

Snowman...from Page 1A

family actually slept an entire night in their igloo along with their Chocolate Labrador.

They caught the snowman-building bug and a family tradition was born.

When Mother Nature cooperates with enough snow, the Olver family tries to top their previous year's snow creations.

The Snowstorm of 2014 event was enough to prompt the Olvers to get ahead of the storm.

They saw that the weather was promising and they made the page and the word quickly spread, Sarah Olver said.

"What was so cool was how local businesses immediately jumped on board offering prizes," she said. "Indeed they did, and it should come as no surprise that among the first were Mountain Crossings at Walasi-yi, Zaxby's, Sicily's and Craigcast, a local Facebook weather site for Blairsville."

Locals took creativity to another level. The entries included Olympic snow-skiing scenes, 10-foot tall snowmen, monsters, zombies, bulldogs, panthers, a proposal scene, a tie-dye Volkswagen van sculpture, snowmen doing handstands, movie-themed sculptures, two igloos, camo-clad snowmen and numerous animals.

"Families got outside with their kids and neighbors



Above, The Millers' Campfire and S'mores snowmen place second; below, Sadie Shamlin's 'Olaf' from *Frozen* takes third.

and had some good old-fashioned fun," Sarah Olver said. "Memories were made, and that's what we love about this event that we hope to make an annual tradition."

"I couldn't get outside to build my own snowman, so this gave me something fun to enjoy while I was cooped up,"

said one person who enjoyed voting online.

The Snowman Contest attracted nearly 7,000 votes from places as far away as Colorado, Virginia and even Canada, Sarah Olver said.

First prize in the Snowman Contest went to the Urban family with their snowman

seated on a toilet reading the *North Georgia News*.

"We had a great time building this," Lisa Urban said. "It took us about four hours to build the toilet and the snowman."

Second place went to The Millers with their campfire and S'mores snowmen, and third prize went to Miss Sadie Shamlin with her rendition of 'Olaf' from *Frozen*.

All of the winners received some great prizes from local businesses including a 10 percent discount at Walasi-yi Mountain Crossings, a 15 percent discount from Junebug Consignment Cottage, a Cocoa and Cookies gift basket from Amazing Grace Catering and Events, Gift Cards from Armadillo Grill, a large pizza from Sicily's, a 40-piece platter from Zaxby's, a free pageant entry from Diamond Queens, a monogrammed sweatshirt from Davis Jewelry, a pair of one-hour trail rides from Trackrock Stables, a bucket of balls from Old Union Golf Course and the distinct privilege of naming the next snowfall for Craigcast.

"Everyone was amazed to see the generosity of local businesses and the creativity of the folks in our county," Sarah Olver said. "Events like these bring joy to a chilly season and make you proud to be from Blairsville, Georgia."

The Olver family wishes to thank everyone who participated and all the local businesses that offered prizes. You can see all of the entries on Facebook by typing in Blairsville Snowman Contest 2014 in the Facebook search engine.

Skills...from Page 1A

Precision Machining Technology, and the Welding Fabrication Team consisting of Tyler Bryson, Logan Bryson, Ethan King, and Paedon Young.

SkillsUSA Region 2 includes counties from Oglethorpe to Union and from Dawson to Hart. SkillsUSA is a national career and technical student organization and each year a series of more than 100 competitions allow students to test their skills.

The 2014 theme is "Champions at Work: Educated and Skilled to Lead America."

Arrowood advanced in Electrical Construction Wiring competition, and McKeral in HVAC.

Katie Buzzard of Union County High School placed third in Preschool Teaching Assistant.

Also competing at the event from Union County High School were Chase Platte in Automotive Service Technology; Madelin Walker in Job Interview; Alex Dowell in Masonry; and Mekiah Martin in Welding.

Woody Gap High School students competing at the event included Darrin Wilkins in Cabinet Making; Dakota Etheridge in Carpentry; Tyler Holloway in Welding; and the Welding Fabrication Team consisting of Larry Chancey, Eli Gooch, Zeb Harkins, and Easton Wood.

"It is our honor to host

this annual event, and we feel a sense of pride watching you showcase your talents and skills that you have learned," Thaxton said. "It is a great day for all of us, but especially for you, our North Georgia Champions."

The event took place on the inclement weather date of Feb. 6, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with an awards ceremony at 2 p.m. in the NGTC Clegg Auditorium.

Region II SkillsUSA coordinators include Jeff Beringer from Lumpkin County High School, Baker Pulliam from Chestatee High School, and Morris Harrison from North Georgia Technical College.

Weather...from Page 1A

help resupply Union County's salt supply.

"The price of salt has gone through the roof," he said. "We're making some contacts, and we believe we'll be able to get a new supply from Florida. It's been tough finding salt right now because the entire Eastern half of the country is in need of salt."

"When you find it, it's not coming cheap," Paris said. "March is typically a big month for snow in our region, so, we'll need to restock our salt."

Temperatures forecast this week for Union County call for highs in the low 60s

and upper 50s.

The forecast also calls for rain through Friday. The good news is that lows are projected between 39 degrees and 55 degrees through Thursday.

Low temperatures are

expected to dip to 32 degrees on Friday, but, rise again on Saturday to 41 degrees.

At press time, no frozen precipitation was in the forecast.

Yes, that is music to our ears as we await the warmth.



We've seen enough snow in 2014 to last awhile. Photo/Charles Duncan

STAR...

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brand new 2014 Community Magazine and Business Directory which features a variety of stories and resources for residents, newcomers, and visitors.

"Lunch will be provided by The View Grill," she said.

Examples of the top Chamber accomplishments of 2013 include a new Chamber website, hotel/motel tax improvements, and the establishment of a childhood literacy campaign.

Meanwhile, earning a STAR nomination, high school students must have the highest score on a single test date on the three-part SAT and be in the top 10 percent of their class based on grade point average.

Each high school STAR Student is asked to name his or her STAR Teacher. High School recipients compete for school system titles, and system STAR Students in turn compete for region honors. Region winners and their STAR teachers are invited to Atlanta to compete for state STAR scholarships and awards.