

North Georgia News

3 Sections 26 Pages

Hometown Newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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Wednesday, November 22, 2023

School welcomes guests for UCES groundbreaking

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

A keystone event that much of the community has been looking forward to finally arrived on Thursday, Nov. 16, when construction workers officially broke ground at the planned site of the new Union County Elementary School behind the Fine Arts Center.

In 2018, the School System determined that the current, now "old" Elementary School needed to be replaced. For generations at least as far back as the late '60s, it served as Union County High School, but it doesn't quite measure up with what the system needs today.

Current Elementary School enrollment is close to 800, though that figure is projected to grow, which is why the new school will be able to house 950 students on Day 1 of its opening, expected in time

for the 2025-26 school year.

The new building's design allows for each end of the school to be expanded to eventually accommodate 1,200 total students, and it will enable more room at the Primary School by moving second-graders over to the new Elementary School.

"Modern amenities" will be installed in the new building, and its grand size will be more accommodating to future generations in a growing community.

Elementary School Principal Jerry Bavero welcomed everyone from a podium positioned in front of a backhoe and excavator. Secured between their buckets was a welcome sign commemorating the date, and in the ground were gold shovels and hard hats reserved for those who had a hand in making the new facility a possibility.

See *Groundbreaking*, Page 5A



L-R: School Board Member Janna Akins, Board Member Patrick White, Superintendent John Hill, Board Member Julia Barnett, Board Member Tony Hunter, State Rep. Stan Gunter, State Sen. Steve Gooch and Board Member Jason McCarter. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

Mason aims to 'save lives' with proposed GA 348 fix

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason believes it's just a matter of time before someone gets killed on the Richard B.

Russell Scenic Highway, aka Georgia 348, which winds northwesterly from White County through the Choestoe area.

Thankfully, it appears that a legislative solution is

in the works to address what Mason calls a "death trap" on 348 – a steep and curvy 2-mile stretch of the highway inside Union County that has become a major trouble

See *Georgia 348*, Page 2A



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and Maj. Shawn Dyer surveying the scene of a big rig crash on a dangerous stretch of Georgia 348 over the summer. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Fire Station 13 opens with hose uncoupling ceremony



Commissioner Lamar Paris and Fire Chief David Dyer were thrilled to welcome members of the public to the grand opening of Fire Station 13, commemorated with a traditional firehose uncoupling. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

"We want to welcome everyone to this beautiful new facility," said Union County Fire Chief David Dyer to the

outstanding number of guests attending the grand opening of the new Fire Station 13 on Friday, Nov. 17.

And that new facility, located up Murphy Highway at the entrance to the Hidden

Harbor subdivision, has been a long time coming; in fact, it's been so long that Dyer can't remember when the last Fire Station was built.

Station 13's journey See *Fire Station 13*, Page 4A

United Community updates logo, continues trusted service in Blairsville

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

United Community Bank has new signs out front of its branches in town – and the same dedicated staff of hundreds of men and women that residents have come to rely on for all their financial needs here in Blairsville.

The company announced a branding refresh in March, having since incorporated a new logo in all its promotional materials, at ucbi.com, on social media, in online banking and elsewhere.

And this week, the two Blairsville branches updated their physical signage both inside and out to reflect the branding initiative.

The new logo is intended to more fully represent the brand with a modern look, showcasing an abstract



A sign crew working Monday to swap out the signage at the United Community Main Branch on Georgia 515 in Blairsville. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Ex-school bus mechanic indicted for child molestation

By Shawn Jarrard
North Georgia News
editor@nganews.com

Former Union County Schools bus mechanic Christopher Daniel Lovell, 42, has been indicted on 10 counts related to alleged child molestation.

Grand Jurors handed up the indictment after hearing evidence from the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office on Nov. 9.

The indictment spells out in graphic detail Lovell's alleged crimes, describing multiple sex acts up to and including intercourse with the child victim on more than one occasion between 2021 and 2022, per court documents.

He has also been charged with electronically sending at least three sexually explicit images of himself sometime



Christopher Daniel Lovell

between July 1, 2022, and July 31, 2022, per court documents.

And Lovell was found to be in possession of several nude photographs of the victim the day he was arrested by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation on Sept. 15, 2023.

