

# Meeks Park...continued from

ter than ever.

“Due to community support, we were able to increase the size of the show by about 20 percent, and that would be on the conservative side,” said Joey Swanson, chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors.

By bigger, Swanson said he means that the show will feature more “boom booms” and will be “brighter, more spectacular, more robust,” but will last about the same length of time as last year’s show.

Swanson and the rest of the chamber board have been hard at work selling \$10 raffle tickets that directly support the fireworks show. These tickets have been available at the chamber office and at the various businesses of chamber members around the community.

Residents can still take part in the raffle, all the way up to the evening of July 4 at Meeks Park, and the winner of the raffle, which will be drawn at the end of the show, will win \$1,000.



All proceeds from the ticket sales go toward supporting the fireworks show, so residents who choose to purchase a raffle ticket are not only getting the chance to win money, but they are supporting a community endeavor for all to enjoy.

“Last year was the first year we’d broken even on the show, so this year we decided to increase the show, increase the cost, but still are looking for community support, and to thank

the community for making it possible,” said Swanson.

Added Swanson: “It’s through donations from our sponsors and the folks that buy the VIP parking spots, and the people that buy the individual raffle tickets that

make the show possible.”

Swanson would like to thank several businesses and entities that helped to make this year’s show possible: WoodmenLife, Budget Blinds, the Chamber Board, Chamber Ambassadors and Chamber Staff.

“We will be selling raffle tickets at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday before the 4th,” said Swanson. “We’ll have a pretty large presence of folks there selling tickets, so if you want to buy your ticket early to get in on the raffle, then you’ll have the opportunity at the Farmers Market on Saturday morning.”

For those who live in or live closer to Suches, the Suches Fire Department will be hosting its annual fireworks shows after 9 p.m. on Monday, July 4.

Rounding out this

Fourth of July holiday weekend, the Blairsville Cruisers are teaming up with Biker Barn to hold the July 1st Bike Show and Cruise In. This Friday show will take place at the Union County Farmers Market, and will start at 4 p.m.

The Bike Show and Cruise In will be a great time to buy tickets for the Blairsville Cruisers’ Mustang raffle, the proceeds of which will go toward college scholarships and the various Christmastime programs for the youth of the county, such as Shop-With-a-Cruiser, Shop-With-a-Cop and more.

And on Saturday, July 2, The Cove at Nottely Boat Club & Marina will be having a party for all to attend, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m., featuring dancing, food, drinks, a cornhole tournament and live music.

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Officers gathered a list of names of people they wanted to recognize then they presented these names to the full monthly meeting of our chapter and they voted on this recognition.”

The students shared their gratitude and appreciation for Davenport and all those within the school system and in the community who continue to make decisions for the betterment of their schools and their FFA program.

“Honorary members are farmers, school superintendents, members of the Board of Education, chapter advisors, school teachers, staff members of agricultural education and business people and others who are helping to advance agricultural education and FFA,” said FFA Reporter Jake McClure.

Another outstanding award was presented that evening to one deserving student, Lyric Shumaker, who petitioned the Board of Education for early graduation back in November.

Shumaker was originally set to graduate in 2017 but due to hard work and perseverance, she managed to complete all necessary credits by May 2016, insuring an early graduation.

“Every now and then we have a student who excels, earns their credits and overcomes obstacles,” said Superintendent Gary Steppe. “We have one such student here



Lyric Shumaker accepts her high school diploma a year early. Hard work does pay off. Photo/Lily Avery

tonight to recognize.”

Shumaker worked continuously throughout both Christmas and spring break to fulfill the credit hours needed for an early graduation, completing 17 courses in the past year alone. She was presented with her diploma Tuesday night and finished enlistment in the United States Air force on Wednesday, June 22.

The Tuesday night meeting was also Superintendent Steppe’s last Board of Education meeting. Steppe has been working in various school systems for 46 years,

all of which included monthly Board of Education meetings.

“I’ve had a Board of Education meeting every month for so long, I’m going to need to figure out what to do without them,” said Steppe.

Steppe and the Board of Education members shared congratulations and fellowship at the end of the meeting, all members wishing Steppe the best of luck in the coming years.

Other items addressed during the meeting were new kitchen equipment needed throughout the various

schools as well as the budget approval for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year.

Another big topic was a proposed 3 percent salary adjustment for all Union County School employees. This salary adjustment includes all part-time and full-time employees, excluding contract workers and substitute teachers.

The adjustment is based on the state and local base salary scale. It will appear on the October paycheck and will be a one-time adjustment for employees.

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