

North Georgia News

4 Sections 24 Pages

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Christmas on the Square promotes holiday spirit

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
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The spirit of Christmas swept through Downtown Blairsville on Saturday, Dec. 3, as hundreds of families filled up the town square for hours of festive entertainment jointly orchestrated by the Union County Historical Society and Visit Downtown Blairsville. A drizzly and somewhat chilly start to the afternoon looked to threaten the amount of fun parents and children would be able to have that day, but the weather cleared up in relatively short order, and residents turned out in force to support the annual community Christmas on the Square.

Old Courthouse welcomed kids for a variety of activities, like holiday balloon art by Amy Garrison of Balloons & Beyond, and free Christmas ornament crafting by Melissa Ray of The ART Studio. Santa Claus set up shop in the Historic Courthouse upstairs, where he received children to sit in his lap to make present requests, and special helper elf Darren Harper of Visit Downtown Blairsville preserved the moments in pictures for families. Participation for the activities inside the courthouse just kept growing during the three-hour event, especially the line to see Santa, as more and more people ventured to the square. Local attorney and

Rotary Club Board Member Daniel Duello attended with his wife Katherine and their two young children, Camilla and James, who asked Santa for binoculars and PJ Mask gear, respectively. The Duellos moved here from Florida about six years ago because they were ready to start a family and enjoyed the small-town feel of the area, with the quality of the local school system in particular playing a major role in their decision to come to Blairsville. They are excited to be returning to community celebrations after COVID-19 put a damper on public events the last couple years and are thankful for those who make such events possible for a



Santa, Mrs. Claus and a Helper Elf rode in the sleigh decorated by the Union County Historical Society during this year's nighttime Christmas Parade Dec. 3. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Vogel Christmas Program, Tree Lighting is Saturday

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

For 20 years now, the Christmas Program and Tree Lighting at Vogel State Park has focused on the true meaning of Christmas, and 2022 will be no different on Saturday, Dec. 10. As usual, the beloved annual tradition will take place at the ballfield inside the park, just across from the Great Tree used in the lighting. Hayrides to the ballfield will start at 4 p.m., with golf carts available for people with disabilities. At 4:30 p.m., activities for the whole family will commence, and people can look forward to the "main event" running from 5:30 p.m. to about 6:45 or 7 p.m. The state park's standard \$5 parking fee will apply, but there is no separate charge for



Always a crowd favorite at Vogel Christmas, Knoxville-based singer/songwriter Justin Terry will be returning in 2022. Photo/North Georgia News admission to the program. Guests are encouraged to dress warmly and bring a chair, a blanket and a flashlight. Don't forget to also bring along an unwrapped gift for children 12 and under to benefit the Union See Vogel Christmas, Page 2A

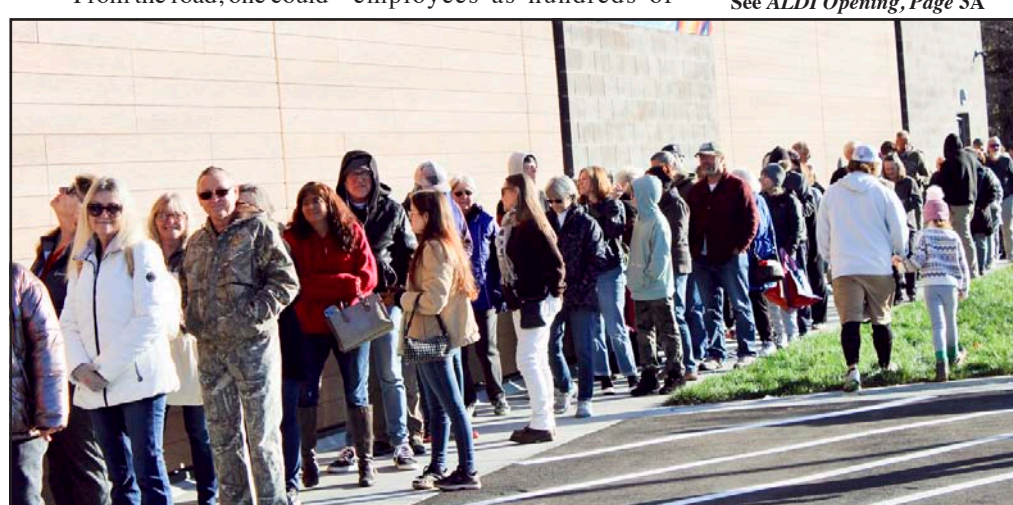
ALDI grand opening enjoys massive attendance

