

# Cruisers...from Page 1A



Representatives from the HEROES, Phi Beta Lambda and Student Government organizations at North Georgia Technical College recently donated toys to the sheriff's office.

to help close to 100 children in the area.

"This program existed at the sheriff's office for years," said UCSO Chief Deputy John George. "When Sheriff (Mack) Mason came into office, he realized how important it was to continue it."

"What we do here at the sheriff's office with the Give-A-Gift program, we reach between 30 and 50 families. That may involve multiple kids in each family."

"Our whole objective is to help the kids in the community that need a Christmas have a Christmas, in conjunction with the Blairsville Cruisers. They're one of the biggest supporters of the program. They always give us a sizable donation."

"We try to put together gift packages with what the parents tell us the children like. For example, the boys like cars or the girls like dolls. If they want a stuffed animal or a bicycle, we try to accommodate."

"The donations provided by the community and the Blairsville Cruisers are what makes this program work."

One of the biggest boosts to the program is the commitment by the Blairsville Cruisers, who work year-round to make Christmas happen for the children of Union County. This year, the Cruisers donated a total of \$2,500 to go toward helping the children in the

program. "We like to help out in the community and give back," said Cruiser President Pete Barley. "But, most importantly, we want to help out the kids. We want the kids to have a Christmas and to be able to experience this wonderful time of year and how great it is, especially as a child."

"We're thankful that we're able to help out with Shop-With-A-Cop and the Give-A-Gift, and even host our own Christmas shopping experience with Shop-With-A-Cruiser. This year we're looking at taking at least 60 kids in the community to go get toys for Christmas."

"It's always nice to see the looks on their faces when we take the kids and they're able to pick out what they wanted. It's truly a blessing."

Families wishing to be included in the Give-A-Gift program need only visit the Union County Sheriff's Office to fill out an application, qualifying their child to receive something for Christmas from Give-A-Gift, which provides gifts for children up to 12 years old.

The application includes a section where parents can include what the children want for Christmas so the gifts can be

decided accordingly. The children must be Union County residents.

Donations for the program come from churches, individuals, businesses and civic organizations. North Georgia Technical College also made a delivery of toy donations to the sheriff's office recently. These donations were collected under the college's Toys for Tots program, ran by the HEROES (Having Equity Resources and Opportunities Equal Success) Club, Phi Beta Lambda, student government organizations and many other faculty and students at the college.

"If people in the community want to donate toys, we want them to be up to the age of 12," said Chief Deputy George. "We don't want used toys or used stuffed animals. We would like new toys. People can also make a cash donation if they'd like."

"We frequently have needy children or victims of crime or families who are devastated that we can help through the year. And if we don't use that money through the year, then it carries over to next Christmas. It does not go to waste. No donation will be turned away."

This year's Shop-With-A-Cop will be held on Dec. 10, and the Blairsville Cruisers will host their annual Shop-With-A-Cruiser on Dec. 16.

# Market...continued from Page 1A

A Santa Train was also available to take a quick trip around the market, where children could enjoy the music and see all the holiday decorations.

The Settawig Band performed for patrons who in turn perused the market, and the Union County High School Chorus Ensemble paid a visit, singing Christmas music for all to hear.

The Woody Gap Band of Steel also wowed audiences Saturday with their large repertoire of music, both popular and Christmas-themed.

Of the many vendors selling their crafts and homemade goods was Elizabeth Hall of Hall's Creations, who has been selling her handmade aprons, towels and other utility fibers art at the market since 2011.

Hall originally began delving into fibers arts after she was struck with numerous health conditions several years ago. The needlework became a form of therapy for Hall, helping her recuperate from her illnesses.

"I started making the towels, and it just took off from there," said Hall. "I started giving them as gifts at Christmas to everyone in the family, and I think they all got sick of getting them after a while, so I needed to find a place to sell all the stuff."

"A friend of mine that sells at the market told me that I should come and check it out, and so I just came and started doing it. I love all the people you meet here, and at the Kris Kringle Market, everyone is always so happy while they're here."

While this year is not Hall's first rodeo at the Kris Kringle Market, it was for Nolan Lang and his wife Gail, who sold handmade woodland animals and Christmas creatures made of up-cycled lumber found in their backyard.

"I retired about four years ago, and my wife and I bought a cottage up by Lake Nottely," said Lang. "We were just goofing around one day and I looked down at the ground and one of the pieces of wood was laying a certain way, so I said, I could make a bird out of that."

"So I made one, and then



Residents and visitors from afar shopped for Christmas presents at the annual Kris Kringle Market.



2016 Kris Kringle Market

I started making a bunch of them, all birds. Well, my wife said, since you have those birds going, why don't you make some little deer."

"So, I worked on those and got those all made, and my wife took some to a show at Stone Mountain and people loved them. And now we're selling them here. We love the atmosphere out here and the people that you talk to. You get to hear so many interesting stories

from people."

The proceeds that the Langs made at the market on Saturday are being donated to the Foster Children's Care Fund to help area foster children in need.

All in all, it was a Kris Kringle Market for the books, with plenty of holiday spirit floating around the Union County Farmers Market to last through the season.

## LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

**SalonTru**  
Excellence in Organic Hair Care  
706-781-3015 • 417 Blue Ridge Street  
Book Online at [www.vagaro.com/salontru](http://www.vagaro.com/salontru)  
Susan Anderson • Glory McGinn  
Lindsey Gaylord • Sarah Jane Serra  
Valorie Carter • Sasha Watson

**WAZOO! QUILTING**  
Longarm Quilting  
Commission Quilts  
Quilt Restoration  
Quick Turn Around  
Located in Blairsville, GA  
706-781-1423

**SHAWN'S HOME FURNISHINGS**  
Mattresses, Porch Rockers & More!  
"From the Front Porch to the Back Door We've Got You Covered!"  
568 Blue Ridge St. • Blairsville, GA  
FREE DELIVERY! 706-835-1209  
Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

Declare your financial independence. Call today.  
Flip Varney  
Financial Advisor  
178 Brackets Way Suite 2  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-835-1385  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)  
Edward Jones  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**TOTAL RECOVERY**  
PAINT & BODY  
(706) 745-9703  
391 BLUE RIDGE HWY  
ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED

Blue Ridge Painting Services LLC  
SAVE 20%  
on Interior Repainting  
if you Reserve before December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Serving Towns, Union & Clay Counties  
[blueridgepaintingservices.com](http://blueridgepaintingservices.com)  
706-970-1409

**Olive Tree** Art Centre  
Art Gallery \* Pottery Studio \* Art Classes  
563 Gainesville Hwy...1 mile south of town  
Blairsville GA 30512  
(706) 835-1257  
[www.OliveTreeArtCentre.com](http://www.OliveTreeArtCentre.com)

**Downtown**  
We Have Everything From... **A to Z**  
Monday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
536 Bell Creek Road, Hiawassee (next to Fred's)  
1290 Townsend Mill Road, Young Harris  
706-896-2869

Affordable HEARING AID SOLUTIONS  
706-896-0051  
Debra D. Spaulding  
Hearing Instrument Specialist  
411D HIGHWAY 515 • BLAIRSVILLE, GA

Guided Horseback Rides  
Holiday Special and Gift Certificates  
Book a 1 hour ride in December for \$25 (cash)  
Give a special gift to the horse enthusiasts in your life  
Save 20% on gift certificates over \$70  
Call 706-745-5252  
Mention this Ad - Reservations Required  
Cannot be combined with other offers

**ASCS** PAVING DIVISION INC.  
706-400-2988  
DRIVEWAYS  
PARKING LOTS  
SUB DIVISIONS  
TAR/GRAVEL  
Commercial • Residential

Southeast Geothermal & Spray Foam  
706-745-8685  
1442 Blue Ridge Hwy.  
[www.segeothermal.com](http://www.segeothermal.com)  
[www.sesprayfoam.com](http://www.sesprayfoam.com)

**THE BARN COUNTRY STORE**  
Handmade Rustic Furniture, Gifts, Signs, Honey, Jellies, T-Shirts, Cow Hide Rugs & Much More!  
6224 US Hwy. 76, Young Harris, GA  
Next to Brothers Restaurant • 706-994-0402 • 706-781-7226  
Mon Closed | Tues-Thur 11-5 | Fri & Sat 11-8 | Sun 12-4

We Make Loans.  
Personal Loans • Starter Loans • Consolidation Loans and more  
www.1ffc.com  
417 Blue Ridge Street, Suite 1  
BLAIRSVILLE  
706-745-6111  
1st Franklin Financial  
\* All loans subject to our liberal credit policy and limitations, if any. 1st Franklin Financial Corporation, NMLS#141654, Georgia Residential Mortgage Licensee #5656.

NOW OPEN  
**Spry Family Dry Cleaners**  
Press Only Garments • Shirts & Laundry Service  
Hydrocarbon Dry Cleaning • Comforters - Beddings - Drapery  
Leather & Suede Cleaning • Wet Cleaning  
Wash, Dry & Fold • Alterations  
Wedding Gown Cleaning & Preservation  
Special Applique Garments • Fire, Water, and Mildew Restoration Cleaning • Clothing Storage Available  
37 Hunt Martin Street, Blairsville • 706-745-1976  
221 S Main Street, Hiawassee • 706-896-8580

**HEARING SOLUTIONS** of North Georgia  
Hearing Tests - Evaluations - Consults  
Let us service your hearing devices in our state of the art hearing lab!  
Call us today 706-835-9213  
Hearing Solutions of North Georgia  
63 Plott Street, Unit D, Blairsville, GA  
(Located next to Chick-fil-A on Hwy. 515)  
Proudly serving the community and tri-state area since 2000

**Budget Blinds**  
The best in custom blinds and window coverings  
Free In-Home Consultation!  
Shutters • Wood Blinds • Honeycomb Roller/Solar Shades • Roman Shades • Vertical Blinds  
Woven Woods and Much More!  
[www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com)  
Call Today! 706-745-0009

**Nani's RESTAURANT, Inc**  
Cuban, Puerto Rican, & Caribbean Food  
Tues-Thur 11-7  
Fri-Sat 11-8  
"Your Tampa Bay connection to CUBAN FOOD!"  
Paella Dinner Special  
Friday and Saturday after 4 pm  
Come get your Preserves!  
706-745-0010 • 51 D Earnest Street • Blairsville, GA

**PRIME PAINTING**  
Painting, Staining  
Pressure Washing  
FREE ESTIMATES!  
Van Marcell  
211 Syrup Mill Branch Road,  
Morganton, GA  
706-455-2632  
[Primepainting11@gmail.com](mailto:Primepainting11@gmail.com)

**BEEFALO**  
The Natural Lean Meat  
USDA Inspected  
Meat by 1/2, Whole or by Lb.  
Deer Foot Farms  
234 Deer Foot Road  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
Owner/Breeder:  
Joe McGinnis  
706-781-2805 [callent.beefalo@hotmail.com](mailto:callent.beefalo@hotmail.com)