

Washington Police begin annual toy drive for children

To ease the suffering of some local families at Christmas, the Washington Police Department will again sponsor its annual "Gifts for Children" campaign this season.

"Christmas time is a wonderful time for many families," said Assistant Chief Theodosia Glenn. "However, there are families that are in such poverty they cannot afford to purchase gifts for their children. The Christmas season is rapidly approaching and the officers of the Washington Police Department are committed to making the 2009 campaign brighter for children in the area."

Donations from the community make the department's annual Gifts for Children program possible. "Last year's contributions were exceptional," Glenn said. "The support received from civic organizations, local merchants, and individuals made them the real heroes for local children. We just hope we can do even better this year."

Donations of toys, gifts, and money will be accepted at any time at the Police Department on Spring Street, across from City Hall. If donations need to be picked up, call 706-678-3244, Glenn said.

The highlight of the campaign each



Asst. Chief Theodosia Glenn and Lt. J.D. Nelson help Santa each year as they prepare to give out toys to some 250 local children.

year is the appearance of Santa Claus in person when he hands out gifts to children who have submitted their preferences in advance.

Plans this year call for Santa to be at the Washington Police Department on

Wednesday, December 23, from 9 a.m. to noon to distribute gifts to the children on his list.

A form for submitting the names of needy children and their first three choices for gifts is printed below.

All requests must be mailed or delivered to the Police Department no later than Friday, December 18. Requests being made by mail should be mailed early enough to ensure delivery no later than December 11.

"Regrettably, requests received after December 11 will not be honored. Also, requests coming from outside the city limits of Washington will be considered, but first priority will go to those from inside the city," the assistant chief said. "Requests that are duplicated with other organizations such as Angel Tree will not be accepted."

Glenn said that civic organizations, local merchants, and individuals have always stepped up to help the children. "Once again, we are asking for everyone's help in this very important project. Our less fortunate children are very special and in the true spirit of Christmas, please give generously to this most worthy cause. Thank you to all and Merry Christmas."

Callaway Plantation celebrates holidays December 11, 12, 13

The annual Christmas at Callaway Plantation will be held Friday and Saturday, December 11, 12, and 13, at the plantation located five miles west of Washington on Highway 78.

The candlelight tour will be held on Friday, December 11, beginning at 4 p.m. and continuing until 8 p.m. Admission is \$4.00 for each person. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the same admission rate.

The houses in the complex will all be decorated for the occasion.

Visitors will be welcomed on Sunday, December 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. free of charge with Christmas Tour of Homes trinkets. Piano students of Ruth E. Harris will be providing music for those in attendance.

Please mail or send to:
Washington Police Department
 P.O. Box 9 - 118 Spring Street
 Washington, Georgia 30673

The following child is needy and would like to receive a Christmas Gift in the "Gifts for Children" campaign:

Parent's name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Child's sex: _____

Child's clothing size: _____

Preference of gift: 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

This form must be in the police department not later than Friday, December 18, 2009.

Black Confederates topic of Civil War Round Table dinner

The story of black Confederate soldiers will be told to the Washington Civil War Round Table meeting on Monday evening, November 23, at 6 p.m. at the Jockey Club restaurant on The Square in Washington.

Martin O'Toole will present "Legends of Black Confederates," said Claibourne Darden, Round Table president. "There were a number of black soldiers in the Confederate armies. We are not referring to the blacks who served as cooks, teamsters, personal assistants, or construction workers, but we are referring to black men who actually served in the ranks as soldiers. Unlike the Union Army, who put all their black troops into segregated units with white officers, the Confederates integrated their black troops into their regular units."

O'Toole is expected to speak on one of the outstanding examples of Confederate Black troops, Holt Collier, from Mississippi, who served as a sharpshooter for the 9th Texas Cavalry. "Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest noted what a splendid shot Trooper Collier was," O'Toole said. "A good time after the War, Trooper Collier served as a bear guide for President Teddy Roosevelt."

These black Confederate soldiers were for all practical purposes written out of the historical accounts of the Civil War, Darden said. "The winner of a war writes most of the history, especially for a good amount of time after the war. The North seemingly wanted to ignore or in some cases deny, that Blacks would freely fight for the Confederacy. For those who don't know about it, it is a tremendous part of our history. O'Toole makes a superb presentation and will debunk so much of the inaccurate information concerning our black Confederate troops."

