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had a sweet tooth and were quicker than the young folks.

The annual parade, led by a jeep flying the American Flag and the Georgia State Flag, was followed by the Union County High School Pride of the Mountains Marching Band.

The procession began its way down Veterans Memorial Drive where it made a right onto Cleveland Street and continued toward the Downtown square and beyond.

The Union County Sheriff's Explorers, a volunteer partnership between youths in our community and law enforcement, rode past onlookers in a dark green Humvee, tossing candy to children who anxiously awaited their first opportunity to snatch a few treats.

Following close behind was Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and the Union County Fire Department, both with more goodies for the children.

Some rejoiced, while others covered their ears, taking a break from snatching candy off the sidewalk when the fire engine briefly unleashed the loud moans of its siren upon the crowd.

John Deere tractors, go-carts, antique trucks and muscle cars, floats from lo-

cal businesses, churches, and even floats containing live music followed in the parade procession.

The local Boy Scout troop walked the parade route, while being succeeded by Miss Sorghum Pageant Queens, riding high in convertibles with the rag tops down.

Scarecrows walked up ahead as Sam Ensley drove his Studebaker Champion, representing the Union County Historical Society.

The Union County 12&U Softball team was rewarded with another lap through Blairsville after receiving their own parade for bringing home a State Championship in July.

The parade also featured numerous politicians trying to reach out to voters as time winds down to Election Day, Nov. 6th.

As customary, the Parade was wrapped up with riders on horseback and everyone departed, ready to make the short journey down to Meeks Park to enjoy the sights and sounds of the 43rd Annual Sorghum Festival.

As the parade rolled through Downtown Blairsville, a community beamed with civic pride.

Be it travel by car, truck, Jeep, on foot or, well, yes, on hoof, the parade was fun.

The parade lasted more than 30 minutes, but will be remembered forever.

You guessed it, a good time was had by all who attended the annual event.



Above, scarecrows were an important part of the annual Sorghum Festival Parade; below, candy tossed to parade watchers also was a very important ingredient to a successful parade. Photos/Todd Forrest

Tax Rate...continued from Page 1A

rest of the state."

The Blairsville City Council kept its millage rate at 2.00 for city maintenance and operations budget purposes.

Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley said the city will do

its part to keep taxes low.

"Nobody likes to pay taxes. Nobody likes to have their taxes increased. We have to face facts, the economy just doesn't warrant a millage rate increase," Mayor Conley said. "People are hurting as it

is. As a government, we just have to stay the course and keep costs in line as much as we can. We'll keep looking for ways to save the taxpayers' money."

Tax bills are due by Dec. 20.



Two big events coming up

There are only two more weeks to enjoy the busiest meet and greet place in Union County, the Farmers Market. Both weeks are promising to be enjoyable ways to wrap things up for the season after nearly six very successful months.

Saturday, October 20th is Greens and Beans Day. The Farm Bureau is sponsoring the Tractor Parade and Competition that day at the Market. Cash prizes will be awarded. After the Parade, free rides will be given to youngsters of all ages.

The tractors aren't the only ones competing that day. There is a cooking competition, and all are invited to enter. It's a Greens and Beans Contest. Any combination of greens and beans can be entered. There are three categories: Soups and Stews, Salads and Appetizers, Main Dish. Most agree that cornbread is a must with a plate of greens and beans, so the Market is including a cornbread competition, too. These are the categories: Savory, Sweet and Other Cornmeal Dish (i.e. Spoon pudding).

Other details of the competition include:

- Enter as many different dishes and cornbread as you would like.
- Each entry needs a completed entry form.
- Enter a minimum two cup serving of beans and greens for tasting.
- Enter a minimum 3 piece serving of any cornbread entry.
- Be specific as to which category you are entering in either competition.
- Have your entries at the Union County Farmers Market between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 20th. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. Winners announced at 11:30 a.m.
- Certificates will be presented to winners and honorable mentions. 1st Place in each category will also win choice of Farmers Market T-shirt.

On the last Saturday of the season, October 27th, the Market will be celebrating the Great Butternut Creek Pumpkin Party. Get your costume ready. This is a party for kids of all ages. There will be games, competitions and a costume parade. Free balloons, free goodies and a chance to say so long and thank you till next season. For more information on both of these events and to get your entry form for the Greens and Beans competition, visit www.UCFarmersMarket.com. NT10c17.220gg

Fire destroys Suches home

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Suches - An elderly lady and her son are homeless at the moment after their home was destroyed by fire Friday evening, Union County Fire Chief Charles Worden said.

The fire, one of the accidental variety, began after 6 p.m. on Friday on Canada Creek Road, Chief Worden said.

The structure was fully involved when firefighters arrived, the chief said.

"Firefighters arrived at 6:33 p.m. and were on scene until 9:23 p.m.," Chief

Worden said. "It was an accidental fire. The family was trying to start a fire for heating purposes and was using lighter fluid. There was an accident with the lighter fluid."

"The home was a total loss," Chief Worden said.

The chief expressed thanks to Fannin County Fire Station 9 for providing mutual aid during the course of putting out the fire.

Thankfully, no one was injured, the chief said.

The family stayed with friends on Friday night, Chief Worden said.

They were scheduled to receive assistance from the American Red Cross on Saturday, the chief said.