

Real people, inspiring stories



Brooklyn Wright, 9, is on a mission. The Powder Springs fourth-grader is working to stamp out litter. Her alter ego, Earth Saver Girl, helps her in her endeavours. **H.M. Cauley Special**

Fourth-grader works to clean up the Earth

Brooklyn Wright has a book, a website and a super cause.

By **H.M. Cauley**
For the AJC

At 9 years old, Brooklyn Wright already has a mission: to clear the world of clutter. She's not just about keeping a tidy room and house; she's taken on the task of eliminating litter everywhere.

Such a daunting feat seems best suited to the powers of a superhero. And Brooklyn has one: Earth Saver Girl, a character she created to inspire kids to clean up for the sake of the planet. Last year, the Powder Springs fourth-grader came up with the character and a book to go with it after attending several meetings of the kid-oriented Earth Savers club at school.

"Every day, she'd come home frustrated," said mom Kelly Wright. "She complained that they didn't talk about the problem of litter as much as she'd like. I told her to write the club a note about it, and that note turned into a book."

Brooklyn was inspired to focus exclusively on the litter problem because she saw it

ing the outfit, Brooklyn stays completely in character, claiming never to cross paths with her alter ego.

"It's like that Superman-Clark Kent thing," she said. "We're never in the same place at the same time."

Earth Saver Girl has shown up at area schools with an interactive skit that follows the book's lessons.

"She talks about how litter causes air, land and water pollution," Brooklyn said. "It gives ways to stop litter, like, always finding the nearest trash can."

Brooklyn also has a website, earthsavergirl.com, where she posts tips, lessons and games. Her mission has earned her awards from the Kohl's Kids Who Care foundation, the Keep America Beautiful campaign and the Captain Planet Foundation, and the support of folks who have found her online.

"I get lots of email from people, especially kids, who say they love my book and like the videos, games and pictures on my website," she said. "I get a lot of compliments."

Brooklyn and her character recently made an appearance at the second annual Day with Earth Girl that brought community sponsors, organizations, food and games to

DeKalb

DeKalb asks for more money for rail line

DeKalb County Commission wants another \$297 million to fully fund a rail line in south DeKalb.

The transportation draft list already includes the first \$225 million for the I-20 rail from the Indian Creek MARTA station to Wesley Chapel Road. Tuesday's resolution calls for the additional money, to get the train line built on that 5-mile stretch.

"It is something," Commissioner Lee May said. "However, \$225 million is not enough to produce one track of rail in south DeKalb."

The I-20 train line is one of projects in DeKalb of the 150 of the regional draft list expected to be finalized Oct. 15.

DeKalb residents can give their input from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Maloof Auditorium, 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur.

APRIL HUNT

Man gets life in toddler's beating death a year ago

A DeKalb County man was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole Tuesday for the beating death a 2-year-old girl who was in his care. Diamone Wilson was admitted at a DeKalb County hospital on July 15, 2010, with a head injury and she died three days later. The medical examiner said she also suffered trauma to her arms, liver and pelvis. Robert Alexander, 30, was convicted of her murder. He also was convicted of the crimes of cruelty to children and aggravated battery.

RHONDA COOK

County set to auction surplus equipment

Anyone in the market for a used police car or fire truck will have their chance Saturday when DeKalb County auctions off surplus equipment.

The auction starts at 10 a.m. at ADESA Atlanta at 5055 Oakley Industrial Blvd. in Fairburn. Bids also will be taken on

Brooklyn was inspired to focus exclusively on the litter problem because she saw it everywhere, she said.

"It was on the streets in my neighborhood and even in my own house," she said. "So I wrote a book to teach kids – and adults – about not littering."

With the help of her mom and an illustrator friend, Brooklyn self-published the colorful "Adventures of Earth Saver Girl" last year. At the same time, her aunt designed a superhero-worthy costume, complete with an eye mask and cape. When she's wear-

made an appearance at the second annual Day with Earth Girl that brought community sponsors, organizations, food and games to the Anderson Recreation Center in Powder Springs. The event was a fundraiser for the nonprofit she's started with her mom.

"The kids love it," said Kelly Wright. "If they can have fun and learn about the environment at the same time, it's worth it."

Who has inspired you?

Every other Wednesday, H.M. Cauley brings you positive stories from our community. To suggest a story idea, email hm_cauley@yahoo.com