

Wagenermonthly

Aiken Standard covering wagener and eastern aiken county



Submitted photo
Lance Adams (brother), Stephanie Adams (mother), Marcia Lee Blizzard and ARMC CEO Carlos Milanes stand with winner Taylor-Lauren Adams.

Student wins ARMC contest

By MARCIA LEE BLIZZARD
Contributor

According to Busbee Elementary, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is much more than just a song! For the second year in a row, a Busbee student has been honored to have their artwork on thousands of Christmas cards.

Once again, the third-grade students of Aiken County competed in the Aiken Regional Medical Centers' "Christmas Card Contest." The winning entry, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," is featured on the ARMC's 2009 Christmas cards. Shirley McIntosh was

excited when she shared that the hospital sent out more than 15,000 Christmas cards which showcased Taylor-Lauren Adams' artwork.

On Dec. 10, Channel 6 Anchorman Brad Means was the Master of Ceremonies for the 18th Annual Christmas at the Lake. Highlights included the Aiken High School marching band, choral groups, Santa and the Christmas card coloring contest winners.

During the celebration, the winners of the ARMC Christmas Card contest were announced and presented with gift certificates, savings bonds and their framed original artwork.

Out of more than 200 entries, Busbee submitted around 85 drawings in the contest. Shirley McIntosh stated, "The marketing staff looked through each of the pictures and chooses about 25. We put these 25 on tri-fold boards, in the hospital cafeteria for our staff and visitors to vote. ... The winner and runner up are chosen by the number of votes. The winner's picture becomes the official ARMC Christmas card for the year."

When ARMC CEO Carlos Milanes recognized Taylor-Lauren Adams as the first-place recipient,

Please see ARMC, page 23



Lawana Furtick is Realtor of the Year

By SUZANNE R. STONE
Staff writer

The Aiken Board of Realtors celebrated the season with its annual holiday party recently.

The highlight of the party at Rose Hill Estate was the announcement of the 2009 Realtor of the Year. This year's honoree, Lawana Furtick, a member of the board since 1996 and a two-time past president of the board, was unable to attend but

was presented with the award the night before at a regular board meeting. This is her second time winning the Realtor of the Year designation after receiving it in 2000; she is the board's only two-time winner of the award.

"I think Lawana Furtick is one of the most deserving Realtors of the Year," said Association Executive Kristyne Blake. "She's a seasoned Realtor who

Please see REALTOR, page 23

Farr is cover artist for '10 calendar

By MARCIA LEE BLIZZARD
Contributor

The Town of Wagener has once again decided to highlight student artists. During November, students from the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools actively participated in the second Calendar Contest for "Wagener's Home-town Holiday Celebration."



Farr

associated with the month they chose.

Students were asked to draw pictures associating something unique about Wagener with a theme asso-

The 2010 Calendar Cover Drawing was created by Sara Nicole Farr. Sara is the daughter of Bryan and Lynn Farr from Wagener. Sara is 10 years old and is the sister of Lauren, Aubrey, Nathan, Matthew, Dylan and Kyle Farr.

Sara is in the fourth grade at Busbee Elementary and

Please see ARTIST, page 23



Melody Corbett is Jan. artist of month



Corbett

to illustrate. | 10

See Melody's drawing and find out why she chose January as the month

A look back on planning our wedding, 41 years later

Memories

Memories are precious. Memories are something that cannot be taken away from you. Memories bring you great comfort and joy. Memories can sustain you through difficult times. Memories allow you to remember from where you came and look forward to where you are going. Memories are God's gift from the past for the future.

Here Comes the Bride

This December Garry and I celebrated our 41st wedding anniversary. At times it seems just yesterday, and at other times I can hardly remember when I was not married.

I was 22 years old and a senior at Lander University, and Garry was 25 years old and serving in Uncle Sam's Army in Germany. Garry and I corresponded two or three times a week, with most of his letters coming to my Wagener address, since I came home every weekend. I would leave a little before 7:00 on Monday mornings to meet my 8:30 class.

I had not received a letter over this particular weekend, and so on the Monday before Thanksgiving, I cut my 8:30 class hoping that I would get a letter from Garry, and I did. The following words jumped out at me, "Plan the wedding, I am coming home."

And that is just what Mama and I did. Mama managed to put together a lovely wedding in just a matter of days. Garry and I got married on Dec. 12, and on Dec. 30, Garry went back to Germany, and on Jan. 6, I went back to Lander.

I graduated from Lander that May and Garry came home in August. We made our first home at Goose Creek.

I taught at Goose Creek High School while Garry continued his education at Baptist College in Charleston. We lived in the Goose Creek area for two years until Garry graduated.

I learned many good lessons during those two years – mostly about cooking.

I had some experience in cooking, just enough to get by. My greatest foe was fried chicken. I fed Garry burnt on the outside and raw in the middle chicken for a year before I mastered the art of frying "just right" chicken.

The first milk gravy I ever cooked could be cut into squares and spread on rice. Thankfully, I eventually learned how to make perfect gravy.

Garry was not a big eater of grits, since both of his parents were from Oklahoma, and grits was certainly not one of the staples in their kitchen.

I was all but devastated when I learned of his not so fondness for grits. However, it did not take long to win him over.

He soon learned that grits is right up

there with fried steak, especially when you add a little milk gravy to the mix.



LEMYRA YOUNG

- Through the years, I
- have managed to become
- a good comfort food
- cook.
- My nephews Chet and
- Todd love my macaroni
- and cheese pie and my
- asparagus casserole.
- Todd called me when
- he was living in Nash-
- ville to see how I was
- doing after back surgery.
- Once we got the pre-
- liminaries out of the

way, he told me that he would be home for Thanksgiving, which was a few weeks away, and that it would sure be great if I could manage to cook my macaroni and cheese pie. With the help of our son Tyler, I was able to not only cook the macaroni and cheese pie but Chet's asparagus casserole, too.

When we married, I had a few sewing skills which I had acquired from watching Mama, who is an accomplished designer and seamstress, and also from my high school home economics teacher Sara Gantt.

Mama and Daddy gave me a sewing machine the second Christmas we were married. I made several dresses for myself, sewed up split seams, patched holes, and various other mending jobs that could be accomplished on the sewing machine.

Now, I don't know when I last made a garment. I do recall that in the past few years, I have made a tractor seat, a camouflaged deer stand cover, and about 10 dog collars; none of which were for me.

When our bird dog Babe was younger, she would pull our dog King's collar off of him; then he in turn would chew the collar in two. This got to be rather expensive, so I began removing the metal collar hooks and sewing them to old cloth belts of mine, and when I ran out of belts, I resorted to bandanas.

Even though King was always proud to wear his collar, he was even prouder to chew it in two. I finally weaned him from wearing a collar.

I feel that marriage is a journey; you can make it a long weekend or an around the world cruise, something you and your mate must decide.

Cooking and sewing are just minor bumps along the way. It is the major bumps that make or break a marriage. Garry and I have seldom had a disagreement about rearing Tyler or spending money.

Tyler has for the most part always been an easy to raise child, and he has for the most part always done as told.

We both know that if you don't have but

X amount of money, then you only spend X amount of money.

Much of our arguments in the early years of our marriage centered on him coming in late from hunting and me having to reheat his supper and me forever in the kitchen cleaning up afterward.

Both of these were solved with the purchase of a microwave and a dishwasher. Garry and I both are hard headed, and we have had our share of disagreements. However, we both are committed to our marriage, and neither one of us is willing to

accept defeat.

Today there are numerous self-help books on the market. However, there is nothing like personal experience to bring you back down to earth.

And even with 41 years of married life, I am still learning.

Two things I have always tried to remember: Grandmama Myra Tyler told me don't ever go to bed mad, and Daddy told me to think before leaving Garry, because nine times out of 10, I would want to come back. Besides, where would I go?

A Special Note To My Readers

As I finish writing this column, I am reminded how truly fortunate I am to live in the small town in which I grew up, to daily see the many people whom I care about, to share special times with family and friends, and to worship with many others who love God as I do. This special time of year can be hectic and tiring, but it also affords us the opportunity to stop and be thankful. I am thankful for you my readers. I appreciate so much the time that many of you take to call, write, or stop me on the street to compliment me on my stories. Many readers tell me how my writings nudged a special memory for them too.

I wish for each of you a wonderful holiday season. May God bless you all. - LeMyra Tyler Young



Merry Christmas from the

Wagenermonthly

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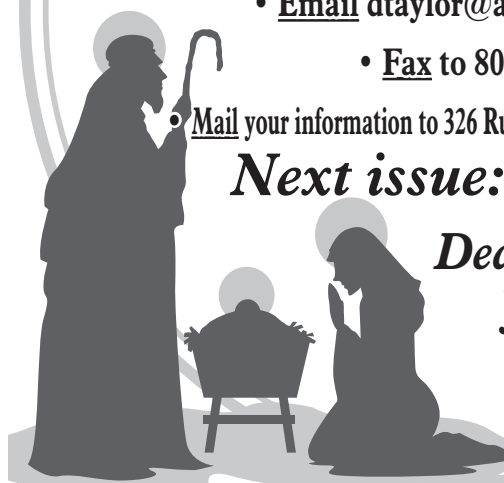
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Next issue: January 27

Deadline: Friday, January 15



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BUSBEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Busbee students celebrate Christmas around world

By MARCIA LEE BLIZZARD
Contributor

What a beautiful display of excellence in commitment, behavior and extensive classroom research demonstrated by student execution as the Busbee Elementary School students participated in the annual Wagener Christmas Parade!