See *Lovell Indicted*, Page 3A



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Georgia 348...from Page 1A



Thankfully, this tractor-trailer carrying thousands of pounds of lumber did not result in fatal injuries on Georgia 348 when it overturned in June.

spot for vehicles, particularly semitractor-trailers and trucks pulling fifth-wheel campers.

Mason has been on thousands of accident scenes over his long career, with more than 29 years working traffic with the Georgia State Patrol and 11 years as county sheriff.

He still remembers the packed church bus from Winter

Haven, Florida, that crashed on Georgia 348 in 1987 after the driver lost control and went over the mountain.

A trooper at the time, he was patrolling that day and considers it a miracle that only one young girl died among the 30 people involved in the crash that resulted in serious injuries to the 29 other occupants, with six having to be life-flighted.

In terms of injuries, that was the worst wreck he has seen in his career, and the perilous conditions on Georgia 348 persist to this day.

Aug. 31, 2020, to June 6, 2023, saw 22 wrecks there. Several involved speeding sports cars and motorcycles, but, alarmingly, over a third of them were runaway tractor trailers loaded with heavy cargo that spilled all over the mountainside.

Truckers unfamiliar with the area routinely find themselves on SR 348 upon following GPS directions for a shorter drive, even though safer routes exist, like SR 19/129 and SR 515/US 76.

Unfortunately, too many of these drivers discover too late that their fully loaded trucks can't handle the challenges of the road after their brakes overheat to failure, causing them to completely lose the ability to slow down or stop.

From there, it's a wild and dangerous ride, as the 2 miles down from the county line at Hogpen Gap have no room for deceleration lanes to safely slow runaway big rigs before they run into the side of the mountain, or overturn in the roadway.

Mason considers it an act of God that none of the recent tractor trailer wrecks have resulted in death, especially considering that eastbound traffic has no way to evade an out-of-control 18-wheeler or other large weight-laden vehicles like fifth-wheel campers that have also wrecked.

But such outcomes are virtually guaranteed if something doesn't change.

That's why he has been lobbying the Georgia Department of Transportation and members of the Georgia General Assembly to prohibit large trucks from using SR 348, which, as a scenic highway, was never intended to be used as a commercial route.

The sheriff has made some safety headway there in recent years, coordinating with

multiple agencies to get better signage in place and gates installed on either end of the highway to shut it down during icy weather and when deputies are working accidents.

GDOT promised in its 2003 Corridor Management Plan, which has not been updated or revisited in over 20 years, to monitor the route for potential safety improvements and increased traffic, but Mason has not had any luck getting the state to seriously consider making it illegal for 18-wheelers to drive on the scenic highway – until now.

"No one but me has tried to get a law to re-route these unnecessary, dangerous and overweight vehicles away from this treacherous road under penalty of law," Mason said.

Last month, the sheriff received important clarification from GDOT's general counsel, advising him that "the law does not give us the authority to prohibit trucks on state routes other than those that exceed weight limits established in law and weather conditions."

This guidance has opened the door for lawmakers – namely District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch and District 8 State Rep. Stan Gunter – to work with GDOT to create a solution that will prevent heavy trucks from using Georgia 348.

"We're looking at, from a legal perspective, how we can restrict certain vehicles from using a state or a federal highway," said Gooch, who serves as Senate Majority Leader, and previously on the Senate Transportation Committee and the Department of Transportation Board.

"I've talked to the DOT," Gooch continued, "and we're trying to draft some language that could be introduced next year into the law that would give DOT the authorization to take certain roads like Richard Russell and restrict certain weights from using the road."

"So, it would be trucks that wouldn't need to be on that road because they weren't delivering to a business, per se, or a home in that particular roadway, which is more of a scenic corridor."

Added Gooch, "I don't see the downside of this at all. I can't tell you what the cons would be, unless a local trucker feels like he just has to drive up that route for some reason; I don't know why he or she would need to do that if there's

an alternative, feasible route to take that's safer."

Regarding drivers simply following their navigation systems, Gooch said a change in the law would enable GPS apps to remove certain routes for consideration by drivers of 18-wheelers and potentially issue warnings that passenger cars should "use extreme caution" due to the terrain.