Commissioners ... (continued from page 1A)

enski Lee, Chairman Sam Moore, John Howard, Jerry Stover, and Geddings, were present for the regular November meeting of the board as were County Administrator David Tyler, LeGette, and a number of visitors.

In other business, the board:

- Granted tax relief to William Highland on property which had contained a house which burned in 2007 but had not been taken off his 2008 tax bill.

- Granted tax relief to Mike Hunter for a portable building which had been moved out of the county.

- Denied tax relief to Joel and Kelly Jackson who said they didn't agree with the value assigned to a tract of land. "There is a process to challenge valuation every year," Moore explained, "and this is not the place to do that."

- Denied tax relief to H&D Building Supply for basically the same reason. "Taxpayers are not even supposed to come to us when it's a value issue," Moore said further. "The only things we're supposed to deal with are mistakes made on tax bills."

- Heard a report that Local Option Sales Tax received for the month of August amounted to \$52,515.23, and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax amounted to \$80,792.94 for the same month.

And in other business:

- EMS Director Blake Thompson reported that a new truck for his department has been approved by the state and he is hoping for another.

- Tourism Director Ashley Barnett reported on a large number of events and activities scheduled for the months of November and December.

- The board approved 2010 rates for beer and wine licenses.
- Nathaniel Cullars said he had a problem with voting procedures conducted in the recent City of Washington election. He was referred to the Judge of Superior Court who is responsible for personnel appointment.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held on Thursday, December 10, at 2 p.m.



The Home of R.M. Willingham and Ginny King will be one of the homes featured on the Christmas Tour this year.

2009 Christmas Tour of Homes, special events set Dec. 11-12

By SHARON VREELAND

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go..."

The Washington-Wilkes Historical Foundation invites you to board an enchanted sleigh and fly off on the magical 2009 Christmas Tour of Homes.

Magnolia Cottage! You may not see it as you drive through town. The magnificent twin Magnolia trees in the front yard guard its secrets. The home is steeped in history, and filled with warmth and charm. Ginny King and Robert Willingham invite you to experience the beauty and historic ambiance of their lovely home.

Built in 1873, Magnolia Cottage was a wedding gift from Henry N. Wylie to his daughter Nannie and her husband Wylie Duncan DuBose. They were the parents of 10 children. They lived, laughed, and loved in the cottage for 19 years.

In 1892, the home was purchased by Anson King. He and his wife, talented musician Belle Hill, hired architect Edmund G. Lind to remodel Magnolia Cottage. Lind used many types of wood to install pocket doors, mantelpieces and paneling.

Robert A. Oslin bought the home with his wife Duella in the twentieth century

and their family lived there for several generations.

Magnolia Cottage was recently restored by Mike Dyches. He designed the wonderful bookcases in the library. Don't miss the hand-blown glass vessel sinks and the Tuscan slate floor in the kitchen.

Ginny and Robert have an extensive and eclectic collection of artwork. Robert is an author, his most recent book "Deadly Trust" has been widely received. Magnolia Cottage will be featured on Friday, December 11, as part of the Candlelight Tour.

The Tour of Homes includes many special events including a gingerbread house display, a showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Retro Cinema, and the presentation of "A Tuna Christmas" at the Bolton-Luncheon Playhouse. There will be carriage rides and an organ concert. The Town Square will host a Christmas Gift Bazaar, the local restaurants will be offering their best, and one of Santa's elves whispered in our ear, there's going to be SNOW!

Go to www.historyofwilkes.org to purchase tickets and for information on other upcoming events. Or call 706-678-5001 or toll free 877-221-7689 for more information.



Charlotte Ritchie will be in concert at the Lincoln First Assembly of God on Sunday, November 15, at 6 p.m. Ritchie previously sang with Jeff and Sheri Easter before embarking on a solo career several years ago. A love offering will be received. The First Assembly of God is located on the Thomson Highway in Lincolnton. For more information, call the church office at 706-359-7237.

Country Music Artist Ty Herndon will present a benefit concert for Calli Nickels on Thursday, December 3, in Wilkes County.

Little Roy Lewis and Lizzie Long and Friends will be picking and singing at the Metasville Schoolhouse on Thanksgiving night, November 26, at 7 p.m. The ladies of Rehoboth Baptist Church will furnish refreshments. The public is invited.