The banner, made by Mary Saladyga, introduced the elementary students as it exclaimed, "Busbee Elementary Celebrates Christmas Around the World."

The Busbee Jump Club, highlighted by candy cane colored ropes, brought the parade to a rewarding halt as they entertained the crowd with their jump rope routines. Their team slogan, "We are Learning the Ropes," was evident as each student demonstrated various jumping techniques.

Busbee Elementary School was represented in the parade by two students who carried the school banner, 27 students from the Jump Club, 21 students who carried flags, and seven students who enjoyed riding the school float.

The December theme at Busbee Elementary was "Christmas Around the World." Teachers selected a country and created lessons and activities to incorporate into their daily lesson plans. The flags that the students carried in the parade represented the countries Busbee students studied.

In addition, Mrs. Marshall, Busbee's principal, also purchased flags from countries of which some of the Wagener residents, the Area 4 international teachers and a few of the students were natives.

The 21 first- through fifth-grade children

carrying the flags were dressed according to the traditions of each country. Answered prayers brought beautiful weather and each child was able to take off their coats and showoff the "costumes" that were purchased or made to honor each country.

Countries represented in the parade were Australia, Bolivia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Africa, Spain, Thailand and the United States.

Busbee's float depicted a cozy Christmas setting.

Second-grade teacher, Katie Heath, rocked by the warm fireplace which was decorated with garland, and, of course, "Two stockings were hung by the chimney with care ..." Several of the students were snuggled on a rug by the Christmas tree as they listened to Heath read one of their favorite Christmas stories. As the float, laced with flags from various countries, was "pulled out of sight" – the crowd was left not with just a vision of the world but Christmas spirit, excitement, joy and the hope of peace.

To culminate the unit of study on Christmas traditions around the world, the chorus students explored carols and holiday traditions from Germany, Japan, Australia, Africa, Mexico and Canada in preparation for the choral performance.

Busbee parents were invited to the Busbee Elementary chorus program, "It's Christmas Everywhere!" on Dec. 15 in the J.O. Brown Auditorium. Students were able to watch the chorus performance on Thursday during the school day.

Students of the Month for Busbee Elementary

The following are the students of the month for November.

These students are to be congratulated for displaying responsibility during the month: Caleb Derochie, Christian Miles, Taunija Swedenburg, Jamie Poole, Virgil Bynem, Blake Gatlin, Ta'Nauziah

Corley, Lasy Williams, Angela Pacheco-Rodriguez, Abel Mendiola, Emily Cutler, Amanda Howard, Keiondric Tyler, Victoria Alger, Jamiya Rowe, La'Java Williams, Caitlin Courtney, Shania Jackson, Gabe Smith, Ian Woodward, Salayah Walker, Kaylin Hammonds, Krista Reese-Tindal, Alasia James, Jacob McGee and Megan Danley.

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A.L. CORBETT MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Submitted photos

Shequavia Tyler, Charity Bynem, Kimberly Corbett and Johniya Bynem were the seventh-grade musicians.

Goodies for Grandparents

Each year ALCMS honors grandparents with "Goodies for Grandparents." This year they were entertained by the ALCMS Strings Group, led by music teacher Mrs. Thrower. Students entertained and served the grandparents and pastors. Quarterly a "Meeting of the Heart" is held to inform pastors and youth leaders about the programs at the school and ways we can work together. During December, the meeting is held with the grandparents.

Grandparents and ministers received a mosaic Christmas coaster designed and crafted by Mrs. Fontanez's art class.



BRIEFLY

PASS testing

PASS testing is extremely important for our students. This test becomes part of their academic record and the results are used to develop a school report card. Students need to come to school ready for testing by getting a good night's sleep and having a good breakfast (we have free breakfast for all students everyday). Below are the dates to help parents and the community in planning.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) Spring 2010 Testing Schedule

- Writing, Day 1 – March 16 (Tuesday)
 - Writing, Day 2 – March 17 (Wednesday)
 - Writing Make-up Testing Window Through – Tuesday, March 23
 - ELA (Reading and Research) – May 11 (Tuesday)
 - Mathematics – May 12 (Wednesday)
 - Science or Social Studies* – May 13 (Thursday)
 - Social Studies** – May 14 (Friday)
 - Make-up Testing*** – May 17-20
- *All students in grades 7 will take the sci-

ence test. Students in grades 6 and 8 will take either the science or the social studies test.

**All students in grades 7 will take the social studies test. Make-up tests in all subjects for grades 6 and 8 may be administered on this date.

Inclement weather

In case of inclement weather, any missed days will be made up according to the district calendar make-up schedule: 2009-2010 Inclement weather make-up days are in this order:

- Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (Jan. 18)
- Presidents' Day (Feb. 15)
- Memorial Day (May 31)
- End of school days

* Teacher Inservice/Workdays are no longer an option due to furloughs.

The calendar is on the District's website and was been provided to each student on the first day of school.

The school's website is www.aiken.k12.sc.us.

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Simple lifestyle changes improve quality of life

A healthy lifestyle begins with small steps and setting achievable goals. Getting started is easier than you might think, even for the elderly.



KATHY CRIST

It is never too late for seniors to take control of their health and focus on the positive aspects of aging instead of the myths and negative stereotypes.

With the right mindset, seniors can embrace growing

older and start on the journey to healthy aging using items found around a typical home.

Living life to the fullest as you age can be challenging, yet exciting. Making an effort to better your health can improve your quality of life greatly.

Awareness and education are important to empowering seniors to age gracefully.

The following household items and activities can act as simple ways for seniors to begin their healthy aging journey.

Physical

Before undertaking any type of physical program, seniors should talk to their doctor. There may be activities seniors should avoid due to personal health situations.

- **A notepad and pen** – Stay on track by writing down goals and recording your progress.

- **Two cans of soup** – Actually, any canned goods from the pantry serve as great hand weights and can be used help to improve arm strength. While sitting in a chair, place both arms out flat in front of you and lift the can up about six inches. Repeat five times. Remember, it's not a race, start slow and increase your repetitions as you are able.

- **Kitchen timer** – Start with five minutes of exercise and increase time as ability warrants. Making slow, steady progress builds a routine and endurance.

- **Glass of water** – Among other health benefits, staying hydrated can prevent temporary memory impairment. Try to drink at least six to eight 8-ounce glasses of water daily.

- **Healthy snacks and meals** – Eat

a balanced diet that is rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and fibers and low in saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol. Make foods that are flavorful and simple to prepare. If your loved one needs assistance preparing healthy meals or snacks, consider hiring caregivers that for a few hours a week to help with advanced meal and snack preparation.

Mental fitness

- **Deck of cards** – Games keep the brain working and cognitive skills healthy. Play a game of Solitaire or flip the cards over and match numbers or suits to improve memory.

- **Calculator** – Maintain cognitive skills and financial health by keeping close track of monthly expenses.

- **Newspaper** – Reading exercises the mind and helps the ability to focus. Most newspapers also include a daily crossword puzzle, which helps delay memory impairment.

Overall well-being

- **Calendar** – Record doctor's appointments, including preventive care visits. Also keep track of loved ones' anniversaries and birthdays.

- **Pillow** – Getting seven to eight hours of sleep each night is important. Commit to a regular sleep schedule and develop a bedtime ritual, such as listening to soothing music or taking a bath.

- **Telephone** – Staying connected with friends and family is good for emotional well-being.

There is a higher probability of healthy aging success when there is support and encouragement from a senior's loved ones.

Families and friends can cheer on the seniors in their lives by giving them a "Healthy Aging" basket that includes some of the items listed above.

Right at Home offers in-home companion and personal care and assistance to seniors and disabled adults who want to continue to live independently.

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WAGENER-SALLEY HIGH NEWS

Eagle Bots robotics team

On Dec. 4, the Wagener-Salley Eagle Bots robotics team went to their competition at S.C. State. Of 22 teams, we won first place in the innovate category for the most innovative and creative robot design solution and the most complete engineering notebook. Our team also won second place overall in competition. We took third place in the motivate category for team spirit, enthusiasm, and participation within the school and community. Our students Austin Bodie, Tyriq Davis, Michael Frost, Dillon Overton, Daniel Porter, Darrian Rivers, Vincent Walker and Amber Williams worked many long hours to make this possible.

Working alongside our students were our awesome mentors, Mark Hudson and Davis Shull, both of whom are WSHS alumni who work at SRS. Both of these gentlemen donated a tremendous amount of time away from their families, talent, patience, food and parts. Many thanks from all of us!

