be a baker to transform Nutter Butter cookies into Jolly St. Nick with a glittery Santa hat and bearded chin! This is a great Christmas recipe for kids to lend a helping hand.

*Ingredients*  
Nutter Butter Cookies  
Mini Chocolate Chips  
Cinnamon Nonpareils  
Fancy Shredded Coconut  
White Chocolate Almond Bark  
Red Sugar Sprinkles  
Mini Marshmallows

*Instructions*  
Melt the white chocolate almond bark according to the directions on the package. Dip the top of a Nutter Butter cookie into the melted almond bark. Dip the cookie into red sugar sprinkles. Place a mini marshmallow onto the top of the cookie. Place the

cookie onto a sheet of waxed paper to set.

Melt the white chocolate almond bark according to the directions on the package. Dip half of a Nutter Butter cookie into the melted almond bark.

Roll the cookie into the fancy shredded coconut. Place a cinnamon nonpareil and two mini chocolate chips onto the cookie. Place the cookie onto a sheet of waxed paper to set.



*With you in mind at Christmastime!*

As we join you and your family in celebrating the birth of our Savior, we recall the many generous folks we've had the privilege to serve this year, and know that we are truly blessed.

Wishing you glad tidings and a holiday that is as special as you are.  
Thanks!

**Woodson's Pharmacy**

Tommy and Diana

# The cab ride I'll never forget

BY: KENT NERBURN  
on a Most Profound Cab Ride

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. One time I arrived in the middle of the night for a pick up at a building that was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window.

Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," answered a frail, elderly voice.

I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase.

The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.



"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

"It's nothing," I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated."

"Oh, you're such a good boy," she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

I looked in the rear view mirror. Her eyes were glistening.

"I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.



Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me.

It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered.

"There are other passengers."

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly.

"You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.



*Rejoice... It's Christmas!*

As we herald another holiday season, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank

you for your friendship and the privilege of serving you this year. Wishing you all a most memorable and joyous Noel. Merry Christmas!



**Cannon County Chamber of Commerce**

*A note of thanks*

*to our Customers & Neighbors Associates & Friends at the holiday season*

With thanks at Christmas, to all the folks who have passed by this way. We thank you for your valued business and wish you all the merriest holiday season ever!

**Woodbury Flowers**  
Main Street  
Carl & Opal Jones



**Especially For You**  
at Christmas

We're thinking of you, and do you know why? Because we're really grateful for your stopping by!

And just one more thing we'd like to say, is have a happy holiday!

**Parsley's Market #2**

835 West Main Street  
615-563-7135

**Merry Christmas**

*Candy canes and little toy planes are things that we adore.*

*But wishing you a Merry Christmas is something we love even more.*

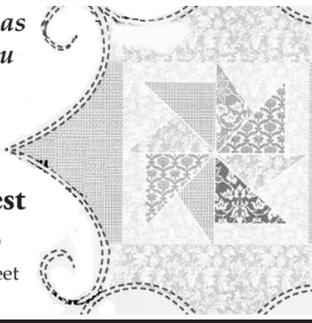
*May the peace and beauty of the season remain with you throughout the coming year.*

**FB FirstBank**

Mindy • Joan • Hollie • Diane • Ingrid

Corner of Main and McCrary Street - Woodbury  
563-2226

*Merry Christmas and Thank You for your business.*



**Treasure Chest Quilt Shop**  
111 N. Cannon Street  
563-1484

# Santa's Mailbox

Thanks to all the children who wrote letters to Santa Claus and the parents who came with their children and dropped them off at the Cannon Courier. The letters were mailed to Santa Claus Friday, December 19. They arrived at the North Pole Tuesday, December 23.



*A Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Thanks so much for your business.*



**JOE'S PLACE**  
108 N. Tatum Street  
563-4140

Santa,  
I was good on our commercial. I want a frozen fishing pole. That's all me want so I can fish at Papa G.  
Love,  
Kinley

Dear Santa,  
I've been a good boy. This is my 1st Christmas. Please bring me some toys. I've left some milk and cookies

out. Bring my Mommy and Daddy some good things too!

