

## Students Learn To Sew



**\*(from left) Store owner Rose Golsner, Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt, store employee Genie Betts and Yankeetown Mayor Debra Weiss greet each other upon the arrival of the 10 sewing machines at Yankeetown School on Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 29).**

**At least nine of the current students involved with Yankeetown School's After-School Program are expanding their sewing lessons thanks to the donation of 10 Baby Lock model BL9 sewing machines. Rose Golsner, the owner of A White Sew And Vac, 979 N. Suncoast Blvd. in the city of Crystal River (and another store in Ocala), donated the machines. Golsner said she enjoys helping charitable causes. She and Genie Betts, her employee, recently returned from the Virgin Islands where they donated 10 machines and taught boys and girls how to sew purses. She offered to provide the pattern to create those purses to the school as well, and those purses include zippers. Sewing zippers is a lesson in itself. Yankeetown Mayor Debra Weiss, Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt and Yankeetown School Principal Jeannine Mills greeted Gosner and Betts when they arrived. Yankeetown After-School Program Teacher Rose Zane welcomed the visitors, and Zane as well as students Kari, Vanessa, Madison, Layla, Julietta, Reme, May May, Kirsten and Bri all told Gosner 'Thank you!' for the donation. These students will now be making pillow cases and fleece-knot blankets.**



(from left, front row) Genie Betts, Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt, Rose Golsner and Yankeetown Mayor Weiss are joined by the students Kari, Vanessa, Madison, Layla, Julietta, Reme, May May, Kirsten and Bri and their teacher Rose Zane (upper right).

Zane said the girls already have hand-sewn rice bags. Rice bags are cloth bags filled with rice that can be put in the freezer and used to apply to sore muscles or put in the microwave to heat for warming things as well. Principal Mills said she is happy to have great staff members like Zane who are helping all of the Yankeetown School students to learn lessons and achieve their goals. This After-School Program, Mayor Merritt said, is helping to continue lessons in sewing that at one time were part of home economics curriculum in Florida schools. The mayor said she plans to visit legislators in Tallahassee to help them understand the value of students learning about cooking, sewing, wood shop, drafting, auto mechanics and other vocational education that appears to have been taken out of Florida public schools' offerings.

*Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © Nov. 30, 2016 at 8:57 a.m.*

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