As many of you may know, this is an expensive undertaking funded exclusively by tax deductible donations. To register our team with FIRST is \$275, and the

entry fee for each competition is also \$275. Our parts kit this year was \$650. We want to send out a special thank you to all our sponsors including Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Aiken Electric Cooperative, Busbee Automotive, Wagener Milling, Davenport Funeral Home, Powder House Pet Resort, The T-Shirt Shoppe, and our not so anonymous computer benefactor.

More notes ...

The WSHS Army ROTC drill teams, with and without rifles, have qualified for the 2010 Army nationals. The Nationals will be held on March 20, in Macon, Ga. We will compete against the best in the nation. Congratulations, War Eagles!

These are the Wagener Hometown Celebrations Calendar Contest Winners from Wagener-Salley.

- May – Lindsey Fulmer
- June – Lee Ellen Fulmer
- July – Fantasia Chandler
- August – Tyshelle Tyler

These students will be featured in the Wagener Hometown Celebrations Calendar and in the *Wagener Monthly* during the selected month.

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Christmas story gives us hope for the future

By JIM WEST
Columnist

Here we are in the middle of the 2009 Christmas season. Parades, church bazaars and family gatherings help to bring in the Christmas season.

We listen to the old, old stories of the first Christmas and to the meanings Christmas has around the world. We sing Christmas carols and wear colorful clothing to bring in the season. We listen to mothers and fathers tell of the great expectations they have for all newborn children.

During the Christmas season, I am reminded of the story of the first Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ and the expectations for the human race – you and I.

We hear the story from the Bible as it tells of humanity's successes and downfalls and of the birth of the Christ child, which offers us great expectations if we only listen to His teachings and follow the basic rules for our own lives.

One Sunday morning this month, I was sitting in a church service at Wagener United Methodist, listening to a young lady, LeAnne Branch, age 17, playing hymns and Christmas carols on her violin.

It seemed as if her violin was speaking to me and asking me if I knew the real

Christmas story.

Her beautiful violin music was causing me to think about the different sides of life, with the moaning of the violin strings one moment, and then a sudden change, with the next number being a Christmas carol about good news and hope for humanity, if we only follow the guidance of the age old books.

In our society we have people who have life so very, very bad, and some who have life so very, very good.

I am told stories daily of single mothers, single fathers and senior citizens who are simply making ends meet one day at a time.

Most of us have some kind of job with some real income, but every day I see people who have no jobs, have lost their jobs or who are suffering some sort of unfortunate circumstance, through no fault of their own.

You and I could easily be in the same situation. Some of us will be – we just don't know it yet!

Great expectations while life is a bummer? Great expectations when terrible sickness is in the midst of your family? Great expectations when your son or daughter is serving our country in a foreign land, under dangerous circumstances?

Great expectations with the birth of a new child? Great expectations with the beginning of a new marriage and the start of a new family?

The Christmas story gives us hope – hope for the future through our understanding of the past. It simply says don't make the same mistakes again.

Listen to the real Christmas story. There are people hurting and you and I can do something about it.

We must do what we can and leave the rest to the Almighty. Celebrate this Christmas by listening to the real Christmas story.

People are hurting; there is no room in the inn and besides, they don't have any money anyway!

Make yourself a part of the real Christmas story. Do what you can to help someone else and you will hear the violin strings and their message.

There is hope – you and I can provide it. We must all do what we can in our own simple way.

Don't forget – regardless of race, religion or ethnic background we can all be a part of the Christmas story – it speaks to all of us and has meaning for everyone.

Merry Christmas 2009 and Happy New Year!

Healing and Restoration Conference will be held

Gateway Outreach Christian Ministries, formerly the Chapel of Love Community Church, in conjunction with various other area ministries will host a healing and restoration conference with Brother Sean Quental as the featured speaker.

Times for the services are Saturday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 24 at 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Brother Sean was led to birth New Heart Gathering Ministry. This ministry focuses on Psalms 150 and the development of young men and women to be the children of the most high God that we each are called to be. In addition, the call on his ministry is to restore the church of Jesus Christ and make the bride (the church) ready for the coming Lord Jesus. It is so important to overcome the power of the enemy we must ensure that we are restored into proper and correct relationship with Father God.

An important aspect of restoration of the church is to move past denominational lines and focus on what we have in common which is Jesus Christ and the purpose for which He established the first church. It must no longer be about anyone or any "church building" but about the living Lord Jesus.



and Harvest of Love
welcome

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Monday-Wednesday

January 18th - 20th

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VISIT FROM REP. JOE WILSON'S STAFF



Submitted photo

On Dec. 16, two of Rep. Joe Wilson's staff members visited Wagener on a factfinding/update visit. They usually visit about this time of year. They had a lengthy discussion with members of Wagener Town Council on the needs, plans, present and future of Wagener. From left are W. Eric Dell, Wilson's chief of staff and counsel, Councilman George Smith, Councilman Michael Miller, Councilman John Hudson and Melissa Chandler, Wilson's legislative director.

WAGENER GARDEN CLUB

By NANCY BOMMER
Garden Club vice president

The Wagener Garden Club held its monthly meeting on Dec. 8. Our program was presented by President Susanne Bishop and me on how to make a wreath and flower stems utilizing dried hydrangeas as well as a video presentation was shown.

The brick, wrought-iron work and signage have been finalized at the Wagener Cemetery. Decorative pots have been placed on top of the brick columns at the entrances, and the lanterns will soon be completed.

Containers filled with daffodils and pansies were placed in front of merchants on Main Street on Dec. 3 by us. One merchant in Wagener was so excited the day we delivered his container of pansies and daffodils, he has asked the Garden Club if they would plant a strip of grass that has only been a nuisance to maintain.

We will prepare the area with amendments then plant daffodils and other plants which will be planted to provide a bloom throughout the summer. Two planned plantings by the members were scheduled for Dec. 10 and Dec. 18 for the remainder of the 2,000 daffodils that we planted throughout Wagener.

The first planting took place in the park areas in downtown Wagener and at the Blue Star Memorial Marker, and the second

planting was at the four entrance signs, at the library, at Roy Warner Park and in front of all business locations. We look forward to that first burst of yellow announcing spring is arriving in Wagener.

Look for the newly replaced sign depicting Gunter Park along Highway 302 as you enter into Wagener from Highway 302 or are heading out of town.

The Wagener Garden Club placed Christmas Decorations at the four entrance signs coming into Wagener in celebration of the Holiday Season. We participated in Wagener's Hometown Holiday Celebration on Dec. 4-5. Thanks to Tyler Brothers for allowing us to setup in front of their location with our tables containing our baked goods, hotdogs, coffee, and hot chocolate we sold and for everyone who purchased raffle tickets and baked goods. Drawing for the club's fundraising raffle for a Wii was drawn, and the proud winner was Cami Seibert.

Work on all of the club's projects included weeding and mulching at the entrance signs, Roy Warner Park, the Nancy Bonnette Library, the U.S. Post Office, and dead heading of the double-knock out roses at three locations.

As cooler temperatures approach, we hope you will be able to enjoy the double knock-out roses and the pansies until spring is announced by the daffodils that will be spring forth.

WUMC women collected boxes to support troops

By CAROLINE C. KOVELESKI
Wagener UMW treasurer

Our church families have several members serving in the military worldwide. Several of the United Methodist Women have been military wives and know how much the service personnel looked forward to those boxes from home.

These men and women are doing so much to give us back home the freedoms that we all enjoy that we feel we must do all that we can to support them. In just a small way, we feel that getting these

boxes from their church home will boost their morale a little bit.

Several of us joined together to pack six boxes for those serving abroad in Iraq or Afghanistan and put them in the mail before Thanksgiving to hopefully ensure their arrival by Christmas. They were each packed with magazines, puzzles, canned meats, hard candy, lotions, shampoos, toothpaste and brushes, lip balm, playing cards, etc. We also included some envelopes with stamps to assist them in writing back home to their families.

We thank God each and every day for all the military personnel serving this great Nation and ask that He keep His loving arms around each and every one of them to keep them safe.

