

From: news@gwinnettforum.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 8:52 AM
To: jallen@gwinnettplacecid.com
Subject: 12/6: Ham radio help; Cain's campaign suspension; more

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HOLIDAY SURPRISE: Employees of the high tech firm of Corus 360 of Norcross delighted Stripling Elementary school officials with gifts for the children. They also have donated 20 guitars for a music appreciation program. (See Notable below). From left are Jamie Bernhardt, Ted Chappell, Janis Lee, Jay McHugh (in the back row), Allison Rickards, Rachel Lin, Kellen Ward, Susan Hassett, and Daniel Yoo.

Issue 11.71 | Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

TODAY'S FOCUS

:: [Ham radio often first to help](#)

ELLIOTT BRACK'S PERSPECTIVE

:: [Cain raises questions with suspension](#)

FEEDBACK

:: [Remembering Tom Lawler, school lines](#)

UPCOMING

:: [Rail museum Yule, Stricklands honored](#)

NOTABLE

:: [Guitars for school, GCVB awards, more](#)

ALSO INSIDE

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

:: [PCOM](#)

GEORGIA TIDBIT

:: [Novelist Raymond Andrews](#)

LAGNIAPPE

:: [Puppeteers](#)

GWINNETT CALENDAR

:: [Lots of activities on tap](#)

TODAY'S QUOTE

:: [What Carson did in Iowa](#)

Sharon Bartels, president, Gwinnett Tech, says: "Healthcare and education are top priorities for Clyde and Sandra, and our citizens are so much the richer for the Strickland's significant support. This incredibly generous donation to Gwinnett Tech underscores their belief in life-long learning, rewards those who embrace the value of hard work, and will help hundreds of students improve their lives by advancing their education," adds Bartels.



Clyde and Sandra Strickland

The \$250,000 scholarship gift from the Stricklands will specifically be used to establish scholarships for students in health sciences, public safety and in general academic programs. Reflecting their support of healthcare education, the Nursing Skills Suite and Medical Assisting Lab in GTC's new Life Sciences Center are named in honor of the Stricklands.

For Clyde Strickland, who founded Metro Waterproofing here in Gwinnett, the GED program is a special priority. He earned the GED credential in the Army and studied drafting through the Technical College System of Georgia, and wants to underscore the value of workforce education.

NOTABLE

Corus360 reaches out to Stripling Elementary with 20 guitars

In an exemplary relationship between private business and improvement of schools, a Norcross firm has donated 20 guitars to students at Susan Stripling Elementary School in Norcross.

Allison Rickards, from Corus360, visited a Stripling Elementary Open House recently and heard second grade guitar students perform a song. The company was so impressed that it decided to sponsor 20 guitars from the Little Kids Rock program. Corus360 also is donating winter scarves, gloves, hats and socks to every Stripling student, a total of over 4,000 items. Corus360 provides infrastructure solutions, recovery and professional services that help organizations reduce costs, increase efficiencies and maximize productivity.

Rickards says: "Corus360 Cares is an outreach program that organizes charitable events and activities to serve the local community. By participating in activities designed to mirror the heart of our company and its values, we are hoping to publicly demonstrate what we internally believe - that goodwill is spread one employee at a time."

Little Kids Rock is a national non-profit that transforms children's lives by restoring and revitalizing music education in disadvantaged schools. Partnering with school districts, the non-profit trains teachers to be innovative in curriculum. This includes donating of instruments and resources to run music programs. Another non-profit earlier donated 30 guitars for the beginning of the program.

Merle Soodyall, an arts teacher at the school, is thrilled with the participation of Corus360. "Their gift validates what we are trying to get across to the students, that they have abilities that are yet to be uncovered. The music program has been so well received by the students. It helps round them out to be better students."

Corus360 is a business partner with Stripling, and previously conducted a school supply drive for Stripling, and has 14 employees reading to students in the "Everybody wins" program.

GCVB announces annual awards for tourism in Gwinnett

Annual tourism awards from the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) were handed out last week, as the hospitality industry pitched in to collect 2,000 books for the Norcross Cluster Schools Partnership (NCSP). The GCVB also collected 100 stockings of school supplies, and a \$250 VISA gift card, donated by Hilton Atlanta Northeast in Norcross.



NCSP board member Ranae Heaven spoke on behalf of the Partnership, and was "amazed and delighted at the support of the hospitality community. This book drive has exceeded our wildest expectations."

Four hospitality professionals were named as "2011 Friends of Tourism Award Winners," including: Barbara Mullin with Exceptional Hospitality; Lindsay Harmon, sales manager for the Gwinnett Braves; Aryn Bana, owner, Purple Rain Restaurant and Yajaira Torres, director of sales for the Hyatt Place Duluth/Gwinnett Mall.

Other awards included:

- Industry Professional of the Year: Malinda Foster, director of sales, Courtyard by Marriott Mall of Georgia. This award, the highest given, is a peer-driven award. The winner is chosen by votes from the entire hospitality industry. Malinda was noted for 'exceeding expectations, strong relationships with staff, the local community and other hotels; integrity, professionalism and a sense of giving to her community.'
- Sports Partner of the Year: Suwanee Sports Academy (Mike Eddy). SSA was recognized as one of Gwinnett's premier venues, with staff that are creating a direct economic impact for Gwinnett's hotels with their strong regional and national slate of events.
- Event of the Year: Norcross Art Fest (Frances Shube).
- Innovative Marketer of the Year Award: The City of Suwanee (Lynne DeWilde).
- General Manager (GM) of the Year: Kevin Hill, GM, Hampton Inn Sugarloaf.
- Unsung Hero Award: Joe Allen, Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District.
- Salesperson of the Year: Kevin Priger, Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place.
- Restaurant of the Year: Purple Rain Restaurant, Duluth.
- Industry Partner of the Year: Dave and Buster's, Sugarloaf.

GC&B wins national award for recycling 4 million bottles

Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful has won a national award from Keep America Beautiful and Nestle Pure Life for efforts to encourage local plastic bottle recycling during the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.

A new Great American Cleanup record for plastic bottle recycling was set in 2011, a total of 290 million bottles were recycled. Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful contributed more than 4,000,000 plastic bottles to the overall effort and received a 2011 Recycling Award as one of the top recyclers in the nation.



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GEORGIA ENCYCLOPEDIA