

Cruisers...continued from Page 1A

Cruisers. "We've put a lot of time into this, a lot of effort, and it's good to have everybody in our area to come in to help out, also," said Barley. "We have a lot of volunteers here today, too, to help out."

"Walmart has been a good partner to us. They've really helped us out a lot, and they're willing to jump in there and help us out when they can."

Joining the Cruisers that Tuesday were members of the local law enforcement community, like Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll, himself a Cruiser, and Chief Deputy John George from the Union County Sheriff's Office, also a Cruiser.

UCSO Capt. Doug Loyd was thrilled to be one

of many law enforcement representatives from each division of the sheriff's office on hand to engage positively with the youth of the county.

"Special organizations like the Blairsville Cruisers have supported us for many years now," said Capt. Loyd. "It's awesome to see local groups like that come together to make Christmas for these kids."

"There's a lot of families in this area that are in need, and if it wasn't for the Blairsville Cruisers or some of these other organizations that step up to the plate, some of them might not have a Christmas."

The Cruisers were able to raise the kind of money they needed to take 62 children Christmas shopping, all the while donating to other causes,



Local law enforcement officers always lend a helping hand to the Cruisers during Shop with a Cruiser. Photo/Shawn Jarrard



Blairsville Cruisers President Pete Barley and Danny Johnson bagging purchases made by the kids that day. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

by soliciting help from the community in their fundraising efforts.

Every year, the Cruisers sell raffle tickets for a car,

and the people who spend money on the raffle tickets know where the money will be going, giving them all the more reason to buy the tickets.

The club is always accepting new members, like John Jacobs of Morganton, who has been in the club for about a year.

"It's important for us to be here this morning for the love of the kids, to help the kids," said Jacobs, a great-grandfather. "I'm thankful for what I've got, and I look at other kids and see what they

don't have, and I just want to help them."

Walmart provided refreshments for kids and volunteers, and employees to assist with checking the kids out, and after the shopping, the Cruisers treated the schoolchildren to lunch at Papa's Pizza To Go on the Downtown Blairsville Square.

VA's new Decision Ready Claims Program process



The Decision Ready Claims (DRC) Program is the fastest way to get your VA claim processed. You can get a decision on your claim in 30 days or less by working with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO).

The DRC Program allows you to submit VA compensation claims that are decision-ready so you can get your claim processed as fast as possible.

To submit a DRC, you

must: Appoint and work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO); Gather all relevant and required evidence to support your claim; and Attend a VA claim exam, if needed, before submitting your claim.

When you work with an accredited VSO and provide all the necessary evidence with your application, you can get a decision on your claim in 30 days or less.

Currently, the DRC Program is available for the following types of compensation claims: Direct Service Connection Claims: Claims for conditions that began during your military service or were caused by an event while serving.

Presumptive Service

Connection Claims: Claims for conditions that are presumed to have been caused by an event during your military service, even if there is no specific evidence showing a connection between your condition and your military service in your service records. This includes conditions related to Agent Orange, chronic disabilities, and the following conditions tied to service during the Gulf War: fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and functional gastrointestinal disorders.

Secondary Service Connection Claims: Claims for conditions that were caused or aggravated by a service-connected disability. Increased Disability Claims: Claims for existing service-connected conditions that you have medical evidence to show have gotten worse. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims: Claims for surviving spouses of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease or who was rated 100% disabled due to service-connected conditions (including entitlement to Individual Unemployability) for 10 years prior to their death. To learn more about DIC, including eligibility require-

ments, go to the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation page.

Pre-Discharge Claims: Claims for disability compensation filed by Servicemembers who have less than 90 days remaining before their separation from military service. To file a DRC, you must have previously filed a VA claim and received a rating decision from VA on that claim. See web site for exceptions.

Have more questions? Reach out to your local VSO or call the VA toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000; <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/DRC.asp>.

This message brought to you by VVA chapter 1101 Blairsville, GA. We meet every third Thursday of the month at 1:15 PM in the Major Leon Davenport Veterans Building located at 78 Blue Ridge Hwy., Blairsville. No meeting in December. In addition we meet every Wednesday morning at 8 AM in the Blairsville Restaurant for biscuits and BS. This organization is open to all Vietnam ERA Veteran plus we have an Associate group that is open to all people interested in helping veterans. Contact us at Blairsvillevva@gmail.com.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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

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
706-835-1209
 FREE DELIVERY!
 Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

TAXES FOR SMALL BUSINESS & INDIVIDUALS!
 Dermott J. Tracey, CPA
706-745-9025
 178 Mystic Overlook, Blairsville, GA
djtracey5@yahoo.com

TOTAL RECOVERY

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

AS 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
www.sesprayfoam.com

SEAMS SEW SIMPLE Upholstery
 Upholstery Repairs
 Furniture, Boats, & More!
seamssewsimplega@gmail.com
 235 Old Farm View Blairsville, GA 30512
 239-963-7166 Joseph Janicki

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

www.Trackrock.com

Specializing In:
 Alignment • Computer Balancing
 Brakes • Auto Repair
 Industrial Foam Fill
 Oil Changes

Thomas Tire, Inc.
 Auto & Big Truck Service
 Oscar Thomas - Owner
 (706) 745-0264
 76 Shoe Factory Road
 Blairsville, Georgia 30512

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
Call Today! 706-745-0009

We Make Loans.
 Personal Loans • Starter Loans • Consolidation Loans and more
 417 Blue Ridge Street, Suite I
 BLAIRSVILLE
706-745-6111

 * All loans subject to our liberal credit policy and limitations, if any. 1st Franklin Financial Corporation, NMLS#141654, Georgia Residential Mortgage License #5656.

NORTH GEORGIA MOVING

 Local & Long Hauls
 20 Years Experience • Insured
 Stephen Young, Owner/Operator
706-970-7573
stephengyoung77@gmail.com

Litton Landscaping, Inc.
 1250 Collins Road
 Blairsville, GA 30512
 706-745-5478
 Cell 706-781-4858
 Complete Design
 Installation
 Maintenance
 "We go the extra mile"


Hemphill Vinyl Siding And Metal Roofing Sales
 154 Kelley Road
 Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-3145 • 706-745-9006
 1-888-698-3225
 Fax 706-745-8418
hvswi@windstream.net
 Owner - Kenneth Hemphill

A CUT ABOVE CARPENTRY
 THE FIRST THING WE BUILD IS A CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP

ACutAboveCarpentry.net
 Kitchen Remodeling • Decks and Gazebos • Floating
 Bathroom Remodeling • Flooring • Cabinets
 Windows & Doors • And so much more!

The Doll Shop & Toy Store
 Children's Books, Toys & Games
 18" Vinyl Dolls & Baby Dolls
 Doll Clothes, Shoes & Accessories
 that fit 18" dolls including
 The American Girl Doll
1533 Blue Ridge Hwy.
Blairsville, GA 30512
727-420-6023

Have You Received Notice That Your Health Premiums Are Increasing?
I Can Help! Polly Agee
 Flexible Affordable Health Coverage
 (678) 644-4058
www.ushagent.com/pollyagee
 Call Today For a FREE Quote
 Insurance underwritten by Freedom Life Insurance Company of America

 Not all products available in all states. Exclusions and limitations apply. See Licensed Agent for details.

ARMADILLO GRILL

24 Scott Drive • Blairsville, GA
706-745-GRUB

Cathy Jarrett
 Licensed Insurance Agent
 706-781-7832 • cathy@cathyjarrett.com
Life • Health • Medicare Products
Annual Enrollment for Medicare is October 15th - December 7th
 Let me help you make the right decisions concerning your healthcare