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

The big day finally arrived on Thursday, Dec. 1, when the brand-new ALDI Grocery Store held its grand opening ribbon cutting to officially open to the public at 40 Farmers Market Way, just off Georgia 515 in Blairsville. From the road, one could

see a lengthy line of patient shoppers wrapped around the building in eager anticipation of the special 8:45 a.m. open time; the first people in line had been there as early as 6 a.m. The Blairsville officials who helped bring the grocery store to town were present to celebrate with ALDI representatives and store employees as hundreds of

customers watched and waited for their chance to head inside. To put the store's arrival into perspective, one might consider that, previously, the closest ALDI site was in Alpharetta, and plenty of people endured the drive often just to pick up store-exclusive deals and products. See ALDI Opening, Page 3A



The turnout for the ALDI Grand Opening last week was phenomenal, with lines stretching around the backside of the building, even after the doors finally opened. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Man pulls gun on teens in McDonald's drive-thru

By Shawn Jarrard
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A McDonald's drive-thru dispute escalated last week when a man pulled a handgun on a couple of teenagers for allegedly cutting in line. Blairsville Assistance Police Chief Shawn Dyer said. The drive-thru at McDonald's features two order kiosks but a single lane to pay for and pick up food, requiring customers to merge after placing their orders. Those involved in the incident had just finished ordering around 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, when the driver of a pickup truck reportedly got upset about a car that he believed went ahead of him out of turn, Dyer said. "Two cars pulled up to order, one on one speaker and one on the other, and they went to merge in line," Dyer said. "And I'm sure if anybody's ever been through McDonald's, it does get a little confusing of who goes first and who goes second." Terry Robert Anderson, 38, of Blairsville, and the two juveniles in the other vehicle got into a verbal confrontation over the issue, Dyer said. "After that point, Mr. Anderson got out of his car



and approached the other car that had a 16-year-old and a 15-year-old in it," Dyer said. "What we were told, words got exchanged, and he threatened them (with) dragging them out of the car. (The teenagers) had a .22 rifle, and as he was threatening to drag them out, one of the kids picked them up and said, 'You're not doing that.' (Anderson) saw the gun, ran to his truck and got a pistol out. "He came back, pointed a pistol at them in the car, took their gun away from them, threatened them, and then went back and got in his truck. "Then he came back up and told them to say they're

sorry and he would give the gun back. So, the kids said, 'We're sorry,' and he gave the gun back. "One of the kids was on the phone with 911. He asked who they were on the phone with, and they said, 'I'm on the phone with 911,' and he jumped in his truck and took off. "Luckily, our guys were close; one of our patrol officers saw him coming out of McDonald's, got behind him, stopped him, and Pat's Hallmark parking lot, in that point on, after we got all the stories, we ended up placing him under arrest." Anderson has been charged with five felonies: two counts aggravated assault, two counts terroristic threats, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime; as well as three misdemeanors: open alcohol container, marijuana (less than an ounce), and drug-related offenses. He was denied bonds last week and remained incarcerated at the Union County Jail at press time. Anderson is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law. No one was injured in the altercation, thankfully. Dyer said there is no age limit on the possession of a rifle. Further, he said the action of the See Drive-Thru Dispute, Page 2A

Local kids can't wait to 'Shop With A Cop' Dec. 10

By Shawn Jarrard
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The Blairsville Police Department is ready for its 22nd year of Shop With A Cop, a program dedicated to taking underprivileged schoolchildren shopping for presents to put under their Christmas trees. Blairsville PD raises money year-round to provide kids with Christmas morning experiences more akin to those enjoyed by families of greater means, and as a bonus, each child selected to the program is made to feel cared for and truly special in the eyes of the community. "If we can change one young person's life, then we've accomplished what we came for," Blairsville Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter said. "That's our goal, to make young people's lives better." And the program just keeps growing, with 152 students to be served in 2022, breaking the previous record of 125 children who got to shop last year, all thanks to the generous donations of everyday



residents and business owners of the Union County. Here's how it will work: Participating families will begin dropping their kids off at the Blairsville Walmart at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, to be checked in by Katy Jones and her school-based team at Union County Family Connection. From there, children will team up with volunteer chaperones for assistance navigating the store and monitoring their shopping budgets. Chaperones also serve as positive role models who are ready to answer questions and offer advice to the students under their wings. Once done shopping, the children will proceed to the front of the store to ring up their Christmas items, sign out with Family Connection, and say goodbye to their chaperones. See Shop With A Cop, Page 2A



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Vogel State Park Christmas...from Page 1A

County Sheriff's Office Give A Gift For Christmas Program.