Changing the law would also bring additional signage to Georgia 348 letting truckers know that vehicles over a certain weight or length are prohibited from using the road, and law enforcement would be able to write tickets to violators.

Gooch said they will be looking at things like grades, curves and level of commercial activity to determine a narrow enough application of any proposed regulation such that state routes would need to be considered on a "case-by-case basis" when it comes to prohibiting heavy trucks.

"This entire issue is strictly public safety," Gooch said. "There's been a lot of wrecks on the Union side and the White County side for many, many years."

And it seems that everyone is on board with the fix, including White County Sheriff Rick Kelley, who wrote a letter of support to Mason a few months ago agreeing "100%" with his safety concerns on Georgia 348.

Rep. Gunter said that he, too, would support the effort, either by helping to sponsor a bill to resolve the issue or carrying any bill in the House that is introduced by Gooch in the Senate.

"I think the sheriff is right on with the danger of those trucks going over that pass, and we need to do something about it," Gunter said.

For now, Gooch will remain in close contact with the Department of Transportation's legal team to iron out the specific language to be included in the bill, which he expects will be introduced sometime between January and March over the next legislative session.

"We respect our law enforcement personnel a great deal," Gooch said. "When the sheriff of any county in my district calls, especially repeatedly, asking for help, then I try to do everything I can to help them, because I know they're trying to help the citizens of that county."

"In this situation, Mack has been very passionate about this issue for a while, and before he leaves office, I hope we can satisfy his concerns."

Misty Mountain Quilters Guild November meeting



At the October meeting, Kay Wetzsteon introduced MMQG members to the beautiful art of kaleidoscope quilts.

By Patricia Christ

The Misty Mountain Quilters Guild will hold this month's general meeting on Tuesday, November 28, in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church, 938 GA-515, Blairsville, GA. The meeting begins at 1:00 p.m., with doors open at 12:30 for sign-in and fellowship.

Everyone is welcome, so plan to attend if you are interested in learning more about quilting. And, if you are a new member and signed up for orientation, do not forget to arrive by 11:00 a.m. for information about the guild, its mission and its charitable outreach programs.

This MMQG meeting will feature a presentation by

Cindy Williams, aka "The Math Whisperer," from Franklin, NC. Cindy holds workshops and retreats throughout the year, featuring her innovative approaches to designing and making quilts. This promises to be a fun and enlightening talk.

The Misty Mountain Quilters Guild has over 160 members, hailing primarily from Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Florida. Our mission is to educate, share, promote and keep alive the craft and traditions of quilting.

To learn more, visit our website at <https://www.misty-mountainquiltguild.org> or email mmqginfo@gmail.com. We hope you will join us for our meeting.

July Term 2023 Grand Jury Indictments, continued

The following individuals were indicted during the July Term 2023 of the Union County Grand Jury, which met again this month:

Raheem Terrell Wren, failure to register as a sex offender.

Robert Lee Hughes, three counts trafficking methamphetamine or amphetamine; three counts sale of methamphetamine.

Shawn Alan Ratliff, three counts criminal damage to property in the second

degree; open container.

Erik Anthony Strayer, criminal damage to property in the first degree; two counts criminal damage to property in the second degree; possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony;

reckless conduct; discharge of a gun near a highway or street.

Mikeal Powers, criminal damage to property in the first degree; two counts criminal damage to property in the second degree; possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony; reckless conduct; discharge of a gun near a highway or street.

Ashley Marie Booth, identity fraud; forgery in the first degree; obstruction of an officer; giving false information to a law enforcement officer; false identification document; speeding.

Christopher Daniel Lovell, two counts child molestation; two counts aggravated child molestation; three counts sexual exploitation of children; three counts electronically furnishing obscene material to minors.

Ashley Erin Cordell, cruelty to children in the first degree.

Charles Bryan Long, theft by shoplifting.

Kristin Kishon Nelson, entering an automobile; two counts obstruction of an officer.

Joseph Cleveland Brown, aggravated assault; two counts obstruction of an officer; terroristic threats; two counts cruelty to children in the third degree; discharging a firearm under the influence; simple battery, Family

Violence.

Jeremy Eldon Payne, disorderly conduct; possession of a firearm by convicted felon.

Dakota Luther Stamey, violation of Georgia Controlled Substances Act.

Kimberly Elizabeth Hyatt, cruelty to children in the first degree; battery, Family Violence.

Scott Dyer, two counts child molestation.

Jacob Taylor Bailey, aggravated assault; terroristic threats; cruelty to children in the third degree; hindering emergency telephone call.

Jody Edward Burrell, two counts obstruction of an officer; criminal trespass; disrupting public school.

The above individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

Lovell Indicted...from Page 1A

Prior to his arrest, Lovell was employed with the Union County School System as a bus mechanic, though the GBI said previously that "no incidents occurred at a school."

Lovell worked at Union County Schools for two years before the system terminated his employment on Sept. 15 after the accusations against

him came to light.

As a mechanic, Lovell did not have regular contact with schoolchildren on campus, though he did occasionally run bus routes as a substitute driver.

He has been charged with two counts child molestation, two counts aggravated child molestation, three counts

sexual exploitation of children, and three counts electronically furnishing obscene material to minors.

Lovell remains in custody at the Union County Jail without bond.

He has been charged only and is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

Frank Riley appointed to Blue Ridge Mountain Soil & Water Conservation District

Frank Riley of Demorest, GA was appointed on October 10, 2023 to represent Towns County on the Blue Ridge Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District. He will serve the Conservation District for a two-year term beginning October 10, 2023.

Riley grew up on a farm in Taylor County, Georgia and learned the importance of taking care of the land at an early age. The 650-acre farm produced hay providing local farmers and surrounding counties as well as their own livestock and also grew soybeans. Riley is a third-generation farmer who also lives on his 170 acre farm in Hiawassee,



Frank Riley

Ga that has been in the family since 1854. He currently pro-

duces flowers and vegetables in two high tunnels that were installed through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). He also grows sweet corn and sweet sorghum. Riley and his family have used many types of conservation practices on the farms; no-till drill, pollinator strips, and buffer strips. Riley has a Forestry Degree from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia and an MBA from the University of Georgia. Riley has been involved in the forestry industry for 52 years. He is the Executive Director of the Chattoe-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D).

He created the Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition which runs the Firewise and Fire Adapted Program in four states. He has served as the interim director for the Georgia Forestry Association and is a member of the FFA Foundation Sponsor Board. Riley travels the country continually learning about new ways to implement fire safety and then teaches others what he learns through workshops and hands-on training.

He looks forward to sharing his experience and knowledge with the district and community.

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Fire Station 13 Grand Opening...from Page 1A



Union County Firefighters and honored guests of the Nov. 17 grand opening of Fire Station 13 gathering for a photo at the Murphy Highway facility.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

truly began in 2016 with the coming of Hidden Harbor, as the subdivision's developer donated to the county the land on which the firehouse now stands.

In the earliest stages, it wasn't decided whether Station 13 would be a career station, a volunteer station or "put one more firetruck here to satisfy some requirements." In arriving at their decision, one thing they considered was the Insurance

Services Office fire rating. Defined as "a score provided to fire departments and insurance companies," ISO scores impact insurance premiums for homeowners. An evaluation revealed inadequate

response coverage in northern Union County, so the decision was made to construct a full station.

"They came to us with the idea of putting a station down here in this part of the county," Commissioner Lamar Paris said. "Station 1 is the only (other) full-time station. We are unique for many rural counties (in) that most rural counties may have a Fire Chief, they may have one or two (firefighters) on staff, but very few have a full-time Fire Department like we do in Union County."

Grading started in 2018, though everything came to a halt with the onset of COVID-19 in 2020. When things got back on schedule following the end of the pandemic, the dream of Station 13 became a reality.

Building a new station on the north end of the county cuts response times in the area by nine minutes. Having quicker intervention can mean the difference between a structure's partial or whole destruction—or life and death in all types of emergencies.

"We were out here one day (when) this place was just a field; we were walking around and planning and the crew was here. And we got a cardiac arrest call about a mile down the road," Dyer recalled, providing a very early example before the station wasn't even built. "Firefighters got there, the guy was in cardiac arrest—no pulse, no respirations."

Just being in the area was helpful; the patient survived because of quick CPR and defibrillation, and that was only with the equipment already on-hand. Fire Station 13 has everything it needs to respond to nearby emergencies and house a full-time crew as well.

The building includes a full kitchen and living space, along with four bedrooms

and a utility area. There's a storage room for equipment like fireproof suits and other gear, and the massive garage can easily fit a couple of service vehicles.

As for staffing, there will be room for four full-time firemen—and they don't just fight fires.

As demonstrated in the incident spanning back to Station 13's planning stage, firefighters respond to medical calls as well as emergencies such as wrecks. Two of those firefighters will be staying "24/7," while a third will join up with them during the day.

"Really, every firefighter that we have contributed to this station in some way, form or fashion," revealed Dyer, saying that some provided physical labor while others came through with construction ideas and planning.

The halls are even lined with photos providing snapshots of Union County's firefighting team through the years and the challenges they have faced.

In short, for Dyer and the heroes of the Union County Fire Department, "this is a dream come true for us down in this

area."

Fire Station 13 has been dedicated to longtime Fire Chief Charles Worden, who passed away in 2021. Worden served as the Union County Fire Chief for 22 years, EMA Director for 20 years, and 911 Dispatcher & Director for 18 years. His son C.J. delivered remarks in the grand opening.

A new firehouse receives a firehose uncoupling instead of a ribbon-cutting, and Station 13 was no exception. Such a ceremony is a ribbon-cutting with a twist, where instead of separation by cutting, uncoupling a hose is taking apart two different hoses—or in this case, two sections.

Afterward, attendees were invited to return to the garage for refreshments and sign the woven-jacketed hose as a reminder that they were present for the historical moment.

Firefighters began staffing the new station on Monday, Nov. 13. In addition to housing fire personnel, Fire Station 13 has space available for use by Union General EMS and the Union County Sheriff's Office.



C.J. Worden, whose father Charles served as Union County Fire Chief for 22 years, spoke at the Fire Station 13 grand opening Friday.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks



Members of the community enjoyed attending the grand opening, not only to check out the capabilities of the new Fire Station 13, but also for the complimentary food and fixings.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

UCES Groundbreaking...from Page 1A



Union County School Superintendent John Hill speaking to guests on the groundbreaking site of the future Elementary School on Thursday, Nov. 16.
Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

One of those people was Union County Schools Superintendent John Hill, who said he was proud that “we’re a community that comes together and works together for the good of other people.”

Hill revealed that, as one of three school districts in the state with no debt and boasting the third lowest millage rate in Georgia, Union County Schools is undertaking its biggest project yet.

Construction of the \$30.7 million SPLOST-funded building was something Hill attributed firstly to “the Good Lord,” then to the Union County Board of Education: Tony Hunter, Patrick White, Janna Akins, Julia Barnett and Jason McCarter.

Other names mentioned by Hill included the Union County Schools Facility Department, Mike Patton,

Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Murphy, Derrick Pruitt, Avis Shaw and the Bell family.

Commissioner Lamar Paris reminded folks that while some people may not enjoy the growth of a small town, stagnation is worse. With more young families coming in, senior citizens have caretakers and old traditions have a chance to carry on.

“We need these young people, these young kids to come into this school system – learning, growing, taking this community to heart like all of us have to make it the best place it can be,” Paris said.

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley also shared brief remarks, agreeing with Paris and adding, “We live in a community that pretty much takes care of itself.”

Bank OZK’s Market President of North Georgia

Jason Karnes “played a pivotal role in helping secure the ESPLIST funding for this project.”

Karnes challenged the audience with multiple questions: “If we don’t take care of the kids, I ask you – who will be the next teachers? Who will be the next attorneys? Who will be the next board members? Who will be the next commissioner (and) senators?”

The morning culminated in symbolic shoveling, first by the Board and Superintendent Hill, then with elementary personnel.

Hard hats were provided at the scene, and though the shovels were colored gold, they were plastic – the big machinery was left to the professionals, and once photo opportunities were done, everyone was free to head over to the refreshments table for some Dunkin’ Donuts.

United Community...from Page 1A

overlapping of “U” and “C” for United Community.

“We have had consistent feedback from our customers that, while they love and trust United, they would like to see us present a forward-looking logo,” UCBI CEO Lynn Harton said. “While the look is more modern, the message is the same we have had for more than 70 years – we are United to serve our communities.”

Residents will notice the word “bank” no longer appears in the corporate logo. That’s because United has chosen to emphasize the bank’s purpose in building communities and helping customers achieve their financial goals by bringing all its various services under a unified brand.

In addition to personal and business banking, United offers a host of wealth management and investment services, giving customers access to a broad range of personalized products, from checking accounts to mortgages, small business loans, IRAs, financial advisers and more.

People familiar with United Community will realize this is nothing new for the bank that started right here in Union County more than 70 years ago. Of course, a lot has happened since the bank’s local founding in 1950 – even in just the last

five years.

In 2018, “The Bank That SERVICE Built” had roughly \$12 billion in assets under management and served customers in over 100 locations across four states.

Today, through ongoing acquisitions and expansion, United Community has more than doubled its assets to the tune of nearly \$27 billion, serving customers in six states at over 200 banking locations.

Blairsville Bank President Adam Born said he considers Blairsville to be “the heartbeat of United Community.” And for good reason.

“We have 334 employees right here in Blairsville,” Born said. “These employees have a total of 3,150 years of banking experience, with each employee having an average of 10 years’ experience.”

“Our longest serving employee has 44 years of service to United, and all those 44 years have been right here in Blairsville. We are fortunate to have generations of bankers working right here in Blairsville.”

Among those 334 local employees are the faces customers have gotten to know over the years as the bank’s retail workforce at its branches. The rest of these employees work hard behind the scenes to

support the 200 branches across the bank’s six-state footprint.

“We have a workforce and job opportunities here in Blairsville that extend beyond our services at the branch,” Born said. “Our workforce supports us in areas such as Retail Services, Retail Support, Human Resources, Compliance, IT, Fraud Investigation – this list could go on and on.”

In furtherance of its mission to establish a “United Community,” this year alone, the branches along the Georgia 515 corridor from Hiawassee to Jasper have sponsored over 200 organizations and provided more than \$434,000 in funds to support their organizations. Again, nothing new.

“While our logo is changing, nothing changes,” Born said. “We are still the same bank, and the same people. Our logo is now more easily identifiable across our footprint, and by the end of the year, all of our branches will have the same logo.”

“Considering the growth we have experienced over the last few years – we have taken on several different banks and brands – this was a necessary step for us to incorporate our new brand and logo to get our branches all under this brand so that our customers could find us anywhere they go.”

Vogel State Park Christmas Program and Lighting of the Great Tree Dec. 9



The Vogel State Park Christmas Program and Lighting of the Great Tree will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the ball field. See time frame below: 4 – 5:15 p.m. Parking in the main lots near the Visitors Center (parking is limited, so try to arrive between the hours listed above). You will hay ride to the ball field or walk up. A golf cart will be available for handicap persons; 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. Pre-session music onstage at ball field and visit the booths and Santa; 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Main Program onstage and lighting of the Great Tree.

The program this year will be presented by Recording Artist Justin Terry of Knoxville, Tennessee; Mike and Ami Young of Gainesville; Mike and Cheri Young of Dahlonega; with Jim and Lydia Cox of Cumming assisting. And of course, the Christmas Story and lighting of the Great Tree.

Join us for the 21st Annual State Park Christmas Program and for an evening of fellowship and celebration of the true meaning of Christmas.

Please bring a flashlight, chair and blanket (if needed), and wear warm clothes. Also bring an unwrapped gift for a child age 12 and under for the Sheriff’s Office to be given to the children that need a blessed Christmas – no toy guns or knives, please. Someone will collect the toys at the Visitors Center.

Hope to see you there!

Brasstown Valley Resort Arts and Crafts Show



Brasstown Valley Resort annual show is coming Thanksgiving weekend. Come out enjoy the decorated resort and the arts and craft show all three days. Bring the little ones along Santa Claus will be there all three days to come sit and visit.

Hours are November 24 - November 26; Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-5; Sunday 10-4. There will be crafts from throughout the southeast selling their wares. For more information call: 706-897-6179

Free parking and free admission.