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January 18, 2010:**

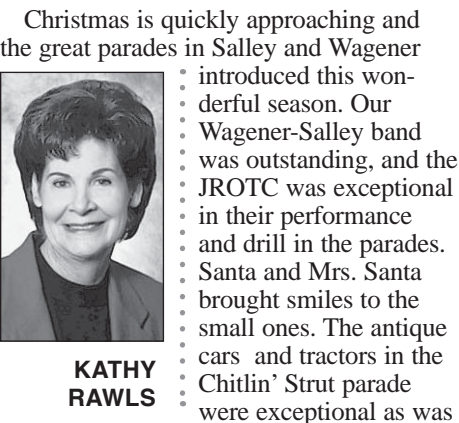
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A MESSAGE FROM KATHY RAWLS



KATHY RAWLS

Christmas is quickly approaching and the great parades in Salley and Wagener introduced this wonderful season. Our Wagener-Salley band was outstanding, and the JROTC was exceptional in their performance and drill in the parades. Santa and Mrs. Santa brought smiles to the small ones. The antique cars and tractors in the Chitlin' Strut parade were exceptional as was the Shriner's entries. The entrances to the Wagener Cemetery are absolutely beautiful, thanks to the work and dedication of the Wagener Garden Club. The Blue Star Memorial with the flags blowing in the wind is such an impressive and moving sight. Every time I pass by, I silently say a thank you to all the men and women of our U.S. Armed Forces represented by this monument. Thank you, Wagener Garden Club for your work in making Wagener better. The new Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at Wagener is a great addition to the adult education program. The program is a collaboration between ATC, the Aiken County School District and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. The CNA program was funded by stimulus funds and by grants received by ATC. Janet Jackson as director of CNA will ensure success of this program. Aiken Tech is a great asset to our county. Sam Jordan at LSCOG does a great job with work force development in the 6 county area. Serv-

ing on the LSCOG board gives me the opportunity to see the impressive programs in the various counties that Sam has put together. (I was so pleased to see former students who are enrolled in this program at the dedication recently.)

Our Courtney Senior Center continues to bustle with the noon meals and other activities in the afternoon. I will be getting a Wii and exercise programs for the center shortly. Carolyn Rushton also wants a couple of computers for the center so that Seniors can use them to apply for programs and for other activities. If you have an old computer that you would like to donate or sell inexpensively please call Carolyn or me.

Paving on the roads under the one-cent sales tax program continues in our area. I am especially pleased to see the paving of Stack Rd finally begin. Some roads that we failed to get right-of-ways on can hopefully be placed on the next one cent sales tax since the funds from those roads were passed on for other roads. Wagontong is one such road that I hope to get on the new program. We still need three signatures on Williams-Evans Rd. (portion from Windsor Rd. to Warbonnet Road). We don't want to lose the money for Williams-Evans, so please call me if you can help with the signatures.

I've noticed several road signs missing. Please contact me if you know of a road that doesn't have a sign. Road signs are critical to EMS, the fire departments and law enforcement.

Kathy Rawls is a member of Aiken County Council, representing the Wagener area.



Photos submitted by Ray Fields

At left: Carlos and Sybil Fields standing in front of their home in 1948. The house was built by Carlos. Above: Carlos and Sybil's children, George, Peggy and Ray Fields in 1994.



Dixie Youth Baseball & Softball Registration

Ages (5-12)

Registration Dates

Friday, Jan 8 6-8pm & Saturday, Jan 9 9am-12
Friday, Jan 15 6-8pm & Saturday, Jan 16 9am-12
9-12 daily during the week January 11th -15th
at The Courtney Center & Roy Warner Park

Note: Registration will only be extended if there is a need for players in a specific age/ team

League age is determined by the age of the player as of May 1, 2010. The player's birth certificate is required to register. **Cost is \$65.00** Please call one of our park office's **The Courtney Center at (803) 564-5211** or **Roy Warner Park at (803) 564-6149** if further information is needed.

Important Dates:

February 2nd, 2010 - 7PM: Coaches Meeting

February 9th, 2010 - 7PM: Parent Meeting-Program discussion.

Dixie Boys Ages 13-14 & Fast Pitch Softball Ages 13-16 will be at a later date.

The Courtney Center
 49 Roy Street
 Wagener
 564-5211

Roy Warner Memorial Park
 4287 Festival Trail Rd.
 Wagener
 564-6149

Thank you for sponsoring the
 Dixie Youth Baseball / Softball season &
 Fall Soccer for 2009 at Roy Warner Park:

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 Foster Automotive
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 Tyler Brothers *
 Kent's Korner
 Edisto Landscaping & Irrigation
 Hermano's Upholstery
 Busbee's Hardware
 Berlin Baptist Church
 (* sponsored both programs)

Thank you for sponsoring our 3rd Friday Bingo's
 for 2009 at The Courtney Center:

Security Federal
 Wagener United Methodist Church
 Town of Salley
 The Aiken Standard/Wagener Monthly
 Southern Tool
 Town of Perry
 Town of Wagener
 PBT
 Aiken Regional Hospital
 First Baptist Church of Wagener
 The Petal Shoppe
 University Health
 Edisto Dental
 Kents Korner

A special Thanks to Kents Korner who sponsored all of our 5th Friday Bingo for 2009

These programs would not be possible if not for the generosity of the above sponsors. If your business or church is interested in becoming a Bingo sponsor we have a few months to fill for 2010, please call Carolyn at 564-5211

Melody Corbett is the January artist of the month



By KIMBERLY FONTANEZ
Contributor

The artist of the month for January is Melody Corbett. She is the daughter of Lisa Corbett. Melody is 12 years old, a seventh-grade student at A.L. Corbett Middle School and has two brothers and a sister.

Melody chose the ambulance station because of the countless lives that the paramedics save every day. She incorporated a little boy wearing a fireman's hat because of the huge role that they also play in saving lives.

"I chose the month January because it is the

month of my best friend's birthday," she said.



Corbett

January also signifies the launch of a new year. Melody's favorite Wagener Celebration event is the tree lighting because of all the vivid and attractive colors and the explosive firework display.

Melody is active in Beta Club and plans to go to college in the future.

"Art fits into my plans because I am going to college to become an art teacher," she said.



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The Palmetto Kiwanis "K-Kids" at Busbee Elementary had fun in the Wagener Christmas Parade.

Courtney Center events

Third Friday Bingo will be held Friday, Jan. 15 at 2 p.m., sponsored by Security Federal Bank.

Fifth Friday Bingo will be held Friday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m., sponsored by Kents Korner.

Canasta Card Game is held each Wednesday at noon. Can't play? Come learn!

Roy Warner Park

Dixie Youth baseball and softball registration for ages 5-12 is coming up.

Registration dates are Friday, Jan. 8 from 6

to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 9 from 9 a.m. to noon; Friday, Jan. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon.; and 9 a.m. to noon daily during the week of Jan. 11 at the Courtney Center and Roy Warner Park.

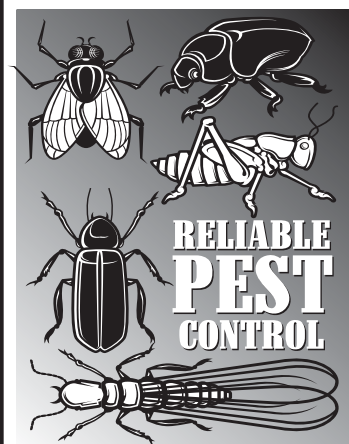
Note: Registration will only be extended if there is a need for players in a specific age/team.

League age is determined by the age of the player as of May 1, 2010. The player's birth certificate is required to register. Cost is \$65. Please call one of our park office – the Courtney Center at (803) 564-5211 or Roy Warner Park at (803) 564-6149 – if further information is needed.

Jan. story times at the Wagener Library

Start off the new year right by joining us for good books and a craft activity every first and third Wednesday at 3:30 at the Nancy Bonnette Library in Wagener. Children of all ages are welcome. The theme on Jan. 6 will be babies. There will be lots of fun with books, songs and rhymes, and activities about babies, both human and wild animal. Then on Jan. 20, our story time will be about mice. Eeeek! Don't worry, the mice in these books are nice.

The library is located at 204 Park St. N.E., in Wagener. Please note that our extended library hours are noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. For questions about children's events or regular library services, call branch manager LeWanda Fulmer at (803) 564-5396.



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Aiken County Councilmember District 1

KATHY RAWLS

419 Lake Amelia Rd
Wagener, SC 29164
803-564-5435 (Home)
Email: brawls01@pbtcomm.net



R130304 • WT042909



Cinderella Project

With your help you can make a dream come true through the Cinderella Project. Here's your chance to help a girl in our community be the "Belle of the Ball".

The Wagener Pregnancy Care Center and Churches Together for Kids host a Father-Daughter Purity Ball. The Cinderella Project is designed to help girls in our community be able to attend the Father- Daughter Purity Ball.

The Cinderella Project collects new and almost new formal dresses, semi-formal dresses, and gowns as well as accessories. These donations will help girls attend the ball without worrying about the financial burden associated with attending such an event and allows for the opportunity to have memories of what is one of the most special events and milestones in a young girl's life – the Father-Daughter Purity Ball.

Girls ages 6th grade through College will be attending the Father – Daughter Purity Ball in February of 2009. We are preparing for this very special event and hope you can help us.

Please call the WPCC 803-564-9722 or CTFK 803-564-7773 to arrange drop off of donations.

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Left to right, are:
Amanda Anderson, Judy Parrish, Ausley Gissendanner, Jennifer Hooker, Terri Dyches, Dayna Epting, Sherrie Hooker, and Carla Jackson

Wagener parade brings communities together

By CHERYL DESROSIERS
Contributor

When the day arrived for Wagener's annual Hometown Celebration on Dec. 5, the weather did not look promising. There was a 70 percent chance of rain that threatened to cancel the festivities. But, once again, the Lord came through for our little town.