"Getting to share Jesus in our state park (is) very unusual – most state parks will not let you do that," Lead Program Organizer Janet Hill said.

But that's the allure of the event, which has grown steadily more popular over the years.

"When we first started, we were hoping to have at least 50 people out there," Hill said. "Since then, we've had as many as 800 attending."

Unfortunately, numbers have declined over the last couple years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but organizers are hopeful that more folks will get out and celebrate with them this year. After all, there's plenty to do and see.

Weather permitting, the 20th anniversary celebration will be bigger and better than ever, to include nine activity booths instead of the usual four, with cookies, cider and hot chocolate available for free as always.

Santa will be there to visit with children and pose for pictures, and volunteers from Gideons International will be sharing the "good news" with copies of the New Testament.

The children's activity tent will also be making a return, featuring fun crafts like ornament-making, and kids and adults alike are free to admire the bikes of the

visiting Christian Motorcyclists Association.

"There's just a lot of activities between 4:15 and 5:15 on the ballfield," Hill said, citing the involvement of several churches including Fellowship of the Hills, Antioch Baptist, First Baptist Blairsville, Zion Baptist, Lebanon Baptist, House of Prayer, Redeemer Baptist, Helen First Baptist, and New Union Baptist.

"I think this has helped a lot of pastors – not just Baptist pastors – to work together," said Hill, who wanted to thank her own pastor, Justin Garrett, for being "compassionate" and loving the program as much as she does.

The program has had an important impact on visitors through the years, annually living up to its goal of bringing peace of mind and spirit to people during Christmastime.

"With the day and time that we're living in, I think that we're under so much pressure and anxiety, and just a lot of depression, that this really lightens the heart and gives (people) hope," Hill said.

For example, she can recall a year when it was so cold that the program had to be moved to the park's pavilion by the lake. Tarps had been hung up to keep out the biting wind and prevent the freezing sleet and snow from blowing in.

"And here comes a

lady in a wheelchair, and I thought, 'Oh no, she won't be able to stand this weather,'" Hill recounted. "So, she came in, we got her up front in her wheelchair, and she stayed the whole program."

With the inspiring, spiritual nature of the Christmas and tree lighting event, this particular visitor was moved enough to draw strength from within and stay for the duration while others were already making tracks.

"Afterwards, she came over to me and said, 'I just want to tell you what a blessing (this program has) been to me,'" Hill said. "It just made me want to cry, you know, to see her in her wheelchair and come and stay that long and be so joyful about it. It really touched me."

This year, Hill plans on recognizing the volunteers and special individuals who helped make the event a reality two decades ago, as well as the dedicated Vogel Volunteers chapter of Friends of Georgia State Parks who commit many hours each year to decorating the park ahead of time.

A couple of figures in particular she wishes to thank are Vogel Park Manager Jack Becker and Event Coordinator Stephanie Gray.

As previously mentioned, the ballfield will be open with plenty of attractions from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the leadup

to the program starting. Visitors can also enjoy live caroling which will include both religious hymns and secular classics.

Other musical offerings will feature the return of Knoxville-based artist Justin Terry, as well as Dahlonega-based musicians Debra Perry & Jaidyn's Call, and Mike and Cheri Young.

Typically, gifts are also given to those who have traveled the farthest to be there, along with the youngest and oldest celebrants. In years past, Vogel has hosted Christmas families visiting from as far away as Norway.

Just after dark at 5:30 p.m. will be when the magic begins. The lights strung up around the tree will brighten up the night, and Pastor Garrett will once again read "The Night Before Christmas" while St. Nicholas imparts wisdom from the Bible in an intriguing reversal of roles.

Things usually begin to wind down with a special electric candle lighting and a prayer service meant to give guests time to reflect on the gift of Jesus' birth, the mercy of salvation, and everything they've been thankful for as the year transpired.

"We're just blessed that we're able to do this," Hill said. "It's really become like a family Christmas time; a lot of people come back every year."

Drive-Thru Dispute...from Page 1A

teen in displaying the rifle was a clear act of self-defense due to the nature of the threats being made against the pair.

Importantly, Dyer advises residents that it is illegal to publicly brandish firearms in the absence of a perceived imminent violent threat.

The assistant police chief added that such gun crimes have been occurring locally with greater frequency over the last year or so, and he cited recent population growth as a possible contributing factor.

