

## HN first grader draws smiles with creativity



**Spreading joy** - *Hardin Northern first grader SheaLynn Taylor has been walking around Dunkirk with her miniature pony and dog spreading joy to the town's residents by handing out hearts and painted rocks during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Submitted photo By KENDRICK JESIONOWSKI, Times sports editor

DUNKIRK — SheaLynn Taylor has not been able to attend her first grade classes at Hardin Northern the past few weeks because of a statewide school shutdown to try and stop the spread of COVID-19. But that has not stopped the seven-year-old from trying to spread joy throughout the Dunkirk community. Every day the first-grader, dresses up in a different outfit and parades around the town with her dog passing out hearts, hiding painted rocks, doing sidewalk chalk art and just trying to give smiles to the village's residents. On Friday, SheaLynn dressed up as Jessie from the Toy Story movies and another day she dressed her miniature horse and dog as a unicorn. "I just thought of it to be nice and I want to be famous," SheaLynn said. "It makes me happy to do things for other people." SheaLynn said she and her mother, Stephanie, thought of the idea during a trip to the Dollar General Store. "We saw this stuff we could make for other people and just thought it would be nice," SheaLynn said. "She tries to think of new stuff everyday," Stephanie said, "We've had a bunch of people donate craft stuff. We kind of do this stuff all the time, It's just more now than it used to be." Stephanie said SheaLynn has always been outgoing. "She's very social, She's not afraid of anything," Stephanie said. "She's not afraid to go up to people and say ' Hi. how are you doing.' "We know how it is being stuck at home and being bored, so we're trying to give people stuff to look forward to," Stephanie said. "Even when she's in school she makes up stuff for her classmates and teacher." And people seem to be appreciative of SheaLynn's efforts as they have given her hearts and painted rocks in return. SheaLynn said she misses going to school everyday. "I loved going to school and now I can't go," she said. "I miss my friends but get to see some of them when I'm walking."