

Monte Mitchell
Winston-Salem Journal
P.O. Box 29
Wilkesboro, N.C. 28697
336-667-5691
Feb. 6, 2008

Frederick Phillip Hammer
New River Valley Regional Jail
P.O. Box 1067
Dublin, VA 24084

Dear Mr. Hammer,

I am working on a story about you and would like a chance to interview you. I am particularly interested in speaking with you about your nephew Jimmy. I understand from your in-laws and from Sheriff James Williams that you were upset that people thought you had something to do with Jimmy's disappearance and had wanted the Jefferson Post to run a story to set the record straight about that. I am the Winston-Salem Journal reporter based in Wilkes County and also assigned to Ashe County, and can tell you that we have many readers in Ashe County. I will be writing about you based on interviews with law enforcement, family members and others. I have spoken with Mr. and Mrs. Blevins and with Mrs. Uffelman. I would like to speak with you as well. I cannot promise you in advance what the story would say. I can promise to treat you fairly and with respect, and to accurately present your views. I also think you should do whatever is in your own best interest, in consultation with your attorneys. You may write back to me at the address above or phone me collect at 336-667-5691. If you put me on a guest list, I would visit you there. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Monte Mitchell