

Jingle Bell...continued from Page 1A

County has to offer, or a long time resident who believes in supporting the businesses who make our local economy strong, this event is for you, Chamber President Cindy Williams said.

To receive this year's coupons visit the Web at VisitBlairsvilleGA.com and select Jingle Bell Buys under the Chamber tab, or call the Chamber of Commerce at (706) 745-5789.



The Chamber gets into the spirit of shopping local and saving cash.

If you would like to subscribe to future e-mail coupon promotions, and never miss another great sale, visit the Web at VisitBlairsvilleGA.com, click Request a Newsletter and subscribe to Jingle Bell Buys.

Once you've completed your checklist of Christmas bargains on Saturday, be sure to stop by the Chamber located in the Union County

Community Center between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to experience Opening Day of our first annual Tour of Trees, Williams said.

It's an event to remember, bring the family and enjoy refreshments and tour the beautiful Christmas trees on display that are sponsored by our local Chamber Members. Trees will remain on display until Jan. 4, 2013.

A special thanks to the Tourism Committee of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce for coordinating the Tour of Trees and the following local businesses who are participating in the Jingle Bell Buys Weekend: The Vacuum Store, Clothes Rack, WAVES for Weightloss, Coosa Creek Marketing Products, The Esposito Institute, The New You Fitness Center for Women, Essence of Rose, Center for Wellness, Struts Shoe Store, Whiskers Project, Trackrock Stables, Old Country Store, Mountain Yoga, Alpha Drug Testing, Body Sense, Candles by Jean, Big Bear Antiques, Village Boutique 2, reVive reflexology & Natural Therapies, Union County Historical Society, Origami Owl Independent Designer - The Lauras, Blimpie Subs & Salads, Nelson's Ace, Pat's Hallmark Shop, The Aviator Café, Treasured Creations, Zipline Canopy Tours of Blue Ridge, Buckhead House, and Mountain Dog Boarding.

Reece...continued from Page 1A

magazine article published in Newsweek.

It was around this time that Hub Reece was befriended by McGill. The two developed a strong friendship and McGill became a lifetime advocate of Hub Reece's work.

The Reece Farm and Heritage Center was James Mathis Sr.'s vision of a legacy to the Mountain poet and his life and writings that literally came to life.

All the time by James Mathis' side was his beloved wife Frances, who shared his dream.

"Frances and James managed Goose Creek and that's how they became friends with the Reece family," the Reece Society's Fleming Weaver said. "The rest is history as they say."

James Mathis had the vision to begin purchasing items that belonged to Reece, all the while envisioning a heritage center that detailed the life and works of the man.

W.R. Berry owns the 1947 tractor used by Hub Reece on his farm. W.C. Nelson of Nelson Tractor restored the farm tool's mechanics, while still leaving it in a rustic state.



Byron Herbert Reece

Berry continues to loan the tractor to the Farm and Heritage Center.

Weaver, one of the driving forces behind the project acknowledged Mathis' contributions.

He also said the Reece Farm and Heritage Center was the Mountain way of reaching out and preserving the legacy of Byron Herbert Reece.

Reaching out indeed. The Heritage Center includes a completely restored main barn, for agricultural exhibits and the Hub Reece Gallery and Theatre.

In addition, the Farm's

corn crib has been restored, and a smoke house, chicken coop, and spring house have been built.

The Reece family house also has under gone a complete renovation, making it a centerpiece Welcome Center for the Farm and Heritage Center. The Center also houses a gift shop, rest room facilities, Reece Family Museum, office and meeting space, and storage areas. The Center also includes numerous Reece Farm exhibits.

Meanwhile, a beautiful pedestrian bridge crosses Wolf Creek, joining the North and South portions of the 9.3 acres of property.

Also, a 2,620 square foot pavilion is capable of accommodating approximately 200 people for meetings or 150 for meals.

Most importantly, the Hub Reece writing studio was restored and is located along the Poetry Trail.

It's the last chance to visit the Reece Farm and Heritage Center until April 2013, so come on out and help usher in the spirit of the Christmas season before the center's close for the season.

Holiday...continued from Page 1A

be a prime time to bring the kids out because Santa Claus will be here."

The parade starts at 2 p.m. with floats, horses, antique cars, and Santa's sleigh providing many photo opportunities as it travels along the streets of Blairsville, Baxter said.

"It's a big time in Blairsville," Baxter said.

The annual event is a main attraction as locals and visitors alike head to Downtown to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season.

"It's an exciting time to be in Blairsville," Mayor Jim Conley said. "The children are all hyped up and ready for this event. It's a chance for them to get a good look at Santa Claus and a chance to have a sit down with him and let him know what they want for Christmas."

The event also features a live concert by the North Georgia Symphony Orchestra, also sponsored by the Union County Historical Society.

Admission to the concert

in the Historic Courthouse is free. That event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday.

It's also a good time to come to Blairsville and go Christmas shopping during Jingle Bell Buys, Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce President Cindy Williams said.

"It all starts on Thursday," Williams said.

For three days only, savvy shoppers can take advantage of a variety of "buy one, get one free" deals and featured 50 percent off store items at 29 participating local businesses.

Whether you are a newcomer to the area ready to discover all that Union County has to offer, or a long-time resident who believes in supporting the businesses who make our local economy strong, this event is for you, Williams said.

The deals can be had during local business hours for the participating merchants.

For more details about

Jingle Bell Buys, contact the Chamber office at (706) 745-5789.

Other holiday events during the weekend include the Christmas Open House at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free.

On Dec. 8th, make time to attend the annual Christmas Tree lighting at Vogel State Park. The fun begins with hayrides at 4 p.m., special music and activities are scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

The Faith in Our Community Christmas program begins at 5:30 p.m. and lasts until 6:45 p.m.

There will be hot chocolate, hot cider, bonfires, cookies, and yes, Santa Claus is coming back to Union County to attend the event.

Also, bring an unwrapped gift for a child 12 years old or younger for the Union County Sheriff's Office Give-A-Gift toy drive (no toy guns or knives please).

Union General Hospital Auxiliary "Jewelry is Fun"

Union General Hospital Auxiliary is sponsoring a new vendor with \$5 Christmas gift items for men, women and children!

On Tuesday, November 27th from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, November 28th from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., "Jewelry is Fun" will be held in the old lobby of the hospital.

Come shop for unique gifts and save! Support your hospital and buy items that will thrill your family and friends.

NT(Nov28,ZZ)CA

FREE
Wood Pallets
North Georgia News
259 Cleveland Street
Blairsville, GA
706-745-6343