The annual Episcopal Bazaar and Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 5, at the Parish House.

The Washington-Wilkes Christmas Parade will be on Sunday, December 13, at 3 p.m. Entries are needed. Contact Blake Thompson at 706-319-2237; Ronnie Huffman, 706-678-1210; or Pete Gartrell, 706-401-5900 to enter or for information. Cost is \$5.00 per entry.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church will have family and friends day Sunday, December 6, at 3 p.m. Rev. Jerry Davis, pastor of Barber Creek Baptist Church, will be the guest minister. The public is invited.

Apocalypse Now Prophecy Seminar will be held at the Pope Center on Lexington Avenue, November 29 through December 12, at 7 p.m. There will be no Tuesday or Thursday night service. Pastor Kenneth Shelton will be the speaker.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Washington are selling large shelled pecan halves for \$8 per pound. Contact any member of the club for information.

The Bereavement Support Group sponsored by Wills Memorial Hospital will meet Wednesday, December 9, at 1 p.m., in the hospital library. The meeting is open to the public and focuses on the sharing of experiences and changes to everyday living that have come about by the loss of a loved one. The program is facilitated by Rev. Glen Kohlhaugen, pastor of the Washington Presbyterian Church. For information, call 706-678-7511.

Gibson Grove Baptist Church will observe the anniversary of the Pastor Support Ministry Sunday, November 29, 3 p.m. Pastor Wilson Latimore and members of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church of Watkinsville will be special guests.

Christmas at Callaway will be held Friday, December 11, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, December 13, 1-5 p.m.

Washington budget available for public review November 30

At last week's city council retreat, the Washington City Council completed work on its proposed 2010 annual budget for the city, and the public is now invited to review and comment on the proposed budget.

The proposed budget is set to be adopted in December.

Copies of the proposed 2010 budget will be made available for public review beginning Monday, November 30, during regular business hours at the city's business office, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A public hearing to receive public input of the 2010 Budget will be held on Monday, December 7, at 6 p.m. The hearing will be in the city council chambers at City Hall. Notices to that effect are published in this week's News-Reporter.

After the opportunity for public review and comments, Mayor Willie Burns and the City Council intend to formally adopt the 2010 city budget at its regular scheduled meeting to be held on December 14 at 6 p.m. in council chambers at city hall.



Some 175 gift boxes were given out to Wilkes seniors last Christmas.

Shoebboxes for seniors drive is aiming at reaching every senior

After collecting a record 175 gift shoeboxes for Wilkes County seniors last year, this year organizer Margie Burke hopes her group can have a Christmas gift box for every senior in every elder care facility in the county.

"This is our fourth year of doing 'Operation Love and Care in a Shoebox,'" she said. "The first year we collected about 60 boxes, the second year we collected 120, and last year we got 175 gift shoe boxes into the hands of seniors in Wilkes County. I think we can top that."

Burke is extending an invitation to church groups, individuals, and organizations to help in collecting and filling shoe boxes for the community. "Last year was such a wonderful success, and this year we want to make sure to take care of all our neighbors in all the facilities. Last year we visited Washington Manor, Heritage Health Care Wilkes, Harper's Personal Care Center, Tignall Assisted Living, and reached others who were shut-ins in their homes."

The annual outreach could have been achieved only through generous people in our community, she said. "We have such wonderful folks helping, and this year we'll need more help than ever."

Burke said a gift box isn't a major investment. "Just \$8 or \$10 will fill a box nicely, and if you're a savvy shopper it can be done for even less," she said. "I collect 'stuff' for my boxes all year. CVS

is a great help with their promotions, just about all the toothpaste and deodorants I pack are free thanks to them. Also, I start thinking about next year with the after-Christmas sales and put those sale items away for next year's boxes."

It's easy to pack your shoe box gift, Burke said. "Find an empty shoe box, or get a plastic box at a dollar store. Then you can wrap it, lid separately, but wrapping is not required."

"Fill the box with a variety of little gifts, and you may also want to include a note, a poem, a scripture, to the person. Place a rubber band or string around your box to hold it together."

The boxes may be dropped off to Margie Burke at McDonald's, or Kip Burke at The News-Reporter. or call Margie Burke at 706-318-0832. Deadline for the boxes is December 16.