Be good to my Nana Carol, Ma Bev, Pappy, Mimi Cheryl, Pa Mike and Denise, Granny, Granny Dib Mimi D and Pa Jack too!

Love,  
Enman James Johnson

Dear Santa,  
I would like a .22 rifle, clothes, gloves, some more coloring stuff, an Ipad, some more toys and a stocking full of good stuff. If possible I would love for snow for Christmas so I can finally have a white Christmas. I hope you, Mrs. Clause, the elves and reindeers are all doing well and having a good time. I would also like some toys for my dogs Hobo and Molly.

Love,  
Johnnie McCullough

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I bet you have been busy making all the kids toys. I bet your elves have been busy too. I have been a very good boy

this year. I want a guitar for Christmas. My mommy and daddy have been good too. Can you bring them a surprise? I will leave milk and cookies by the tree.

Love,  
Deegan Lewis  
Age:5

Dear Santa,  
My name is Cason Patterson. I'm 4 years old. I want a bicycle for Christmas so my PaPa can teach me how to ride it. My little brother Chase is 1 year old and he wants a choo choo train. We'll be good till Christmas time. we love you and will leave you some milk and cookies on Christmas Eve night.

Love,  
Cason and Chase

For your friendship and support, we feel truly blessed, and wish you and your family all the very best at his joyous time of yer.

## Old Feed Store Antique Mall

310 West Water Street - Woodbury

[www.oldfeedstore.com](http://www.oldfeedstore.com)



Dear Santa  
My name is Cullen Bryson. I'm four years old. I've been a very good boy this year. Please bring me a guitar, bow and arrows, paddle ball. Please don't forget my brothers. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

Love,  
Cullen

## Reindeer paws and noses

Looking for a holiday treat to fill Christmas goody tins, bags or boxes? This

Rolo® candy treat is easy-to-make in large quantities; give these as gifts to neighbors and friends near and far!

*Ingredients*  
Mini Twist Pretzels  
Rolos Candies  
Chocolate Candy Coated Peanut Candies  
Pecans

*Instructions*  
Preheat the oven to warm. On a cookie sheet, place a single later of mini twist pretzels. Unwrap the Rolos and place one on top of each pretzel. Place into the oven until the Rolo is just melted (3-5minutes depending on the

temperature of the oven) Remove from oven and immediately place a pecan for paws or a chocolate candy coated peanut candy onto the melted Rolo and gently press. Allow to set.



## HOPE. DREAM. LAUGH. REJOICE.

In this season of possibilities, we hope your every wish comes true. Merry Christmas and many thanks for your goodwill and support all year long.

# Preston Brothers Construction Co.

830 McMinnville Hwy., Woodbury, TN

*Terry, Charles and David Preston*

## Cannon Arts Dance Studio

119 West Main Street

615-563-9122

[www.cannonartsdance.com](http://www.cannonartsdance.com)

**Merry Christmas & Many Thanks!**

For all the support you've given us, we will always be grateful. For your friendship, we are deeply blessed.



## The Greatest Gift of All Is the Gift of Friendship!



And we're truly grateful for the gift of yours. With best wishes for a joyous Noel from our entire staff.

## Paul Holder Realty & Auction Co.

108 East Main Street  
McMinnville

# The gift of the Maji

by O. Henry

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad.

In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week.

Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, though, they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling--something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim.

There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor,

with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mne. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie."

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no

other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out.

It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation, as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value--the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he

sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends--a mammoth task.

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do--oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit of saying little silent prayer about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two--and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Jim stopped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again--you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice--what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

"You've cut off your

hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet even after the hardest mental labor.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you--sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs of my head were numbered," she went on with sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year--what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said, "about me. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs--the set of combs, side and back, that Della had



worshipped long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims--just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped



up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to

find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

"Dell," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men--wonderfully wise men--who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. O all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

## COLOR IT MERRY!

Wishing you every happiness this holiday season and beyond. We thank you for the privilege of serving you all year long.