This was my first time attending the parade in Wagener, and I was surprised to see that this event attracted hundreds of people from several communities.

I was also quite impressed at the number of participants involved in the parade.

Leading the parade in his Dodge Charger was our very own Wagener Police Chief Jeff Key. The Rev. Jones from Saron Baptist Church and Mayor-Elect Mike Miller did a wonderful job as the announcers.

There were beautiful floats from Saron Baptist Church, United Methodist Church, Wagener Drug Co., the Kiwanis, Salley Head Start, Wagener-Salley War Eagles and many, many more. The float provided by West Tire and Oil was decorated by Corbett Middle School and also served as transportation for their lovely beauty queens.

The students at Busbee Elementary School did an amazing job celebrating "Christmas Around the World." Their Double Dutch jump ropers demonstrated their skills up front and were followed by students carrying flags from countries all over the world. These students also dressed in traditional garb worn by the country their flag represented. What a learning experience for these children. Also representing our schools was the Wagener-Salley High School marching band.

A parade would not be a parade without fire trucks. Hollow Creek, Couchton, New Holland and Salley supported the Wagener Fire Department. Plugging along in the parade, as they have for the past 50 to 60 years, were antique tractors.

It wouldn't be Christmas without Santa Claus. The Town of Wagener provided a beautiful float with Santa and his sleigh, guided by his trusty reindeer.

While the parade was in motion, children standing on the sidelines enjoyed catching candy thrown from participants in the parade.

Finishing off the parade were some beautiful horses and a wagon provided by "No Balony Pony."

Although not all participants could be included in this article, it was evident that everyone put a lot of hard work into creating such a joyous occasion for many people. Thank you!



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NEW MEMBERS AT BERLIN BAPTIST



Census jobs

The Census Bureau will be testing for census taker jobs on Monday at the Odell Weeks Activities Center. They are recruiting temporary, part-time census takers for

the 2010 Census. These short-term jobs offer good pay, flexible hours, paid training, and reimbursement for authorized work-related expenses, such as mileage. Call 866-861-2010 for more information.

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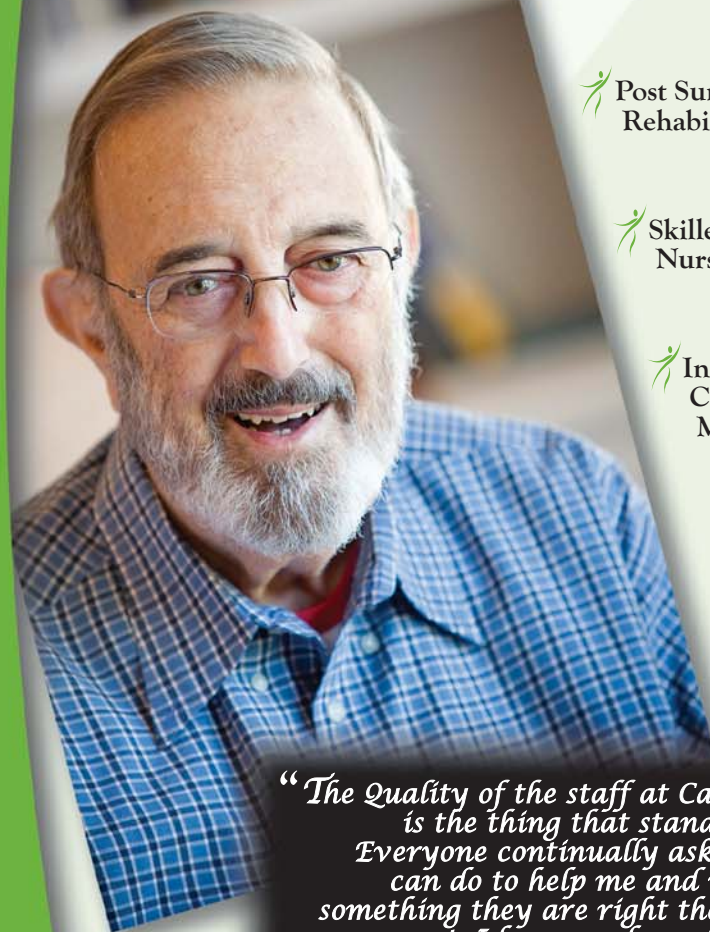
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- Ronald Bossio

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Submitted photo

Mary, Estelle and Sarah at the Pre-Thanksgiving Sale.

NOISES IN THE HENHOUSE

By DIANNE

Mary Cuspid usually writes the Noises article for the Henhouse Ministry. Mary cannot compose this one because she is recovering from back surgery. She has been suffering tremendous pain for the past several years. Even during her suffering, Mary would sew crafts, bake cakes and lead the Willing Workers on Wednesdays. All reports from her family are that she is doing well and is expected to be in much better physical health when she comes home from the Orangeburg Rehab Hospital. We are praying for Mary's quick return to the Henhouse. The place is just not the same without her.

Our annual Pre-Thanksgiving Sale on the Saturday before Thanksgiving was a big success again this year. We sold out of our cakes, cookies and pies by noon. The weather was perfect for our yard sale also. A big thank you for all your support.

To add to our day, the Palmetto Model A Club came by to shop and visit. There were about eight old "Model A" trucks reconditioned to perfection. The creativeness of the owners was amazing. If you ever get a chance to see one of their shows, go and enjoy. It is like a walk back in time. One of our members was in the group of Model A's. Joy Luce's husband Fred reconditioned his truck to be an old-timey milk truck. (Do you remember when milk was delivered to your home?)

The Henhouse Ministry is raffling off a beautiful handmade quilt. It will be raffled off on Feb. 10 just in time for Valentine's Day. All of the Willing Workers have tickets for sale and pictures of the quilt. The quilt is on display at the Henhouse if you would like to see it. The tickets are only \$1 each and go to help support our ministry.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year! Until next time, "keep thinking the good thoughts."

IN MEMORY OF ...

Dec. 6 was a day of great memories, tears, smiles, and honor. Each year Blizzard Funeral Home hosts a "Tree of Remembrance" that honors those who have passed away in the last year with a service and an Angel ornament that family members place on the Christmas Tree of Remembrance. The inscribed Angel has their loved ones name, birth, and death date and is a token of honoring their loved ones.

The Tree of Remembrance Service included inspirational words from Rev. Chris Addy of Bethcar Baptist Church. Following, the names of loved ones were called along with a slide show depicting their photo, and an Angel Ornament was given to the family. Family members very carefully chose where to place their loved one's Angel on the Tree of Remembrance. Immediately following the service a reception was held and the families enjoyed food and fellowship with others who have experienced loss



throughout the past year.

Blizzard Funeral Home wants to encourage you to never forget always remember the good times, the laughs, the love, the memories – memories can not be taken from you – enjoy them.

If you are interested in ordering an ornament in memory of or in honor of a loved one, you may do so by logging onto Blizzard Funeral Home's website, www.blizzardfuneralhome.com, and selecting the Engraved Memorial Ornament link.

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars,
reflecting on the snow

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tears

For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that the people hold so dear

But the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas choir

Up here I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,

For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart

But I am not so far away, We really aren't apart.

So be happy for me dear ones, You know I hold you dear.

And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.

I sent you each a gift of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.

It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do

For I can't count the blessing or love he has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear

Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

Car show adds to festivities

By CHERYL DESROSIERS
Contributor

In addition to the parade, the food and the crafts, Wagener held a car show on the Saturday of the Hometown celebration. This was the first year that Donald Sturkie organized the show, although he had been a participant for the past several years.

There were a lot of beautiful cars at this event. Jerry Colvin's 1971 blue Nova SS caught the eye of many voters.

Not only did he win the 2009 People's Choice Award, but he also won first place in his class, which was the Hot Rod/High Performance Class.

Wayne Pippen and his 1950 Ford pickup truck won first place in the Classic Class. Keith Seawright won Street Class with his black 1989 Ford Mustang. Unfortunately, no one showed up for the Import Class.

This competition sure must have been difficult for the voters as there were some nice cars entered into this show. Donald also arranged to have on display antique tractors dating from the 1940s and 1950s.

The car show moved from its former location in front of the Tyler Brothers Furniture Store to the parking lot across from the pavilion.

"Family and friends were my main source of advertisement," Donald said.

He did a great job of putting all of this together.



CHRIST CENTRAL 2009 WRAP-UP

By KEN CLARK
Contributor

As the year 2009 winds down, it has been a year of awesome excitement and growth for Christ Central Institute, located in Wagener.

The Bible College had its largest student body with 85, its largest missions intensive training class with 82 and its largest minister ordination with 26.

The college increased the number of classes taught per semester from seven to 14 and the number of professors/instructors from four to 10.

The college created and filled new faculty and staff positions including a new VP of Student Affairs, Justin Main, a new VP of Administrative Affairs, Kelsey Main, a new librarian, Tim Skinner and a new assistant director for Information Technology, Chris Viola Librarian.

