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Hearty crowd shows up for annual Christmas parade

By BOB STUART
The News Virginian
Sunday, December 4, 2005

Waynesboro's annual Christmas parade Saturday night offered more than the usual fare of marching bands, cloggers, fire engines and politicians riding in convertibles.

A frigid crowd that lined Main and other surrounding streets witnessed the resurrection of Elvis Presley, who performed from the Re/Max Advantage float surrounded by two 1950s vintage cutout cars.

The float was one of 93 that rolled through downtown during the hour-long parade.

The parade's theme was "Jingle Bell Rock," bearing the same name as a popular Christmas song of nearly 50 years ago.

Win Hunter, a program coordinator for the Waynesboro Parks & Recreation Department and



The Waynesboro Players' float features the Grinch in the Waynesboro Christmas Parade on Saturday night.

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the director of this year's parade, said city officials had some concerns about parade weather earlier in the week.

And while rain and sleet briefly fell during the parade, more severe weather held off.

Serving as the parade's grand marshal were members of the Waynesboro High girls volleyball team, Group AA semifinalists.

The night's best floats and marching bands were:

- * Best commercial theme float: Re/Advantage float.
- * Best noncommercial theme float: AMC Hospice.
- * Best commercial float: Hamer and Hamer.
- * Best noncommercial float: Union Baptist Church.
- * Best novelty float: Diane & Company.
- * Best marching unit: Fishburne Military School.
- * Best majorette unit: Country Twirlers.
- * Mayor's Choice: Cub Scout 344 of Waynesboro.

Judges also offered special recognition for all the participating bands.

Trophies for the eight winners can be picked up Monday at the Waynesboro Parks & Recreation Department, which opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m.

Contact Bob Stuart at bstuart@newsvirginian.com.