"I think that's got a lot to do with it," Dyer said. "We have

the same crime in Blairsville, Georgia, as they do in Atlanta, Georgia, or Chicago, Illinois – it's just on a lower scale.

"People commit the same crimes all over the United States, but here, it's on a lower scale because we don't have the same population."

Shop With A Cop...from Page 1A

before receiving a free meal from Chick-fil-A Blairsville as they reunite their families to go home.

As usual, Walmart will be providing refreshments upon the kids' arrival, and Fellowship of the Hill Church will be presenting food baskets to each family to add to the spirit of giving that day.

Additionally, all families will receive a gift card to a local grocery store to help take even more of the sting out of these particularly challenging economic times, which are always tougher during the holidays.

For their part, chaperones are grateful to assist, coming from all walks of life in Union County; from church volunteers to area law enforcement/public safety personnel and Blairsville Cruisers, chaperones often attest to getting as much if not

more out of the experience as the kids.

Those involved in the effort regularly report that the biggest thing that always warms their hearts is seeing kids shop for their family members because they want mom, dad, brother, sister or a grandparent to get something for Christmas, too.

Of course, Blairsville PD would not be able to host Shop With A Cop annually if not for the generous giving of kindhearted people in the community.

Whether from walk-ins at the Police Department or ticket purchasers for the annual Rubber Duck Derby Fundraiser, donations are the lifeblood of the Christmas program and are accepted all throughout the year in anticipation of each successive Shop With A Cop.

Folks wanting to donate

to a good cause for Christmas may visit Blairsville Municipal Court Clerk Cindy Neely during the week at the Blairsville Police Department, which is right next to City Hall in Downtown Blairsville; 100% of donations go to Shop With A Cop.

"This is not just us," Chief Baxter said of the endeavor. "This is a community-oriented event. Without this community, we couldn't make this happen, and we know that."

"I can't be more proud of our community – every year, they step up and make sure these kids have a good Christmas. It makes you proud to live in Union County."

Moving forward, people looking to refer children for Shop With A Cop can contact Katy Jones with Union County Family Connection at 706-835-4351.

Ron Hill receives "Audie Murphy Achievement Award"

Mr. Steve Zuercher, member of the Society of the Third Infantry Division, presented the Audie Murphy Achievement Award plaque to Patriot Ron Hill, member of the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, Georgia Society, the Sons of the American Revolution and citing "The Society of the Third Infantry Division, Presents the 2022 Audie Murphy Achievement Award to Mr. Ron Hill Captain/Sergeant Major Ronald G. Hill, US Army (Retired) not only served his country with great distinction during his military career, but also has continued to serve" his country and community in an unparalleled manner as a civilian. Captain/Sergeant Major Ronald G. Hill epitomizes the U.S. Army values of service to others over oneself. Ron Hill's lifelong service to his country and to others has brought great credit to him, the U.S. Army and the various organizations to which he belongs. His many contributions to the communities in which he has lived brings the utmost credit to him, and brings great distinction the Third Infantry Division Society."

Additional remarks from National Society President Toby Knight "Congratulations on your selection as this year's Audie Murphy Achievement Awardee. This award is presented to you for the outstanding work you have done as a Soldier, Veteran and Society member. I am proud and honored to present it to you. You are now a part of the Society's most honored members. The very first awardee was Audie Murphy himself!"

Audie Leon Murphy (20 June 1925 - 28 May 1971) was an American soldier, actor and songwriter. He was the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II. He re-



(L-R): Steve Zuercher and Ron Hill

ceived every military combat award for valor available from the United States Army as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism. Murphy received the Medal of Honor for valor that he demonstrated at the age of 19 for single-handedly holding off a company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945, before leading a successful counterattack while wounded and out of ammunition.

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division is the Army's oldest continuously active military society and has

supported Dogface Soldiers of the division since 1919. The Society exists to honor fallen Dogface Soldiers, to support division and family members, and to perpetuate a social network of Dogface Soldiers, past and present. As a Dogface Soldier, you have experienced the bonds created while serving with your comrades bonds that later in life often become as important to you as family. Believe us 01 Dogface Soldiers when we tell you that you will be glad you kept up with comrades you served beside while assigned to our great division.

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ALDI Grocery Store Opening...from Page 1A

The collective wish for an ALDI came true just in time for the holidays, but some may have been left wondering what all the fuss was about. To find out why the new store is such a big deal, one need only examine how unique the discount grocer actually is in the North Georgia market.

According to customer Jeanna Hackett, who has plenty of experience cooking and trying different brands, "You may not find the name brands, but their brands are – to me – just as good, if not better."