Construction of the new Library and Coffee Shop is rapidly reaching completion and will offer Students and Wagener citizens another place for enrichment and community activities.

Free Internet access will be available to all, through the library's Wi-Fi system.

Construction of a computer laboratory in the new library will also be completed shortly and will enable the college to offer computer classes this semester.

Imminent completion of renovations on other Wagener buildings which the college has acquired will provide additional classrooms and dormitories.

The Bible College will start off the New Year with our most popular course offering, the Missions Intensive Training Class on Jan. 18.

This five-day, eight-hour per day course is the most highly praised and highly attended class given by the Bible College. The class is offered to all missions-minded individuals and church groups free!

Opening day for the spring semester at Christ Central Institute is Feb. 1.

All Christ Central Institute classes are offered tuition-free.

Call CCI President Ken Clark at (803) 564-5902, ext. 5002, if you have more questions.

WAGENER CHRISTMAS PARADE



Submitted photo

Staff of Christ Central Institute participated in the Wagener Christmas parade.

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Part 1 Feb. 4 - Mar. 2 TTH 9 am - noon \$326
Part 2 Mar. 4 - Apr. 16 TTH 9 am - noon \$476
Part 3 Apr. 20 - May 14 TTH 9 am - noon \$309
Part 4 May 18 - June 8 TTH 9 am - noon \$258
CPR/FA June 10 - 11 THF 8 am - noon \$69

Classes meet at Wagener-Salley High School.

**Call (803) 593-9954,
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Even in the winter months, bee world stays buzz-y

By WES BOMMER

Weather is cold and nasty, what could possibly be going on in the bee world?

When the temperature drops into the upper 50s, the bees go into the hive and form a cluster and vibrate their wing muscles to generate the heat for colony survival.

As the temperature drops, the cluster gets tighter and tighter. Bees work from outside in to share the warmth. Throughout the winter, we will have days warm enough for the bees to fly, and they will go out in search of forage.

Three people traveled to the University of Georgia in Athens to explore the possibilities of bringing a junior beekeeping course to South Carolina.

Age requirements would probably include ages 5 to 18 with a parent or parents in attendance. Plans have not been finalized yet, but we feel this would be a wonderful addition to education in beekeeping.

Commercial beekeepers who make their income from beekeeping are making plans for the almond pollination in California. Before the semi-trucks arrive to carry bees to California, these beekeepers need to stimulate their colonies with specialized feeding so they will have the number of bees needed for the almond pollination.

This is much different from the local beekeeper who doesn't have the need to grow their colonies that strong that early as South Carolina honey flows generally do not start until the first of April.

Area beekeepers are dreaming about how this new year is going to be better than ever before. They are conducting a short course/beekeeping course to introduce people to the world of beekeeping.

Season beekeepers are ordering new equipment that they will need for this year and planning on how many more bees they will be ordering for the year as well.

Small hive beetles arrived on the scene several years ago and have been an absolute nightmare for beekeepers. Beekeepers in the Lowcountry have sustained the lion's share of the damage.

If the beetles can gain hold into a beehive, when the eggs hatch into the larvae, the larvae eats their way through the bee cells in search of protein before they leave the hive to pupate in the soil.

When the beetle larvae eat their way through the cells, they leave behind a trail of fermented honey and destroyed combs. Several products on the market are used inside the hive to control the beetles.

Integrated pest management would monitor the level of a pest to see what levels are tolerable and how we can control these levels with non-chemical methods.

Dr. Mike Hood, Clemson University professor of entomology specializing in honeybees, is in the process of developing a pamphlet that would give beekeepers standardized methods of maintaining beetle populations at a tolerable level. This pamphlet will be a useful guideline to beekeepers.

Wes Bommer is a beekeeper and a member of the Wagener Garden Club.

Time to get back into the game and take control of our lives

It's time out for excuses; our prisons and street corners are overflowing while our



KENNETH CHANDLER

schools and colleges are struggling to maintain operation due to low student enrollment.

Our schools' dropout rates are steadily increasing. You notice I did not say high school because our children are dropping out physically and mentally even before they get to high school.

It saddens me to see so many of my brothers with great minds and wide range opportunities unable to depict a vision or purpose in life.

Let's not forget that these same young men will be face with challenges far greater than what we are facing today.

Folk always ask me, "What's the solution?" To tell you the truth, most of us don't even know where to begin to address the vast amount of circumstances and misfortunes within our own lives.

We often travel with our baggage from one point to the next, carrying the same baggage into relationships, which is one of the leading causes for our top of the scale divorce rate.

On daily basis, men face a wide range of challenges – poor housing, inadequate school systems, crime, violence, drugs, lack of health care, unemployment, underemployment and family disengagement.

I believe that these challenges are a result of challenges that were not properly addressed in the past. Unfortunately, this has caused a major negative impact on our

young men who follow in our footsteps.

For all my sport fans, somewhere down the line we have dropped the ball; now it's time for us to pick the ball back up and get back into the game. We have been sitting on the sideline long enough.

If we as men expect things to change, we must take back the authority of being great leaders that God placed us on earth to be.

It's time out for excuses; we are at the bottom of the ninth inning.

It's time for our churches and civic organizations to come together and do a better job of dealing with our young men. We have too many of them floating downstream, drowning from lack of guidance, love and understanding.

In our schools, are we looking beyond the physical restraints of our young men? Or have we come to the point that there is no hope?

Given the length of time that you have been in church or living in your community, how many relevant and life-changing programs had you participated in?

It's no secret; a lot of our homes are without the presence of a father on a regular basis. Many times these arrangements are far beyond our control.

Early communication plays a vital role in the outcome. If not properly addressed, they become frustrated to the point that they began to develop an "I don't care" attitude and start looking for love in all the wrong places.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would be the first to admit that these conditions and challenges we are facing did not happen overnight; therefore, it will not go away overnight.

It's going to take time, commitment,

unity, pray and faith. But we must keep in mind, the challenges you are facing today is a result of challenges that were not properly addressed in the past.

If we continue to drop the ball, we cannot blame it on the school system. We cannot

blame it on the penal system.

We cannot blame it on the political system. We cannot blame it on the economic system.

We must accept the blame and get back into the game!

You are Cordially Invited



Friday, February 5, 2010

Bethcar Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
950 Bethcar Church Rd, Wagener, South Carolina

Evening Program

6:00 pm Photos & Social Hour

7:00 pm Invocation, Dinner, Program

9:30 pm Closing-Last Waltz

Price includes: dinner, dessert, two 5x7 photos per family, a white rose, and a special gift for each daughter.

The dress is formal – semi-formal.

Cost per couple is \$25.

Reservations required no later than January 28th

564-7773 or 564-9722

The Ball is for young ladies 6th grade through college age and their fathers or a father type figure.

Sponsored by CTFK Ministries & the Wagener Pregnancy Care Center

R138634 • 112509

WOMEN'S WELL

By DIANNE LEMACKS
Contributor

Since last month's article, the Women's Well has been a whirlwind of activity. The ladies have been finishing up sewing projects for the Christmas Show at Temple Baptist in Columbia, packing boxes of flea market items for the Springfield Flea Market event, and sprucing up the place for the Town of Wagener's Open House.

Gail Sharpe has been instrumental in getting these events accomplished. Not only does she volunteer at the Women's Well on a regular basis but she gives so much to others also.

Gail directs the children's program at her church, leads the drama team, sings with the praise choir, is a full-time student at Christ Central and has a residential cleaning business. Those are just a few of the things I know about Gail.

One thing I do know, she is appreciated by me and all the other people she helps. Thank you, Gail!

Our day at the Springfield Flea Market was a fun time for all who went. Christ Central students Mike Malphrus and Kevin Hopper helped unload and pack up all our stuff. Gail, Deborah, Dorothy, Eartha, Clara and DeeDee took turns working at our tables.



In between their time helping, they shopped the market. It is fascinating to walk the market and see what others are selling or giving away (mostly puppies).

If you came by the Women's Well on Dec. 4, you enjoyed the delicious refreshments made by the volunteers.

DeeDee made the hot Russian Tea to warm up the folks and Lorene, Delores and Clara baked cupcakes, cheese crackers and toasted pecans. It didn't take long for the toasted pecans to disappear.

Dorothy, Christina, and Tosha greeted our visitors and assisted with sales.

The Temple Baptist Church Christmas show was another fun event. Gail, Delores, Christina and I hauled all our crafts to Columbia on Dec. 5. Participating in this show and shows like this gives exposure to what we are doing at the Women's Well.

Besides selling our crafts, we made some new friends and saw some old ones, too.

Most days at the Women's Well we have visitors. Locals come by regularly to see if

anything new has been added to our shelves.

Pastor Jimmy often brings people to see us. Usually they are board members, friends and supporters of Christ Central. We love visitors because they inspire and encourage us.

