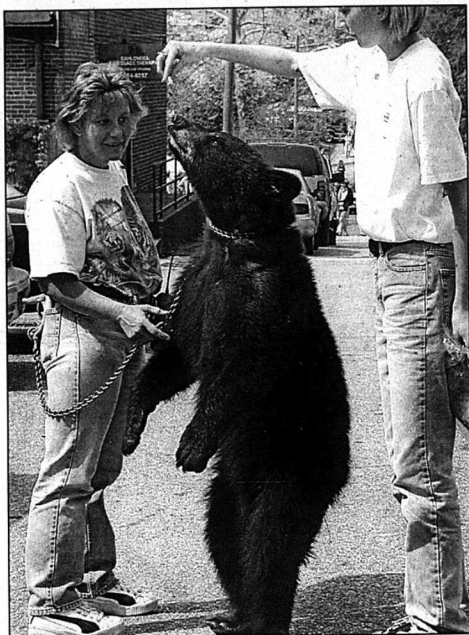


Fifth Annual Bear on the Square Mountain Festival



Charlotte Johnson and Erica Chase from Chestatee Wildlife Preserve give one-year-old Yum-Yum a treat during her morning walk. Yum-Yum is about the same age as the original bear on the square. (Staff photo/SHARON HALL)



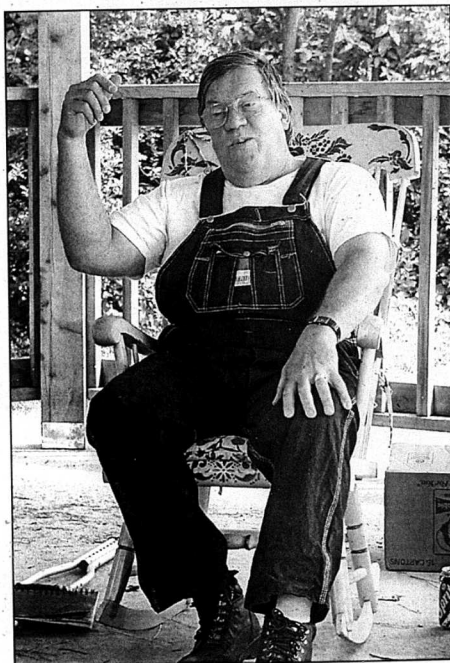
Casey Driessen fiddles a tune during a bluegrass workshop. (Staff photo/CAROLYN MATHEWS)

'Bear' better than ever

The fifth annual Bear on the Square Mountain Festival, featuring bluegrass and old-time music and authentic mountain crafts, was held April 20-22 on the square in Dahlonega. Nationally known bluegrass band Chris Jones and the Night Drivers and traditional duo Jones and Leva, as well as regional and local musicians, took part in concerts, workshops and jam sessions.

Other events included a children's play, Teddy Bear Picnic, storytelling, dancing, and a country auction featuring folk art and antiques.

The event was presented by the Folkways Center of the Georgia Mountains and the Dahlonega Merchants Association. The corporate sponsor was Century South Bank.



Bryson Wilkins winds up for the punch line of one of many stories (another word for "exaggeration") at "Truth, Lies & Moonshine: Tales From Lumpkin County." The new event was a big success with locals and visitors alike. (Staff photo/SHARON HALL)



Kyle Farace is delighted with Chestatee Wildlife Preserve's Rosie the pig. (Staff photos/SHARON HALL)



A flower girl chorus added a spring touch to the children's play, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears on the Square." Papa Bear looks on. (Staff photo/CAROLYN MATHEWS)