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certificates and other goodies, as well as a separate, silent auction.

There were more than 150 items to bid on, each with a minimum starting bid.

There were gift baskets, lottery ticket trees, grab bags, art and more covering tables and available to bid on.

Though there were no animals in attendance, there were plenty of animal quilts

and crafts, including a kitty sculpture tangled up in yarn, an adorable piece donated by the Union County Art Class.

Ironically, the venue for the event was not animal friendly, evidenced by the large white sign nailed to a post reading, "NO PETS ALLOWED."

There were, however, memorial bricks available for deceased pets, or for adopted

pets that are still very much alive.

Rounding out the selection of items was a raffle for an Apple iPad and a Samsung Galaxy phone.

This is the 13th year Union County has put on the dog, and it was clear everyone knew what they were doing.

Numerous volunteers walked around, mingling with guests, ensuring everything

was perfect and all in attendance seemed happy.

The chit-chat and laughter assured them the guests were pleased.

It was a great turnout and a great cause.

And hopefully, some of the guests were encouraged to stop by the Mountain Shelter and rescue a new family member.

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Taylor said. "The teachers will have a hot dog and hamburger booth."

Musical entertainment includes Highway 76, Tom Gaston and the Wildherd Band, Cody and Carly Savage and the Backwoods Band, and Bill Vonn with Resurrected, Taylor said.

There will a Cherokee drama performed by the elementary students, an auction, and plenty for the kids including a rock wall, bungee jump, and slide. Taylor said.

"There's an auction about noon on Saturday and Sunday," Taylor said. "The proceeds go to benefit the athletic programs."



There will a Cherokee drama performed by The Woody Gap School elementary students. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

If you have a sweet tooth, then you don't want to pass up an opportunity to get your own little piece of heaven from the Gaddistown Homemakers' pie booth at the annual festival.

These women are there at the crack of dawn making these delicious pies from scratch.

Come out and buy a pie. The choices include chocolate, apple, pecan, coconut, sweet potato, and pumpkin.

If chocolate or apple pies are your favorite, then you better get there early and reserve your pies, because the chocolate and apple pies don't stay around long.

The funds raised by the pies at the festival, goes back into the school as scholarships for the seniors, special projects for the different classes, and into the Suches fire depart-

ment.

The Gaddistown Homemakers are not the only ones that put their money back into the school. The festival also has many school booths that make money for different projects throughout the year.

Booths like Althea Cantrell's Local Studies Class. They sell homemade fried pies, local honey, jams and jellies, and boiled peanuts.

The majority of the funds made at the festival go back school system.

The proceeds from the square dance are set aside to provide every Woody Gap senior with a scholarship to further his/her education in the field of their choice.

The teachers have their own booth to help with projects in the classrooms. All proceeds from admission, bar-

becue booth, and booth rental go back into the classrooms.

Help for the school is not limited to monetary value, but comes in the form of volunteer labor from generous community members, parents, and organizations.

From donating time in the barbecue booth to parking cars, every little bit makes it go smoother.

The gates open at 9 a.m. and stay that way until to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$4 for ages 13 and up, \$2 for 7-12, and free to anyone 6 and under.

The Mountain Square Dance starts at 8 p.m. and lasts until midnight on Saturday at the Community Center.

Kids 12 and under get in free.

Taylor hopes for a good crowd this year.

"We have all homemade crafts, funnel cakes, cotton candy," Taylor said. "There's all kind of crafts and handmade jewelry. It's going to be a big time."

The 14th Run Above The Clouds is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5th in Suches.

The foot race is run simultaneous with the Indian Summer Festival, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 5th and 6th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Both events support programs and students at the Woody Gap School.

See you in Suches on

Sandy...from Page 1A

to the illusion that there are numerous pieces placed over one another.

No matter the design, Morrissey always creates numerous designs and details that make the piece look instantly recognizable as his.

He had been a metal smith before attending flight school, so Morrissey made, and continues to make, all of his own tools for the intricate designs he includes in his creations.

After working for the Rose Bowl, Morrissey began looking for something different to do and moved on from saddles to saddle bags.

He made numerous saddlebags and leather accessories for motorcycles, but was simultaneously making gun holsters, gun belts and knife sheaths for police departments.

Not only was he making pieces for the police department, but he was working as a cop for 12 years.

Morrissey's work has even been featured in the National Knife Museum in Sevierville, Tenn.

"They rotate the items though, so I have only seen my own pieces one time," he said.

Regardless, Morrissey is proud since sheaths are only shown with the knives if the museum deems them worthy of display. A knife maker had submitted his piece to a museum with Sandy's sheath, and they decided it was worth being in the display case.

Toying with a small scrap of leather as he recounts his career, Morrissey estimates he has made around 15,000 to 20,000 knife sheaths, and around 5,000 gun holsters.

He does, occasionally, make belts as well, but they are just as time consuming.

Morrissey explained that one belt can take four hours just to carve.

For Morrissey, leatherworking has become a big part of his life.

He has met new friends in his profession, and considers those he meets at knife shows to be artists.

He appreciates knife makers for their dedication to the craft saying, "People do not realize how many people are making knives and that so few of them are making a living."

Morrissey is grateful to be a part of the difficult

lifestyle.

"I have such a good time doing this, and I have met such incredible people," he said.

The people he has met admire him, too. World renowned knife makers have sent Morrissey engraved knives as a token of their appreciation of his work.

He has had time to develop quite a rapport with numerous artists, since Morrissey is in his 90s.

Despite his age, and the occasional hand cramps,

he continues to work as long as people in the community are giving him work to be done.

Local artisans like Morrissey are becoming more and more difficult to find, and Union County is lucky to have him.

His local business is not easily duplicated, and his passion for his craft is just as rare.

If you'd like to talk with Morrissey about custom leather work, call (706) 379-1621.