

# Fine Arts...continued from Page 1A



Santa Babies

concert went toward those organizations, which is something that UCHS Theater teacher Chris Adams says is also to the betterment of the students.

"Last night [Thursday] was a benefit show for Shop With a Panther," said Adams. "It's something that some of the folks at the high school do in order to raise money to take some second-graders shopping for presents, then they come back and play with them and wrap presents and just have a good time together."

"I know that the kids that work with the Shop With a Panther look forward to it every year. It's some of their favorite days, to be able to spend time with those kids. And it's really good for these kids, to be able to give back to the community like this."

On Thursday night alone, the concert brought in a little over \$1,500, packing the house with parents, family members, friends and members of the community all geared up for the yuletide event.

According to Adams, Friday night's crowd was even larger than Thursday, nearly reaching capacity of the FAC. Proceeds from Friday's concert were designated to assist with holiday groceries through Union County Family Connection.

"Another thing that we have going on tonight is a benefit for holiday meals for members of the community," said Adams. "We partner with Family Connection and we also partner with Ingles."

"Family Connection is putting together meals, like an entrée, some sides, desserts and drinks for families for the holidays, and there are vouchers for them at Ingles. So, the money tonight [Friday] will go toward those vouchers and Family Connection."

"Family Connection is the connection between our school and our community. They help families and children in the community that are in need and make sure that everything is being done in the best interest of the child. So, we wanted to put together some holiday meals so that families can have an awesome meal for Christmas."

Since 1998, Family Connection of Union County



Anthony Grader of the UCHS Jazz Band sang "Blue Christmas" during the show.



"I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"

has been an important aspect of the community and the school system. Its primary focus is to help make certain every child in Union County grows into a successful, productive and contributing member of society.

According to the organization's website, it pursues that goal "by determining the areas of need, building on community and family strengths, pooling resources, working with a variety of community members, and committing to a long-term process of planning, implementation, and evaluation."

"Using a family-centered approach, schools, health and human service agencies, business, the faith community, law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, civic clubs and others work together with families, focusing on school

success, appropriate decision making, physical and mental health and reducing drug and alcohol use."

UCHS students sang, danced and performed like professionals, exuding holiday cheer from the stage out into the crowd as they put on one of the best Christmas concerts to date. According to Adams, this year will be the first of many joint-effort shows to come that's primary focus will be giving back to the community, and neither he nor the kids can hardly wait.

"We figured that the best way to raise money is to show off all the talent we have in the band, chorus and theater departments," said Adams. "It's awesome to get the community to come see all these kids and support these great causes."

"We're wanting this to be an annual thing. We're hoping that it'll explode and people will catch on to what we're doing and we'll get some big sponsors involved."

"It's so awesome that the kids were excited that we were doing this and how well they responded to this."

"We're so blessed to have the turnout we did and the support of the community has been great. I'm already looking forward to next year."

# Water...continued from Page 1A

During the November meeting, GMREC Superintendent Ray Covington addressed the council concerning an agreement between the GMREC and the city on water meter rates.

According to Covington in last month's meeting, the agreement had been made in 1982, though sometime over the years had been lost in the shuffle of new council members, mayors and GMREC employees.

The agreement was reinstated in 2002, but when the ordinances were rewritten in 2012, the arrangement was not included. Covington previously asked the council to reestablish this preferential rate on the property meters to 65 cents per 1,000 gallons rather than have the meters continued to be charged as outside the city limits.

During this December meeting, Mayor Conley held the first reading of an amendment to the Water and Sewer Ordinance that will include the GMREC within the city limits for the preferential rate.

"The reason for this is, many years ago, the city and the GMREC had an agreement," said Mayor Conley. "Back in the late 70s, early 80s, the city went to them and got permission to drill a well on their property, and we did. When that happened, the city agreed to furnish the Experiment Station with water through our system."

"We have continued to do that throughout the years. However, what happened was they agreed to pay for water being put in to come to them, which at that time the city had water through Town Creek School Road, that's as far as the city water ran."

"The Experiment Station paid for the water to put in all the way out to them. So, the way that the city paid for that was anybody that wanted to hook on to the water past Town Creek School Road, the revenue from those hook-ups



New Blairsville City Attorney David Barrett

went as reimbursement back to the Experiment Station against their investment. That's how the line was paid for."

"When it came to the well, there was an original agreement between the city and the Experiment Station. Everyone knew there was, but nobody can find an official document for it. So, to make things fair, they asked for a reduction of rates and that's how this all came about."

Due to this long-standing agreement, the city will be reestablishing the preferential rate of 65 cents per 1,000 gallons and including this rate reduction in the city's ordinance.