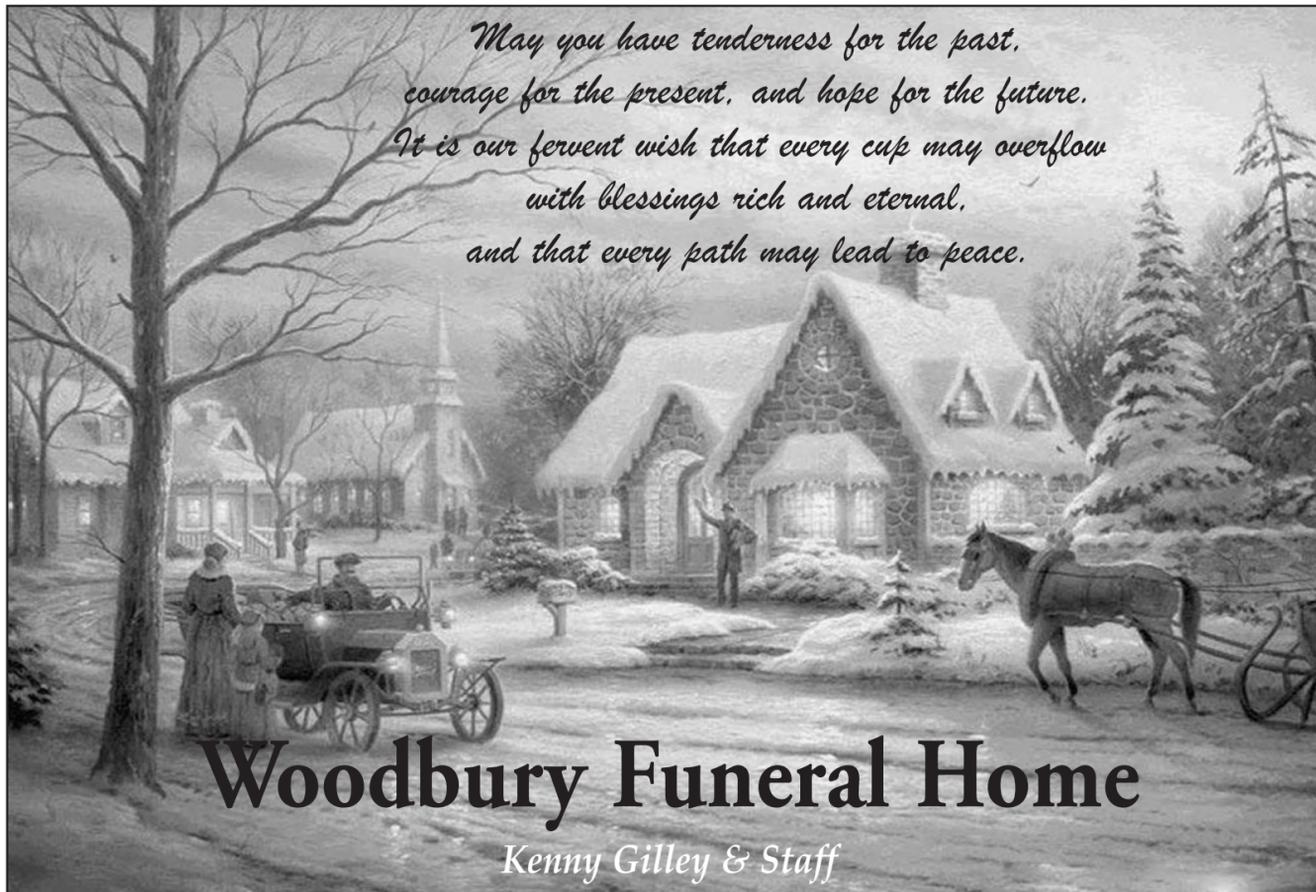
**Melton Law Office**

**Susan Melton**

On the Square in Woodbury



*May you have tenderness for the past,  
courage for the present, and hope for the future.  
It is our fervent wish that every cup may overflow  
with blessings rich and eternal,  
and that every path may lead to peace.*



# Woodbury Funeral Home

Kenny Gilley & Staff

# Christmas Is A Time For Presence

BY RANDALL FRANKS

I remember having my nose pressed squarely against the windowpane. It was cold outside and frost had formed around the edges of the panes near the white wooden stiles

separating each of the three windows in the living room into six sections.