Kay Reardon, Sue Bowersock and Doni Jordan came from Columbia for a visit on Dec. 10. The trio had a tour of Christ Central's new coffee shop, the new library and the faculty apartments. Of course, they stayed and had lunch with us at the Well.

Kay and Doni brought us fabric to make many beautiful crafts. With the fabric, they offered ideas what and how to make them. Some of the projects were partially completed.

Kay, Sue and Doni were taken with the warmth and talent of the ladies. Kay and Doni, who are artists, want to come back and give art lessons. Praise God!

As we celebrate Christmas, let's remember our neighbors who are suffering economic losses, our women and men in the military and those who are homebound because of age or illness.

Pastor Jack Atkinson of Faith International is in touch with many in our community who could use a helping hand. Reach out, pray for and give assistance to those in need.

May God bless you as you bless His people with your generosity. Be blessed!



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Photo submitted by Ray Fields

Wagener Elementary School's third-grade class from 1953. Not all names are known; however, in the picture are Hazel Wooten, Donald Shumpert, Ray Fields, Jimmy Sparley, Tommy McMillan, Buddy Hydrick, Joan Rawls, and Gene Hayward.

'CHRISTMAS TIME'

By BRIAN WATTS

The wind is blowing, Leaves are falling, A cold chill is in the air
City streets are decorated, Women shopping, Old Christmas stories they share

Summer, spring and fall have passed, Winter's finally here
Children playing in the leaves, Fire in the fireplace, Christmas time is near

Mother's in the kitchen baking, Presents they must wrap
Father's on the couch watching football, Trying to take a nap

Boys and girls making their lists, Picking out their toys
Seeing their smiles on Christmas morning, Brings their parents joy

Before you know it Christmas is here, In a flash it simply goes away
I just wish everyone could be that happy each and every day

The world needs to remember Baby Jesus came this day
Celebrate with Him in your heart, He'll never go away

'A NEW YEAR WITH GOD IN YOUR HEART'

The trees are bare, leaves are gone, they're laying on the ground.
It's damp and wet outside, a chill in the air, Christmas decorations still in town.

Children playing with their new toys, not even having a care,
Parents sitting around the fireplace, old Christmas stories they share.

Go through your day with God in your heart, do it without any fear,
Remember this as December ends, and you start a New Year.

Think about the year that has gone, it is already the past,
Try to make this year better, better than the last.

This New Year will be alot better with God in your heart,
Spread joy and happiness to people you meet, as the New Year begins to start.

Read God's book, Praise His name, live without any fear,
To family, friends and everyone – Have a wonderful, blessed New Year!

'Symptoms' of Christmas around town

By SAM SMITH

The town of Wagener has fallen to the "symptoms" of Christmas once again this year.

This is totally the fault of the residents of the town who have taken it upon themselves to display all these "symptoms" that are referred to as decorations.

Seriously, the people of Wagener have once again created a festive spirit for Christmas.

As you travel along the streets just after dark, Christmas trees can be spotted through undraped windows. The brilliant colors vary from white, blue, red and multi-colored. These are reminders of the warmth of the season. One tree that is missing this year is the ceramic tree display by Alma Cofer.

Traveling through Wagener, displays of lights can be seen and seem to be concentrated in areas. Garvin Drive maintains its reputation of being a "wonderland." As you begin your turn to Garvin Drive, on the right can be seen the white lights of Ann Crout. Just up the street from her is the unique nativity display erected by Tammy Branch.

If you are ready for a Christmas light "overload" visit the yard of Phillip Widener. The display is one of the most diverse in Wagener.

Across the street is the home of Chris

Widener; his display is a series of inflated figures that share the Christmas joy.

Not far away is the home of Charlie Tyler, which is decorated with a taste of modern sophistication. Its large green wreaths and red bows happily greet both passer-bys and welcome guests.

Around the curve on Highway 302 is another Tyler home located above a pond draped with lighted garland looking quite like a Christmas greeting card.

The crowning achievement of the town however, is Railroad Avenue, which goes through the middle of Wagener. The parks are adorned with a variety of white light trees of various descriptions both real and artificial while a diverse group of holiday animals "graze" as they glow.

Ed Labine and grandson Eric Blair set up the Wagener display with style. Visitors passing through would be excited to see such a display and residents should be proud of such a great setting.

Speaking of the Labines, has anyone seen their display of Christmas penguins at 205 North Main St.?

Finally the utility poles that line the streets of Wagener are affixed with ornaments of snowflakes and angels.

Why not take a night tour around Wagener and enjoy the "symptoms" of the season. Merry Christmas!



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Wendell Reed Walker

June 22, 1964 – Nov. 25, 2009

SALLEY — Mr. Wendell Reed “Hump” Walker, 45, died Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009.

Reed was a son of the late William “Billy” and Eudora Harley Poole Walker. He was also predeceased by brothers, Billy Walker Jr. and Jay Walker. Reed worked most of his life at the family business, Walker Used Cars & Parts Inc. of Perry. He loved the outdoors working with his hands and heavy equipment. He was working for Stonehedge Concrete in the French Quarters of New Orleans, La. Reed was a free spirit and celebrated life daily; he never met a stranger. His free spirit will be missed by all.

Reed is survived by his sister, Vanette (Glenn) Lewis Sr. of Salley; niece, Billie Lewis of Salley; nephews, Andy and Randy Lewis of Salley and Glenn (Diane) Lewis Jr., great-nieces, Jordyn, McKenzie and Kaylynn Lewis; great-nephew, Shane Lewis, all of Lexington, N.C., and an aunt, Audrey (John) Phillips Sr. of Epworth, Ga.

Graveside service was held on Friday, Nov. 27 in the Perry Baptist Church Cemetery. Blizzard Funeral Home of Wagener was in charge of arrangements.

Rev. Hollis Edward Bonds

March 21, 1930 – Dec. 9, 2009

FAIRVIEW — Rev. Hollis Edward Bonds, 79, went home to heaven on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009. He was born in Lula, Ga., the son of the late James Edward Bonds and the late Irene Cantrell Bonds Scott. He first married Margaret “Margie” Louise Ellis of Charleston in August 1949.

He attended Charleston High and graduated from Mars Hill College and Carson Newman University. He served as pastor at Limestone Baptist Church in the Screven Association, Great Swamp Baptist Church in the Beaufort/Jasper Association and Rantowles Baptist and Westwood Baptist Churches in the Charleston Association. Rev. Bonds was a master checkers player, an avid golfer and played baseball at a very competitive level throughout his life.

A celebration of life service was held at Convent Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, with burial followed in the church cemetery. Pastor David Bonds, Paul Clifford Bonds and Pastor Bill Padgett officiated.

Pallbearers were Mark Ellis Bonds II, Bradley Joshua Bonds, William Daniel Weaver, Mark Smith, Henry Bice and Johnny Ray Preston. Tony Goodyear and G. Dwaine Malphrus were honorary pallbearers.

In addition to his wife, Margie, he is survived by children, David Hollis Bonds, Mark Ellis Bonds Sr. (Keesha), Paul Clifford Bonds (Tammy), Deborah Bonds Myers (Daniel),

Elizabeth Bonds Weaver and Kimberly Bonds Goodyear (Tony); grandchildren, Mark Ellis Bonds II (Kelli), Mary Angel Bonds Smith (Mark), Anna Margaret Bonds (Lamar), Amelia Bonds, Abigail Bonds, Bradley Joshua Bonds (Amanda), Ashley Marie Bonds, April Myers Sokol (Paul), Jennifer Myers Clevenger (David), Bethany Myers, Amy Myers Smith (Donald), Kimberly Myers Bice (Henry), Cynthia Myers, William Daniel Weaver, Jaime Boone (Johnny Ray), Katie Boone, Melissa LeGrande (Michael) and Christopher Nathaniel Goodyear; a cousin, Carol Rikard; and 16 great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a son, Larry Lea Bonds; grandson, Christopher Hollis Bonds; and a daughter-in-law, Nancy Hann Bonds.

Monroe Junior Fulmer

Aug. 9, 1939 – Dec. 17, 2009

WAGENER — Mr. Monroe Junior Fulmer, 70, was born Aug. 9, 1939, in Saluda County and passed from this life to his eternal life at 432 Springflower Road, Wagener, on Dec. 17.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia Ann Payton Fulmer; his three daughters, Susan (Ronnie) Hamilton, Connie Lynn (Danny) Radcliff and Rhonda Floyd; one son, Tim O. (Judy Shealy) Fulmer; six grandsons, one granddaughter, and 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, Rev. Burton Fulmer, G.W. (Betty) Fulmer and Rev. Sam Fulmer; sisters, Frances Gable and Ailene Privet; sister-in-law, Connie Fulmer; sister and brother-in-law, Larry and Bobbie Heaton; his uncle, Ray Fulmer; one aunt, Christine Wooley; many cousins, nieces and nephews, and a host of friends and loved ones whom he loved and often prayed for as if they were his own.