Suggested items for boxes include lotion, toothpaste, body wash (no bar soap), tooth brushes; snack cakes (for regular diets), pudding or applesauce cups (for puree diets); stuffed toys, after-shave, brush, soft peppermints, combs, sugar-free candies, hand-held mirrors, soft candy miniature bars, lipstick or lip balm, nail polish, playing cards, costume-type jewelry (beads, pins, etc.) mouthwash, Kleenex, chewing gum, handy-wipes, stocking caps, body spray, puzzle books, socks, stationary, undershirts, ink pens, pocket radios, and batteries.

Jazz singer Connye Florance to perform Saturday at Playhouse

By R.M. WILLINGHAM JR.

This Saturday, November 21, at 8 p.m., the curtain will rise on the Washington-Wilkes Historical Foundation's presentation of Connye Florance in concert. On stage at the Bolton Luncheon Playhouse on North Alexander Avenue in Washington, Florance will provide her audience with a world-class offering showcasing her talents.

A renowned jazz vocalist, Florance has toured nationally with Columbia Artists and vocalist Jennifer Holliday among others. Her one-woman show, "Jazz Rhapsody," has received international acclaim. Her performance here will be an intimate duo concert with pianist Kevin Madill.

In his 25-year career, Madill has worked with some of the top big bands and vocalists including Tony Bennett, Lou Rawls, and Bernadette Peters, as well as being an arranger and accompanist for blues-rock legend Leon Russell.

As the opening event for the Washington-Wilkes Historical Foundation's 2009-2010 Concert Series, the concert will bring to the forefront Washington and Wilkes County's historical legacy of celebrating and appreciating the arts and music. In the early 1800s, the community was a center for dance and music with academies and schools specifically emphasizing such coursework.

Following the Civil War, Stummer's Concert Hall, Floyd's Opera House, Lyndon's Opera House, and the Lyceum all flourished providing the local populace with noted performers from New



CONNYE FLORANCE

York, Boston, and Europe. Whether it was the Mendelssohn Quartet, the Royal Hungarian Orchestra, the celebrated Blind Tom, or local entertainers like Billy the Fiddler, Johann Fischer, and Antonio Raffini, Wilkes County encouraged and supported its musical opportunities.

Now once again the community has the chance to experience memorable performances that will make their mark on posterity.

Individual tickets for the Connye Florance concert are \$30 each or patrons may join for the entire series of four outstanding programs (2009-2010) for \$100. Contact the Washington-Wilkes Historical Foundation at 706-678-5001 or go online at www.historyofwilkes.org for more information.

Community Calendar

- Nov. 19 WMH Auxiliary uniform sale, 7 a.m., hospital lobby
- Nov. 20 2010 census meeting, 4 p.m., Courthouse
- Nov. 20 Mt. Nebo Choir Christmas music, 3 p.m.
- Nov. 21 FUMC Men chicken barbecue, 11:30 a.m.
- "A Cross Burning in Willacoochee" at the Retro Cinema, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 23 Civil War Roundtable, 6 p.m., Jockey Club
- Nov. 24 Downtown Candlelight Shopping, 6-9 p.m.
- Tree of Love lighting, 6:30 p.m., The Square
- Board of Registrars, 10 a.m., Courthouse
- Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Holidays
- Nov. 26 Picking & Singing, Metasville, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 28 Class of 1995, Pizza Hut, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 29 Gibson Grove anniversary, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 3 Legislative Breakfast, 8 a.m., Third Shiloh
- Dec. 4 Chamber After Hours, CoFC office
- Dec. 5 Episcopal bazaar and luncheon, 10:30, 11:30, Parish House
- Dec. 6 First Baptist revival, 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- "Tidings of Great Joy," Little Theater, 3 p.m.
- Tignall Christmas Parade, 3 p.m.
- Pleasant Grove family & friends, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 7-9 First Baptist revival, 7 a.m., 7 p.m.
- Dec. 9 Bereavement Support, 1 p.m., hospital
- Dec. 10 County Commissioners, 2 p.m.
- CoFC Annual Banquet
- Dec. 11 Christmas at Callaway, 4-8 p.m.
- Dec. 12 Christmas at Callaway, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Dec. 11-12 Christmas Tour of Homes
- Dec. 13 Washington Christmas Parade, 3 p.m.
- Piano recital, Callaway Plantation, 1-5 p.m.
- Dec. 14 Washington City Council, 6 p.m.