I was watching for my father to return home from work because I knew that evening we would begin decorating for Christmas. We would get into

the green Chevrolet truck and take a drive to the Boy Scout lot to buy a freshly cut Douglas fir and bring it back home. This was always an adventure to me especially as a boy trying to pick the perfect tree for the living room. This tradition would go by the wayside for several years as I overcome health issues

that precluded live trees in the house.

But for this year, it was going to bring that aroma of fresh pine throughout the house.

We brought it back home cutting the end off slightly so it would slip into the red and green metal stand and tightened the silver bolts into

the trunk.

After a little water was placed in the holder, we were off and running. From the attic came down the two brown cardboard boxes of Christmas ornaments wrapped in a white cotton material that we used around the bottom of the tree to cover the stand.

There were big red ones, and yellows, greens and blues; many were round like a ball while some were shaped in various forms.

Mother would begin placing the ornaments while my job was placing the silver strands of icicles around the tree in a systematic yet strategic approach trying to bring some sense of symmetry to the endeavor.

As we progressed on the tree, my father was hard at work placing the exterior lights around the evergreens that lined the walk in front of our house and all along the hollies and azaleas in front of our house.

This was all culminated by the placement of a large lighted Santa Claus face that had more of a bluish gray tint than the customary red just by the door in the sticking vine that ran up the trellis there.

Mother would add little accents around the room bringing a spirit of Christmas here and there but the main focus was the tree.

This year we had the added bonus of a fireplace bought at G.E.X. This cardboard fireplace featured red bricks printed on it face and once put together placed within its middle was a lighted long which flickered and glowed whenever it was plugged in.

Across its top, we strung a string and hung all the Christmas cards we received from friends and relatives.

Over the next, few weeks underneath the tree would appear the gift that we were sharing with one another and then on Christmas morning when I rose, I'd find the ones brought me by Santa.

One of my favorite evenings of the season was when one of the versions of "The Christmas Carol" would play on television and we would all settle in with cups of hot cocoa and holiday popcorn and gather around the television.

We always had a Christmas

dinner; whether big or large it was a tradition that brought stability and a sense of order to lives which to a little boy sometimes seemed chaotic. Of course, I caused my share of chaos. My dear mother use to say I could be a little angel for everybody else but for her I was often her holy terror. She was probably right. I was quite a handful for her and dad both at times.

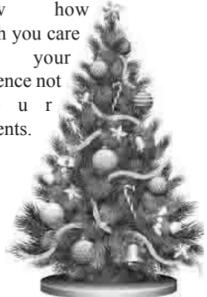
In looking back now though it's safe to say we all had our moments throughout the year, at Christmas they seemed to fade away into a sense of peace and love that wiped away the rough edges of life. The hurts, the pains, the sorrows, the angers were covered over by God's gracious gift to us of that little boy Jesus wrapped in swaddling cloths in a manger in Bethlehem who came to give us a chance at everlasting life.

As we prayed for something better for all our family, as we shared in the giving to one another, as we looked more deeply into each other's eyes, said "I Love You," we found ourselves closer to each other and closer to Him.

While life was not always easy for my late parents, they gave me all they could to make it possible for me to not only live through health issues that kept them financially drained and emotionally taxed, but to encourage me and make it possible for all that has come since in my life.

Through ups and downs, Christmas was not a day that centered around the decorations, the gifts, the TV shows, parades, or sporting events, it was about each other and what we could do to be more caring as a family. Now that time has moved on, that is what I remember most about Christmas.

Why don't you use this Christmas to show how much you care with your presence not your presents.



*Joy to the world*

--And many thanks to all of you this holiday season. It's been a privilege and a joy serving you.