Also during the meeting, Mayor Conley held the second and final reading of an ordinance amending benefits from the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefit System. This newly adopted amendment will allow for elected officials to be included for retirement benefits where they currently are not.

In other city council meeting news, Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper shared updates on what the DDA has in store for the upcoming New Year,

already looking forward to the many opportunities of 2017.

One primary focus, Harper explained, would be the Arts and Crafts Festival that occurs in May, as well as a new event that will be taking place during the end of May.

"We've already set our schedule for the Arts and Crafts Festival, and those meetings will start in January," said Harper. "We're wanting to increase the size of it this year and spread it out a bit further than we have before."

"One other thing I wanted to bring up is, Habitat for Humanity has asked to do a fundraiser to piggyback on this event that will be a bed race. You have teams who compete and they literally take a bed, put it on wheels, one person will be on each corner of the bed and one person will ride in it."

"The idea behind the race is to have different companies throughout the community to sponsor a bed in the race."

This fundraiser will help raise funds toward building two homes throughout the community. More information on this event and how to get involved can be found at [www.townunionhabitat.org](http://www.townunionhabitat.org).

# ZZ Top...

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Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason said.

Billy Gibbons, Dusty Hill and Frank Beard have been performing a blend of Rock 'n Roll and Blues for 45 years.

With hits that include "Tush," "Jesus Just Left Chicago," "Legs," "Sharp Dressed Man," and "La Grange," the trio has sold more than 50 million records during their music careers.

It figures to be one of the biggest years in Anderson Music Hall history.

On Jan. 13, legendary rockers 38 Special will play The Hall. On Feb. 11, Gene Watson and Earl Thomas Conley will perform at Anderson Music Hall.

March 11 marks the arrival of Country Music legend Wynonna Judd to play The Hall. Later, on March 25, Mercy Me will perform at Anderson Music Hall.

April 7, get ready for a treat, Clint Black comes to town to perform his unique brand of Country Music.

Yes, 2017 figures to be a big year at Anderson Music Hall.

For more details about upcoming events and performing acts at Anderson Music Hall, call (706) 896-4191.

## Blairsville PTO fundraiser

The Blairsville PTO will be having a fundraiser on Tuesday, December 13th at Rib Country from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. You can dine-in or carry out. Please come out and support your Parent/Teacher Organization. NDDec14Z10/CA

## Narcotics Anonymous

A new NA group called "One Is Too Many" has started meeting in Young Harris at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Meetings are being held every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. The church is on campus and the meeting entrance is through the back door.

For further questions about Narcotics Anonymous please call the NA Help Line at 888-666-3609. NTDec14Z10/CA

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# UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	<b>Every Monday:</b>	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
	<b>Every Wednesday:</b>	
BINGO	Civic Center	7 pm
	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	<b>Third Monday of each month:</b>	
Shape Note Music	Old Courthouse	6:30 pm
High Country Artisan	U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 pm
Allegheny Lodge #114	Masonic Lodge	6:30 pm
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211	Blairsville Airport	7 pm
	<b>Third Tuesday of each month:</b>	
UC Homemakers	Dooley Chapter	Noon
Healthy Hearts Support	UGH 2nd Floor Class	2 pm
Am. Legion Post 121	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
American Legion. Aux	Veteran's Center	6:30 pm
Chatuge Gun Club	Senior Center, Hia.	7 pm
Compassionate Friends	UCB Community Room	7 pm
	<b>Third Wednesday of each month:</b>	
Quilts of Valor	Coosa Methodist Ch	9:30 am
GA Mtn. Writers Club	Grinds & Glazes (G&G)	10 am
Blairsville Garden Club	Location not listed	1 pm
Friends of the Library	Library Com Room	2 pm
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota	So. Bank & Trust	7 pm
	<b>Third Thursday of each month:</b>	
MMQG	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	10 am-3 pm
Kinship Care	Civic Center	Noon
Commissioner's Meet.	County Courthouse	6 pm
Good N'bers Auto	Rib Country, Murphy	6:30 pm
UT Home Builders	Moschetto's	6:30 pm
Cub Scouts Trp. #101	United Methodist Ch.	6:30 pm
Tip-off Club	UC High School	7 pm
UC Saddle Club	Arena Clubhouse	7 pm
Jaycees	Fort Sorghum	7:30 pm
	<b>Third Friday of each month:</b>	
No activities listed		
	<b>Third Saturday of each month:</b>	
UC Republican Party	Civic Center	10 am
Goldwing Road Riders	Daniels Steak House	11 am