Junior Fulmer was preceded in death by his father, John Monroe Fulmer; mother, Lucille Goff Fulmer; brothers, J. Percy Fulmer, John M. Fulmer Jr. and Samuel (Sammy) Fulmer; sisters-in-law, Bertha Fulmer, Faye Fulmer and Kathleen Fulmer; and a son-in-law, Larry Floyd.

A Celebration Service was held Saturday, Dec. 19 at Perry First Assembly of God, with Bishop Tim Fulmer, Pastor Roger Hunnicutt and Rev. Edward Tager officiating. Pallbearers were his grandsons, great-grandsons and great-nephews, Anthony and Michael Freeman, whom he loved as if they were his sons. His burial was in the church cemetery.

Junior requested that we include in this obituary his desire that, in lieu of flowers, you donate a love offering to Blizzard Funeral Home, P.O.

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Box 235, Wagener, SC 29164 or his wife.

The Fulmer family would like to give sincere thanks to all who stood by their dad and family through this illness to include the nurses, social workers and aides of Palmetto Health Hospice.

Edna R. Walton Yon

May 20, 1923 – Dec. 1, 2009

NEW ELLENTON — Mrs. Edna R. Walton Yon, 86, entered into rest Tuesday, Dec. 1.

She was born in Saluda County, the daughter of the late Thomas Pierce and Ellie Odessa Powell Walton. Mrs. Yon is survived by her husband of 65 years, Mr. Bennie William “B.W.” Yon; children, Bennie (Dianne) Yon of Cowpens, Jerry William (Loreli) Yon of Petersburg, Ind., Charlie Carol Yon of New Ellenton, Barbara Ingram of New Ellenton, and Sarah (Gene) Baxley of Olar; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, George Hammond Walton of Springfield; and sisters, Ellie Hoover of Wagener, Bobbie (Ralph) Rodgers of Saluda, and Neva Howard of Batesburg.

Mrs. Yon was minister of the S.C. Pentecostal Holiness Conference, having served at Green Branch P.H.C., Wagener P.H.C., Hampton P.H.C. and Bell Chapel P.H.C. in Olar.

The funeral was held on Dec. 5 at Fountain of Life Fellowship in Aiken, with the Rev.

Lonnie Brazell and Bishop James McKenzie officiating. Burial followed at Aiken Memorial Gardens. Blizzard Funeral Home of Wagener was in charge of arrangements.

Sampson Willie Williams

Jan. 31, 1936 – Dec. 8, 2009

WAGENER — Mr. Sampson Willie “S.W.” Williams, 73, entered into rest Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009. Mr. S.W. was the son of the late Sampson and Bessie Lee Drawdy Williams. He was also predeceased by sisters, Annie Mae Rawls, Mary Lee Gunter, Ollie Mae Snipes and Frances Fulmer; and brothers, Eugene Drawdy, Percy Drawdy and Vernon Williams.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. in the New Holland Baptist Church Cemetery; the Rev. Emanuel Gunter officiated.

Mr. S.W. is survived by his wife, Julia Elaine McGuire Williams; children, Rusty (Myrtle) Williams and Troy Williams; stepchildren, Donald Haynes, Rebecca (James) Day, all of Wagener, and Heath Haynes of North Augusta; grandchildren, Amanda Williams, Christopher Williams, Amber Williams, Sierra Williams, Kayla Garvin, Troy McCabe Williams, Cheryl Haynes, Bishop Haynes, Jimmy Day, Jessie Day, Larry Day, John Day, Anna Steen, Natasha Stevens and Wayne Stevens; great-grandchildren, Cameron Steadman, Trey Smith, Elaina Williams, Brackston Williams, Haley Williams, Edward Steen, Nathan Steen, Blake Steen and Destiny Katherine Day; and sisters, Mary Ellen Prescott, Rita Miller and Betty June Fox.

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The family of the late Lelon Belton Tobin would like to thank you for your kindness, generosity and expressions of love and concern during our time of bereavement. It meant so much to know how much you cared. Each call, card, visit and your constant presence is greatly appreciated. We thank God for all you have done and pray His richest blessings upon you. Love, Lassie Tobin and family

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If you have been charged with a crime or fear you may be charged, the longer you wait to retain an attorney, the more difficult your case could be. Serious legal problems require the advice, support, experience, and knowledge of a lawyer.



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Continued from 1

she was more brilliant than all of the lights on the tree!

Taylor-Lauren said, "I was proud! It's the first contest I have won where I received money."

She explains how her picture was created. "Ms. Blizzard's mother saved all of her Christmas cards for us to look at to get ideas. We couldn't copy the pictures as they were, but we could take ideas from several pictures and then create our own. While working on the drawing one day in art class, I told Ms. Blizzard, 'I know I'm going to win 'cause you pray about it!'"

Sometimes, it's hard to come up with ideas, especially when everyone in the third grade is working on the same project. Ms. Blizzard asks God to give her winning ideas.

One of the ideas the Holy Ghost gave her was a Christmas tree highlighting different countries of the world. The other idea was a scene with the military in the picture.

"I liked the idea of drawing the soldiers because there are three people in my fam-

ily who are in different branches of the military," Taylor-Lauren said. "I looked at pictures of uniforms from the Internet and added faces and bodies. I thought about their hopes of 'coming home' and drew them in front of a cozy Christmas home. Since Busbee's December theme is 'Christmas Around the World,' I also like the idea of making the Christmas ornaments look like flags from different countries. I made the tree visible from the window so it would look like people are at home."

"I think that what made my picture look so good was the use of textures," she continued. "Ms. Blizzard showed us how to do texture rubbings. I colored the trees on top of sandpaper so that they would look real – sort of bumpy. I also colored the house on top of a piece of wood so that it would look like it had wood siding. The snow was colored on top of the block wall. When you look at the drawing, you can actually 'feel' Christmas!"

In addition to her personal prizes, Busbee Elementary also received a cash donation. Congratulations, Taylor-Lauren, and a special thanks to the Aiken Regional Medical Centers from the art students at Busbee Elementary.

ANGELS WATCHING OVER US

Holly Jackson drew a picture of angels. Her grandmother was so proud of the drawing that she wanted to share it with the readers of *Wagener Monthly*.



**Ask
Attorney
Young**



Q: What is standard visitation?

A: Each judge decides for him or herself what visitation is appropriate given the circumstances of the case. Standard visitation refers to every other weekend with provisions for one week at Christmas, time at spring break and Thanksgiving, 2-4 weeks during the summer, exchanging major holidays like July 4th and Labor Day, and time at birthdays and Mother's and Father's Day.

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Artist

Continued from 1

chose to draw the Wagener Pavilion "because it looks so much more beautiful than it did five years ago when we moved here." Sara likes the way the pavilion looks when it is decorated with lights for special occasions. "In December, the pavilion is decorated in lights for Christmas. We go to the tree lighting in Wagener every year. I have performed in the Tree Lighting Ceremony for the last three years and I have been in the Christmas parade three times. The Christmas Celebration is my favorite because Christmas is my favorite holiday."

Sara's picture shows a side of her that most people don't get to see. Even though she appears to be quiet and easy going, someone who is happy working with a group and doesn't care about the "rewards," Sara's artwork indicates her desire to perform. "I like to sing. I'm not in the chorus, but one day ... I will sing!"

Sara enjoys going to school. Her favorite subjects are math and science. "Math is fun

for me and I love science because I like doing experiments."

Sara's hobbies are drawing, computer games, playing with siblings, playing the piano, scrap booking, jewelry making, and writing. "I plan to move to Las Vegas and become an artist and a writer. I want to write and illustrate books. I want to draw pictures for the books I write and maybe pictures for other books, too."

"Sara has always been able to draw. We noticed her talent at a very young age," her mother shared. "Sara has always been an exceptional student and a great daughter. She is loving to her siblings and caring to all animals. Our nickname for Sara is 'nature girl' because she is always seen saving bugs, lizards, birds, dogs and cats. She has saved the lives of two of our dogs by pulling them from the swimming pool. She is very attentive and courteous to the needs of others. She is a truly special child and is loved by everyone that meets her."

Images from the contest will be used to create "Home Town Celebrations" Calendars which may be purchased at the Wagener Town Hall at (803) 564-3412.

Realtor

Continued from 1

has a great head on her shoulders, and she has been a great asset to this board."

"The multiple nominations we received for her stated 'she is honest, forthright and will try most anything for her board and her clients,'" said 2008 Realtor of the Year Susan Rutherford in announcing Furtick's honor at the party.



May the miracle of the season brighten your heart and home this Christmas. As we count our blessings at this special time of year, we count you among them.

With sincere thanks and best wishes to you & your loved ones at Christmastime.

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- Expect the state of our economy to improve
- Expect our massive energy crisis to improve
- Expect improvements in our global financial system
 - Expect improvements in our foreign policy
- Expect improvements in moral and ethical behavior of those we have elected to serve us
 - Expect those we hold in high esteem as role models for our youth to earn that respect by their own upright behavior
- Expect more from ourselves, as that is the only HOPE for achieving any of the above!

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