**Middle Tennessee Carpet & Hardwood**  
 Danny & Jimmy  
 800 McMinnville Hwy.

**GREETINGS OF THE SEASON**

*May thanks to you our neighbors and friends for your valued patronage.*

*We look forward to serving you again next year.*

**Woodbury Veterinary Hospital**  
 102 N. Dillon Street  
**Lewanda Lance Jordan, DVM**

**THIS ONE'S FOR YOU!**

Please accept our gratitude along with our best wishes for a very merry season filled with wonderful surprises. It's no surprise that people like you make doing business here a pleasure for us. Thanks!

**MIKE JOHNSON**

**Southern Heating & Air**  
 615-563-8672 or  
 615-584-0737

## Kids Coloring Contest

Kids, color one or both of the following coloring pages and your artwork will be judged. If you win, you will have your photo printed in the Cannon Courier. Turn in your artwork by Tuesday, January 6 and your winning photo will print in the January 14 edition. Entries made be mailed to Cannon Courier, 113 West Main Street or dropped off in person. Good luck!

**COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names \_\_\_\_\_

**COLORING CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names \_\_\_\_\_

# A Christmas Eve Prayer from 1881

by Rian B. Anderson

Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted for Christmas. We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible.

After supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible, instead he bundled up again and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though, I was too busy wallowing in self-pity. Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.



Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up this sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me." The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high sideboards on.

After we had exchanged the sideboards, Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood - the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all Fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?" You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what?

Yeah," I said, "Why?" "I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him. We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand. "What's in the little sack?" I asked. Shoes, they're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us; it shouldn't have been our concern. We came in from the blind side of the

Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt, could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children - sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said. He turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring in enough to last awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and as

much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks with so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak.

My heart swelled within me and a joy that I'd never known before, filled my soul. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

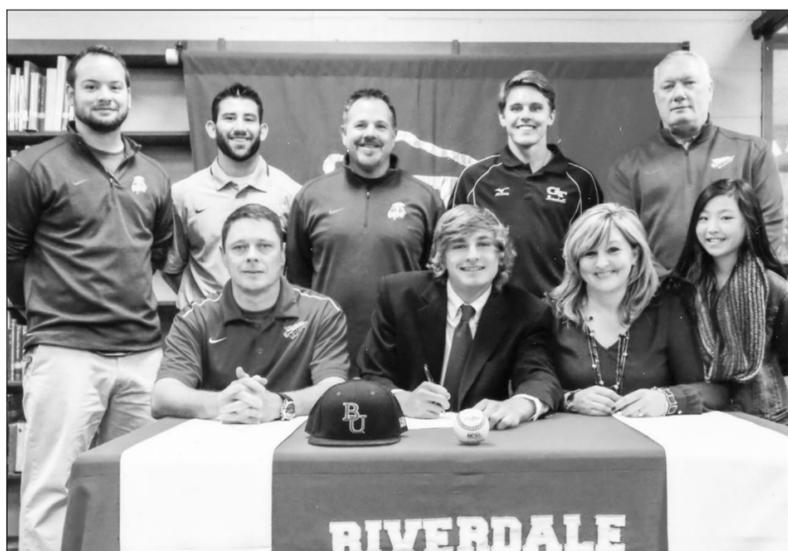
At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell." I was the youngest. My two brothers and two sisters had all married and had moved away.

Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, May the Lord bless you, I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square. Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that, but on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Now the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children.

For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life.



## King signs with Belmont

Photo provided

Riverdale senior Dylan King recently signed with Belmont to play baseball. Front row, left to right are father Tracy King, Dylan King, mother Kellee King and sister Kelcy King. Back row are Riverdale assistant Kerrick Cron, Riverdale assistant Joey Travathan, Riverdale coach Barry Messer, Dylan's brother, Jonathan King and Riverdale principal Tom Nolan. Dylan is the grandson of Wallace and Linda King and Jerry and Faye Barrett of Woodbury.



Photo Provided

This photo was printed several years ago in the Cannon Courier and left at our office. Children are unknown.



Photo Provided

You don't have to be human to believe in Santa Claus.



Left to right, Marlene Bogle, Cheryl Johnson, Becky Harris, Sandra Walker, Linda Gunter, Charlene Bogle. Back row, Helon Bush and Eddie Sykes

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