It took every glove, scarf, coat and hat one could find to stay warm, but the annual Country Christmas and Parade of Lights was deemed a success.

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" served as the theme for the Parade of Lights—and feel like Christmas it did. With a slight amount of snow left in areas, temperatures stayed low but didn't keep people at home where it was warm.

Residents were met with temperatures in the teens as they made their way downtown for an evening of fun.

Phillips County Museum welcomed 30 visitors as people stepped in out of the cold to take a look back at Phillips County history while enjoying cider and cookies.

Sixty-five children enjoyed "One Magic Christmas" at the Peerless Theatre prior to receiving candy bags from Santa Claus and the Holyoke Volunteer Fire Department.

HVFD members also served roughly 300 people at the annual soup supper. Donations from the supper will go toward the 2012 annual 4th of July fireworks display.

As folks lined up for soup, they were given the chance to enter a guess in Jolly Dozen's candy guessing game. Joann Stein was the adult winner who hit it right on the head with 205. Lexi Harms won for the children and guessed 110 which was six off the 116 mark.

Brittany Krueger of Prairie Photography snapped 74 photos of kids on Santa and Mrs. Claus' laps. Children were given the chance to turn in their Christmas wishes to Santa as well.

Cold doesn't stop holiday festivities

Written by Chris Lee



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