



December 2012  
Issue 61

**CHRISTMAS** is celebrated by over 90 percent of the population throughout the world and is celebrated on December 25.

Some of the traditions for the Christmas celebration are: (1) **Mistletoe** which is used to hang at our front door so when friends and relatives enter, the custom is to kiss them, which symbolizes acceptance, reconciliation, peace, and hope. (2) **Tree** originally was a part of ancient culture and brought inside and decorated to ensure a good crop for the coming year. The evergreen is considered as a symbol of Christianity. (3) **Candy canes** the shape of the letter "J" represents Jesus or the shepherd's staff, the white represents purity and the red stripes indicate blood.

(4) **Christmas cards** started in England as letters were originally used because people wanted to share season's greetings with family and friends. As this was very time consuming, a printer in England realizing this, started mass producing cards with "Merry Christmas" and eventually added many other symbols. (5) **Holly** symbolizes the thorns by Jesus at his crucifixion. The berries represent the blood. (6) **Yule logs** an enormous log would be cut on Christmas Eve and placed in the hearth or fireplace and sprinkled with salt, oil, and mulled wine and prayers would be said to protect the house from the Devil and lightning. The logs were usually lit by females in the house. Today cooks make pastry logs rolled in chocolate and decorated with sugared holly and roses and used as centerpieces.

(7) **Santa Claus** also called Kris Kringle or Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children and sailors. He is famous for giving gifts to children. Possibility the earliest record of giving gifts is when the three Wise Men traveled from afar to give baby Jesus Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

**Christmas** celebrations vary throughout the world and are the fourth most important Christian date, following Easter, Pentecost, and Epiphany, in the world. And as with the other holidays it is a time for friends and family to get together and to share and of course, feast.

**HANUKAH**, which is celebrated by our Jewish neighbors, is also known, as the "Festival of Lights" or the "Festival of Dedication", is an eight-day Jewish Holiday commemorating the rededication of the second temple in Jerusalem.

**KWANZAA** is a cultural celebration that was established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African culture and historical heritage by uniting in meditation and study of "African traditions" and "common humanist principles".

## **“HAPPY HOLIDAYS”**

### **“DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS”**

**TOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE  
DECEMBER 8, 2012 – 11:00AM**

**PICTURES WITH SANTA  
DECEMBER 8, 2012, 12:00PM-4:00PM  
EDWARDS HEATING and COOLING  
19385 SOLOMON BLATT AVE**

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012 – 4:00PM  
ALL CHOIRS WELCOME**

**TOGETHER SISTER'S BINGO  
DECEMBER 20, 2012, 6:00PM – 8:00PM  
BLACKVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**TOGETHER SISTER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 25, 2012, 8:30PM - UNTIL  
BLACKVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION SERVICE**

January 1, 2013 – 11:00am  
Second Baptist Church, Barnwell  
Rev. Phillip Thomas, Speaker

## MEETINGS

- ▲ **December 3**, Blackville Civic Club, Edwards Heating and Cooling, 7:00pm
- ▲ **December 4**, Blackville Community Development Corporation, 6:00pm. Town Hall
- ▲ **December 10**, District #19, Board of Education Meeting, District Office, 7:00pm
- ▲ **December 11**, County Council Meeting, Agriculture Building, 6:00pm
- ▲ **December 17**, Town Council Meeting, Community Center, 7:30pm
- ▲ **December 27**, Blackville, Downtown Development Corporation, Russell's Pizza, 6:00pm

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Janice Livingston, **December 3**  
Martha Felder, **December 4**  
Chelsea Calhoun, **December 5**  
Alicia Smalls, **December 6**  
Ceonia Albright, **December 7**  
Tony Mayes, **December 11**  
Deonte' Staley, **December 12**  
James Gloster, **December 16**  
Beverly G. Woods, **December 17**  
Betty H. Williams, **December 17**  
Corine James, **December 20**  
Kenneth Aiken, Jr, **December 25**  
Carrie Woods, **December 26**  
Rev. Floyd Hughes, Sr., **December 28**  
Xyian Daniel, **December 30**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

James and Lawanda Brown, **December 13**  
James and Ceonia Albright, **December 23**

## SCHOOL NEWS

### WINTER BREAK

**December 20, 2012 - January 2, 2013**

**MES**

**December 14, 2012 - Christmas Program @ 9:00am**

**BHJH**

**December 17, 2012 - PTSO/SIC @ 6:00pm**

**BHHS**

**December 17, 2012 - PTSO/SIC @ 6:30pm**

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- ▲ Select a fresh Christmas tree that has been kept in water at all times. The needles on a fresh tree should be green and hard to pull from branches. When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles show that the tree is too dry and is a fire hazard.
- ▲ Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate.
- ▲ The tree stand should hold at least one gallon of water. A 6' tree will use one gallon of water every two days. The water level should be checked daily.
- ▲ Secure the tree with wire to keep it from tipping and be sure the tree is placed at least three feet from floor heaters, fire places, or other heat sources.
- ▲ Dispose of tree properly.
- ▲ Never burn a real tree, wreaths, or wrapping paper in a fireplace.
- ▲ Inspect lights before using them to ensure they don't have frayed wires, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, or excessive wear.
- ▲ Avoid overloading electrical outlets.
- ▲ Turn off Christmas lights when you sleep, or if you will be away from home for an extended time.
- ▲ Never use candles in place of light strands, even on artificial trees.
- ▲ Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- ▲ All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant.
- ▲ Never place trimmings near open flames or electrical connections.
- ▲ Remove all wrapping paper from trees and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.
- ▲ Keep matches, lighters and candles out of reach of children. Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.

**TOWN HALL WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 21-26, 2012  
RE-OPEN DECEMBER 27, 2012**

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