

FREE

Spirit Newspapers



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"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."

-Honore de Balzac
(1799 - 1850)
French author

YARD SALES

Dish Sale/ Bake Sale/ Lunch/ Sale! At Aldersgate UMC Fellowship Hall (AC!). 2020 Tennessee Avenue (corner of Pennsylvania Ave). For more information call 912-234-7234. Saturday, August 22, 2009, 11:00 AM 'til? New Dishes (including some Wedgwood Bone China!). Homemade Baked Goods! Hot Dogs, Hamburgers & all the Fixin's!

Indoor Moving Sale! Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, 6AM until at 56 Mackay Drive, Richmond Hill (off of 144, near the Ford Plantation). Items for sale include a queen-size sofa sleeper with matching loveseat, two upholstered rockers, pillow back sofa, solid wood dining room table with four chairs, queen-size bed with headboard, frame, matching nightstands, and armoire, pool table, another armoire, job toolbox, and much more! Call 398-4159 for directions.

See All Of Our Classifieds Starting on Page B-8

POLICE REPORTS
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Effingham County Sheriff's Office

- Around 10:30pm, a Deputy was on patrol on Hwy 21 South and spotted a white Nissan Titan veering over the fog line. He made a traffic stop, and the Guyton woman was arrested for driving while suspended.
- Deputies responded in the early morning hours to a Guyton area residence for a domestic dispute, a verbal altercation between a man and his girlfriend. The man had just been released from incarceration, and the argument centered on the question of whether his girlfriend had cheated on him or not. (*I'm guessing she might be asking you the same question!*)
- A Springfield woman apparently responded to one of those ads looking for mystery shoppers. They sent her a check for nearly \$2000, and instructions to cash the check, keep \$300 for herself, then to spend \$50 at GAP and another \$50 at WalMart. Of course, she was supposed to go obtain a money order for the remaining \$1500 and send it to a woman in Alberta, Canada. The woman told Deputies she did everything except forward the \$1500 after she took a moment and read the moneygram policy on fraud.

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THE PERFECT HEART FOR CABELL... Local Baby in Need of Heart

By Genevieve Rogers
spiritnewspapers@gmail.com

Thirty-seven days. That's how long seven-month old John "Cabell" Stewart has been waiting for a heart. And not just any heart, but the perfect heart. One that will make him stronger and allow him to grow older. One that he's in desperate need of and one that his family keeps praying for every day.

Cabell, or "Cab" as his family calls him, was born on December 25th, 2008. A Christmas baby, he was a blessing to everyone around him, especially his parents Brad and Amy Stewart of Savannah. When Cab was born, there were no red flags, in fact he was as healthy and beautiful as a newborn could be.

Just before he turned three months old though, Cab started having problems with acid reflux, which led to some respiratory problems, including a bout with bronchitis which put him in the hospital for a week and congestion that wouldn't go away. It was around this time that he stopped eating as he should and wouldn't take his bottle. He began losing weight and soon fell completely off the growth chart. His cry became weak and quiet.

Concerned, his parents took him to the pediatrician who tested him for everything, including Cystic Fibrosis. The results came back clean. Brad and Amy knew though that something was wrong with their baby and continued to take their son to the doctor in hopes of finding why he was so ill.

On June 17th, his pediatrician sent Cab to Memorial Hospital for some tests, and when the chest x-ray was read, they found that Cab had an enlarged heart. The next day, the pediatric cardiologist suggested that he be moved immediately to ICU, and within a few hours, Cab and his parents had left Savannah for Egleston Hospital in Atlanta, family in tow.

It was at Egleston that Cab was diagnosed with idiopathic (of unknown origin) dilated cardiomyopathy, or DCM, which is extremely rare for children. DCM is a condition where the heart muscles become weakened and enlarged, meaning that blood isn't pumped efficiently through the body and to the vital organs. More common in men than women, it usually hits those between the ages of 20 and 60 years old. And while it does affect children, it is very rare, and if

it's severe enough, a transplant is needed.

And such is the case of Cab. Hospitalized at Egleston, he's currently on IA status, meaning that he needs a heart ASAP, and was the only baby in Georgia at the time with that status, which is critical. The doctors have had to turn down one heart already, because it wasn't well enough. His condition has worsened and he's on medi-



cations that are keeping him stable. He's being fed primarily through a tube and has put on a couple of pounds since he was hospitalized. But his congestion

is worsening, as is his cough, and his breathing is becoming a bit labored. Cab is on the highest doses

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A SAFE HOME Park Place Outreach Helps Runaway Youngsters

By Stephen Prudhomme

There are youngsters in Savannah who are too caught up in the problems of daily living to appreciate the city's beauty and history reflected in such stately places as the Owens-Thomas House or Mercer-Williams House.

They're more likely to feel at home at 514 E. Henry Street, a place that doesn't carry the historical significance of the aforementioned homes but does provide a welcome refuge.

Park Place Outreach, Inc., Youth Emergency Shelter is a non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter for youngsters between the ages of 11 and 17. Funded in parts by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, the state, city, churches and individuals, Park Place started in 1984 as a grassroots effort in the community.

"There was no place for youth to go if they ran away from home," explains executive director Linda Hilt Lamas. "It established a safe haven, so to speak."

Most of the youngsters come from the Savannah area, Lamas says, and stay an average of 10 to 14 days. Through the national 1-800 Runaway Hotline program, she adds, youngsters have come from as far away as California, Texas, New York and Pennsylvania.

During its 25 years of operation, Park Place has housed some 5,500 youngsters, coming from the best and worst of neighborhoods.

The majority of the youngsters are trying to get away from abusive homes, according to Lamas. The rest are "normal adolescents rebelling against their parents." Those staying at the home receive three meals and two snacks a day along with a place to stay; Park Place has 12 beds divided equally among boys and girls. Local youngsters continue to attend their school, while others receive afternoon tutorials. Park Place provides counseling and case management for all residents.

Lamas equates Park Place to a hospital emergency room. "We can't fix it immediately, but we can stabilize the situation," she says.

Lamas has headed up Park Place for 14 years. Coming from a background in psychology and education, her career path took a different direction when her job as a lab superintendent at a local hospital was suddenly downsized. She took a job with a local non-profit group helping young mothers with babies before taking her current position.

Lamas says the work can be stressful and the results not always immediate. Her reward comes when she hears back from a former resident or parent.



"When a former resident comes back and speaks of their successes, that always keeps us working," Lamas says. "Hearing from them or a parent is a real plus."

Although federal funding has remained steady through the downturn in the economy, local contributions have decreased, according to Lamas. These are needed to fund such things as the new Street Outreach program, a mobile unit resource that brings non-perishable food items and other services to people in the streets between the ages of 18 and 21. "It represents a pro-active approach," Lamas says.

To make a donation or for further information, call Park Place Outreach at (912) 234-4048.

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