Especially in the current national economic environment, ALDI offers a plethora of choices for affordable prices. Consumers can find things like fresh cuts of meat and gourmet cheeses along with special seasonal deals on holiday goodies.

"Through the seasons, you'll see more variety of different products from different countries in ALDI – especially the German stuff, some of the Italian," explained shopper Ron Wright.

Because of its foreign roots, ALDI carries a lot of imported products – particularly cheeses from its founding nation of Germany.

"They have the best cheese because it comes from Europe and it's delivered here. And it's a good-tasting cheese – the gouda is the best," noted Maryann Giacchino, who fondly recalled going to ALDI stores when she still lived in Florida.

Between the low prices, allure of fancy foods from across

the pond, and an exclusive catalogue that changes with the seasons, it's easy to see why the grand opening of Blairsville's ALDI was such a "happening" last week.

It also helped that, while supplies lasted, the store's first customers received free tote bags packed full of groceries with all sorts of exclusive ALDI merch like keychains and informative brochures.

And 100 Golden Tickets were presented to the first 100 people in line to redeem an ALDI gift card worth up to \$100. Additionally, those who were feeling lucky entered to win a raffle that ran from Dec. 1-4 for the prize of a \$500 ALDI gift card.

Shopper Sara Davis remembers a time 10 years ago when she and her husband were just starting to find their footing and had to survive on \$30 of groceries to last two weeks; the only place they could find a sustainable deal was at their local ALDI.

"When we found out ALDI was coming here, we were like, 'Yes, oh my gosh. So excited,'" said Davis, who called the store's addition to Blairsville "important."

"ALDI is one of my favorite places to go," added one of her children.

Edward Robinson only found out about ALDI coming to Blairsville on its "soft opening" day of Nov. 30. He and his wife were already dedicated fans of ALDI, as they both took time to drive down to sites located much farther away.

Robinson and his friend Greg White had been among



ALDI customers who lined up early enough for the grand opening received a complimentary tote bag with a few groceries while supplies lasted on Dec. 1.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

some of the earliest in line that morning waiting for the doors to open. Despite the frigid temperatures, both believed that the result was well worth the wait.

"We're glad to be in the warm store," White said. "You don't have to go through the big Walmart store to get (what you need)."

And White had a good point. With "typical" ALDI stores boasting about 12,000 square feet of retail space, some consumers in a rush can more quickly "get in and get out" while others with mobility difficulties can experience less hassle.

Then there's the good that ALDI will bring to the area on a larger scale – the kind of good that impacts a locale on the economic and social levels. By proxy, introducing a new business will likely drive competition up and some prices down.

The store also carries a variety of "hidden gem" goods that may not be popular in current big chains. Imported foods and other products are their own special delight, and when changed out often, they make for great exclusive "ALDI Finds."

ALDI is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.aldi.us. And be sure to check out the weekly North Georgia News for ALDI deal inserts.

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Downtown Blairsville Christmas...from Page 1A

Residents and families.

"An active community is a big thing, because when you have a family, it definitely takes a village," Daniel said. "So, having a close-knit community that does stuff like this kind of recreates a little bit of that village feel."

Dwayne and Jessica McNure also had a wonderful time checking out the offerings on the square Saturday, with their children, 8-year-old Jamison and 9-year-old Shaylin, each requesting a hoverboard and tablet from Santa.

The McNures love celebrating togetherness, Jesus as the "Reason for the Season," and the festive atmosphere that always accompanies Christmastime.

On the courthouse lawn, folks gathered around as the Woody Gap Band of Steel performed an eclectic mix of pan-style classic rock and Christmas classics, while on the north side, Rebecca Brendle and Jayna Jennings of Change in our World, Inc. sang Christmas carols.

Seasons Inn got in on the holiday fun as well, hosting a station in the plaza for children to make reindeer food and pick up a cup of delicious Grinch Punch.

Around 5 p.m., residents started gathering for the nighttime Downtown Christmas Parade, and the weather continued to cooperate. Some families brought chairs and blankets, and all had high expectations for the parade, which appeared to be the biggest entry in years.

Adam Caton and his daughter Ryker, 3, got in position on the north facing wall of the courthouse roundabout. This is the Catons' favorite time of year because of the cooler temperatures and all the family-friendly communal festivities.

"It's just fun. There's always something going on," Caton said of Blairsville. "I'm from Florida, so I never really got cold weather until I moved up here, and then you finally get some cold weather - it's nice. You actually feel like it's Christmas up here."

