

Kris Kringle...continued from Page 1A

items that are homegrown and homemade that were available for those searching for that unique holiday gift.

"This was just an amazing event," said Melissa Cook, of Douglasville.

"Our friends are here in Blairsville and they told us about the event. I just had to come see for myself what was going on," she said.

All-in-all, the adults had as much fun as the children.

And most importantly, Santa Claus returned to the North Pole with a wish list to fill for Christmas Day.



Santa Claus had a long line of young folks waiting to have a chance to share their Christmas Wish Lists with him. It must be noted, Santa is a good listener. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Christmas...continued from Page 1A

A stretched Cadillac Escalade limousine from Auto Bank Title Pawn drew much attention as it made its way through town.

Ford Motor Company was represented in the Christmas Parade by a 1966 Ford Mustang.

Other floats in the parade were Lighthouse Church and Christian Academy, Georgia's Beautiful Miss Pageant contestants, United Community Bank, Liberty Baptist Church Youth Group, Men on the Move moving company, Daisy Girl Scouts, Fieldstone Resort, Cinema, and Fun World, Hemphill Vinyl Siding and Metal Roofing, Habitat for Humanity, Blairsville School of Dance, and the Union County Historical Society.

Nearing the end of the parade, the Union County Saddle Club arrived riding six horses when they came.

No, they weren't coming around the mountain, they were coming around the square.

Finally Santa and his elves made their way through Downtown much to the delight of all in attendance, except for those on the Naughty List.

Santa also will keep an eye out for the children going on Saturday's Shop With a Cop.

The event takes place at the Blairsville Walmart, the youth will ride with the volunteer patrol officers to take care of Christmas.

Locals were more than generous this year. Approximately 60 local children will have a Christmas to remember, Chief Johnny Carroll said.

"It's just incredible the response we've had," he said. "It's enough to make your heart feel all warm and fuzzy."



Holiday Photos by Lowell Nicholson

Holiday program helps Northeast Georgia seniors struggling with poverty and loneliness

Be a Santa to a Senior®, the popular campaign that in 2011 delivered more than 1000 gifts to local needy seniors, is being planned again this holiday season as older adults continue to face poverty and loneliness.

The area office of the Home Instead Senior Care® network, the world's largest provider of non-medical in-home care and companionship services for older adults, is joining other local companies and Ingles of Blairsville to provide gifts and companionship to seniors who otherwise might not receive either.

"Seniors faced with medical bills and the high cost of living can find they have little left at the end of the year," said Andrew Williams, owner of the Home Instead Senior Care office serving all of Northeast Georgia. "That's not the only issue, though. Personal needs may become magnified for so many living alone with no one

to share their problems."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 9 percent of U.S. seniors 65 and older are living in poverty and 27 percent are widowed.

Here's how to help these struggling seniors: Pick up ornaments with the first names of seniors and their gift requests from Christmas trees, which will be up at Ingles of Blairsville on November 19th through December 14th. Buy items on the list and return them unwrapped to the store, along with the ornaments attached. A community gift-wrapping event, when hundreds of the presents will be wrapped, will be held on December 18th at the Home Instead Senior Care office located at 15 Earnest Street, Blairsville, GA.

"Helping a needy older adult can bring fulfillment to the giver as well as the receiver - it does make a difference," Williams said.

For more information about the program, visit www.beasantoasenior.com or call 706-835-3800. NDec5.23)CA

Georgia Mountain Writers Club meeting

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Catholic church on Hwy. 76.

For more information, call Ellee Dobson at 706-745-0678 or email her at jldobson@windstream.net. NDec5.21)CA

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