

# Gatsby ...continued from Page 1A

we had about 205 reserved, so we're a full house. We have carved tenderloin, carved rack of lamb and all the fixings so people can enjoy a nice dinner. It's a nice party all night to bring in the new year."

Brasstown Valley Resort went above and beyond with this year's decorations, celebrating the decadence of the roaring 1920s in true Gatsby fashion, full of glitz, glamor and plenty of gold embellishments, utilizing almost every room off the main ballroom.

Each of the rooms were themed, commemorating the characters of the beloved classic, and one room, called Daisy's Tea Room, featured all the necessities needed for an after-dinner caffeine fix before heading off to Jay Gatsby's Champagne Lounge to gear up for the midnight toast.

Throughout the evening, those who decided to ring in the new year at Brasstown Valley enjoyed a full evening of fine dining, dancing and the musical offerings of this year's featured band, Atlanta Production Band from Atlanta, which provided Jazzy, Motown renditions of multigenerational favorites up until the balloon drop at midnight.

Blairsville native Stephanie Marchal rang in the new year for the first time at Brasstown Valley, enjoying the evening with her daughter who was visiting from Florida, and she was so impressed with the evening that she says she will definitely be back next year.

"This has been amazing," said Marchal. "We're definitely going to start making this a yearly tradition. It's so much fun and there's so much energy."

As far as New Year's resolutions go, Marchal is taking it simple this year, making more of a promise to herself than a decision to change, like most do with each New Year.

"2016 was alright," said Marchal. "Next year, though, I want to live with no regrets. It's going to be a great year. I can just feel it."

Between the gala and the more intimate dining experience, Brasstown Valley offers something for everyone to enjoy for New Year's celebrations, and this year was undeniably an event to remember.

"Brasstown isn't just the place to be at New Year's," said Burton. "Brasstown Valley Resort is the place to be all the time. We have great people that work here, it's a great facility, we have great food, and I can't imagine anywhere else that anyone would want to be."



Gala patrons danced for hours on end, carrying themselves on fleet feet into the new year.



Bold hats and flapper dresses came back in style during Brasstown Valley's New Year's Eve gala, all while two movie versions of "The Great Gatsby" played as patrons dined.



Happy New Year in an ice sculpture at Brasstown Valley Resort.

# Food Pantry ...continued from Page 1A

Those donations are especially important, considering that, because of the demand, residents are only able to pick up food once every two months.

And the residents being served range from young children to senior citizens, with many families deciding to live together in multiple generation households to cut back on bills, or because they have no other choice.

"We have had as many as four generations with 10 and 12 people living in a residence," said Sullivan, who collects that data on forms that food pantry patrons must fill out when they visit every other month.

Yes, there are probably people taking food from the pantry who could decide to work instead, but the overwhelming majority of households that show up for their food like clockwork really, truly need the food to survive.

"For those that help people who need food, they need to be generous with their donations," said Sullivan, who sees the need firsthand. "I'll take \$10 before I'll take nothing. I can do a lot with \$10. I'll take \$100. I'll take more than that."

"There are people that are blessed up here that give to me every month. There are people that come here every two months and have been since I started here six years ago, and I know their voice on the phone when they call and say, will you check and see if I can come."

Sullivan has noticed a trend, however, that the need has been decreasing during the summertime of each year, and it took her a while to figure out why that was.

"The summertime is our least busy time," said Sullivan. "When I first started doing this, the summertime was just bombed because kids were getting out of school. And then about four years ago, all of a sudden it was only our senior citizens."

"And I couldn't figure it out. I was like, okay, where is everybody? Did they all go on vacation for the summer and not come back? And then it was the same thing the next year and the next year."

Finally, Sullivan asked one of her food pantry regulars what was going on, because she knew that food stamps had gone down for everyone, and even then the pantry remained slow in the summer.

Well, her regular informed her that they'd planted a garden, so they didn't need to come that summer. And others, maybe not her senior citizens, but other younger families had been doing the same, growing



The Union County Food Pantry relies strictly on donations.



Patrons are able to visit the Union County Food Pantry once every two months.



Food City has been a reliable resource for Sullivan, supplying deals and helping her in many ways as she tries to feed as many people in need as possible.

their own food.

Food stamps have been on the decline in recent years around the state, and Sullivan sees a day coming in the not-too-distant future when food stamps are cut out completely for everyone but homebound individuals with disabilities.

When that day comes, donations will be needed more than ever, and Sullivan asks that those who are blessed continue to be generous with their donations to the food pantry and/or the various food ministries in Union County.

Antioch Baptist Church holds their food ministry every third Thursday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mountain Presbyterian, All Saints Lutheran and St. Francis of Assisi hold their food

ministry every Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mountain Presbyterian.

For information on the House of Prayer Church's food ministry, which gives out fresh produce and offers a soup kitchen, call 706-835-1630.

First Baptist Church of Blairsville also offers a food ministry, on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sullivan and more information about the Union County Food Pantry can be reached at 706-745-6596.

Food City has been a good partner for the food pantry, helping Sullivan in her quest to feed the hungry of Union County.

## 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 Member SIPC

**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)

**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

**Guided Horseback Rides**  
Holiday Special and 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)  
\$28 credit card  
Call 706-745-5252  
Mention this Ad - Reservations Required  
Cannot be combined with other offers  
Other Expires 12/24/2016  
TRACKROCK STABLES  
BLAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA  
[www.TrackRockStables.com](http://www.TrackRockStables.com)

**ASPAVING 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)

**We Make Loans.**  
Personal Loans • Starter Loans • Consolidation Loans and more  
[www.1ffc.com](http://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 License #5656.

**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

**THANK YOU SHERRY BUSTEED**  
of Remax Town & Country  
for all that you've done!  
Sincerely,  
the Cornells  
SHERRY BUSTEED  
706-745-8097 OFFICE  
706-781-5815 CELL

**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

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