Caton is a front-end manager at Blairsville Walmart, which this time of year hosts shopping experiences organized by volunteers wishing to bless underprivileged children with presents for Christmas, and he finds the winter holiday season heartwarming, especially in Union County.

Heralding the start of the parade was the lighting of the Christmas tree on the courthouse lawn, with a countdown to the special moment by the Historical Society's own Libby Stevens, who organized the parade with her sister Carolyn Hutson.

A Blairsville parade mainstay, Stevens offered commentary during the parade, introducing the various floats and other participants who made their way by vehicle, horseback or on foot through Downtown Blairsville.

More than 50 unique entries filled the parade, including businesses, volunteer organizations, churches, school groups, classic car enthusiasts and others.

Blairsville Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter led the procession from the Old Middle School Gym to Cleveland Street, then down to the square, up Blue Ridge Street, over to Hunt-Martin Street, then back to the gym via Kimsey Street.

Dozens of entrants joined in the spectacle, complete with Grinches, giant inflatable reindeer and snowmen, nutcrackers, Christmas trees, boxes of presents, white and colorful lights, teams of horses by Sass 'n Saddles and plenty more.

Philadelphia Baptist Church even constructed a huge birthday cake for Jesus, while the local Cub Scouts set up tents on flatbeds.

The Polar Express made an appearance as well thanks to Cuddle & Grow children's clothing store, and the Union County Middle School Thespian Society had a dinosaur-themed Christmas entry.

Spectators were entertained by the children of the community with live music from the Union County Middle and High School Bands, and Blairsville Dance Project performed fancy footwork in festive costumes.

Two things in particular stood out during the parade.

First, the amount of candy tossed to roadside kiddos was enough to give Halloween a run for its money, and second, the Union County Historical Society's own float featured several magical guests that thrilled children ahead of Christmas: a waving Santa, Mrs. Claus and helper elf.

Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce sponsored a \$500 prize for the overall best float design, with the contest winner being Granddaddy Mimm's Distilling Company. Honorable Mentions went to the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition and Shores & Moor/Nottely Marina.

Judging the contest were Chamber Board Member Kitty Mauzy of United Community Bank, Chamber Ambassador Crystal Potter of Comfort Keepers, and Katalina Perry visiting from Germany. The three women participated in the judging to showcase their love of community.

The preparation for such an all-encompassing evening



Tommy Townsend performed live music aboard his prize-winning Granddaddy Mimm's Distilling Co. float on Saturday.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

of holiday activities is intense, with weeks of planning and execution ahead of the big annual event.

Marta Mead serves on the Historical Society Board and heads up the Christmas Decorations Committee. She and a small group of volunteers started getting decorations out and up around the courthouse weeks in advance to augment the beautiful decorations placed around town by the City of Blairsville.

Back in the 1970s, Mead's father Leon Colwell was instrumental in preserving the Old Courthouse for future generations, so her involvement with the Historical Society since retiring from the University of Georgia Experiment Station in 2019 is in large part a family tradition.

"This group of people are the hardest workers," Mead said of the Historical Society. "We've been here every day for about three weeks getting the courthouse ready."

Decorations include the 45 wreaths hanging on the courthouse exterior, interior window displays, seven big trees in the upper courtroom, multiple trees downstairs, including the large tree on the main floor that was heavily discounted by Home Depot and several trees donated by Choestoe Farms, garland, lights and much more.

Assisting Mead in the effort were courthouse staff Presley Rich and Patsy McCollum, alongside Decorations Committee volunteers Freya Jones, Eva Decker, Mary Allison, Patti Everett, Kathy Garcia and Tish Harner, with Ken Arrington, Joan Drake and others contributing as well.

While supplies last, people may swing by the courthouse to pick up this year's Historical Society Christmas ornament hand-painted by retired local Art Teacher Sylvia Garner, as well as the 2023 Waterfall Calendar,

with proceeds benefitting the preservation efforts of the volunteer group.

And just a heads up for next year, be on the lookout for a new Historical Society fundraiser consisting of Christmas Mailbox Covers that are sure to be a big hit in the community. Of course, donations are always accepted - and greatly appreciated - at the Old Courthouse.



Melissa Ray of The ART Studio assisted kids in crafting their own keepsake Christmas ornaments during the festive affair at the Old Courthouse.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard



Weeks of volunteer work went into decorating the Historic Courthouse for Christmas on the Square, with the effort paying off by way of incredible amounts of public enjoyment and appreciation.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard