

Festival...from Page 1A

according to Wood, Sunday's auction was able to raise close to \$2,000 and the locals still couldn't get enough of Jerry Wood's and Joel Gooch's barbecue plates, and returned on day two for more to-go plates.

"We didn't make as much as we normally do," Larry Wood said. "But we'll sit down and decide what kid needs this and what kid needs that."

As the heavy rains continued and the field turned to mud, the majority of the vendors packed up and went home, only to return the next day to find their tents demolished after the wind decided to pick up - giving Mother Nature a devastating 1-2 punch that also knocked out electricity and brought down trees around the Suches community.

"We probably had about six-or-eight vendors left on Sunday," said Booth Coordinator Annette Gooch. "A few came and set

up, even though the field was full of water. Most of them stuck it out for a few hours, but it poured all day. They left their tents, bless their hearts, and when they came back, some of them were destroyed. I've also heard that a lot of people are still out of power (as of Sunday evening) from the winds."

When the festivities moved indoors for Saturday night's square dance, across the street at the Community Center, business picked up tremendously. And whether you brought your dancing shoes, left them at home, or retired them many years ago, a good time was had by all of those that were in attendance.

"It (the square dance) was awesome," Larry Wood said. "It went well. Very well. We were there until (midnight) and brought in around \$1,400."

Another highlight of the weekend was the Woody Gap

Band of Steel, who performed in the gymnasium on Saturday.

As the festival came to a close on Sunday, all of the volunteers and workers could have been hanging their heads and moping around sad and depressed, but that wasn't the case.

"Yes, we were washed out, unfortunately, but with all of the help and all the vendors that have been coming year-after-year have said, 'don't worry about it, we're going to do it next year,'" Larry Wood said.

"I just love these people here and I can't say enough about them," he added. "Everybody working here is a volunteer. When everybody has kids in this school, going to have kids in the school, or grandkids in the school, nobody has a problem busting their butts down here (at the festival)."

Finally, he pointed out that the festival usually suffers from lousy weather about once every

15 years and recalled a festival back in the late-80s, early-90s when a hurricane made landfall and dumped around 11 inches of rain on the Valley Above the Clouds.

"Now that we've got our one washout every 15 years out of the way, we know that the festival has sunny skies ahead for the next several years," he said.

Parade...from Page 1A

Hoyt's Furniture and Appliance, and it will terminate back at the gym.

This year's parade is all about patriotism, and float builders are encouraged to embrace the theme: "American Pride... All Gave Some... Some Gave All."

Special to this year's festival and parade is The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

The Moving Wall will arrive at Meeks Park on Thursday, Oct. 8, and will be on display around the clock until its closing ceremony on Monday, Oct. 12.

This puts The Moving Wall at Meeks Park the same

time as the Sorghum Festival, and the Blairsville Sorghum Festival Club decided to highlight The Wall's presence by incorporating the patriotic theme for this year's parade.

"We're trying to revolve everything around The Moving Wall," said Festival Club Treasurer Kim Bridges, who co-organized the festival. "The Wall won't be here the second weekend, but we're trying to revolve the parade and the festival around that. The (Union County) High School chorus is going to come down right after the parade and kind of kick off the festival by singing the national anthem for us."

Union County's own

Alan Kay - winner of the History Channel's *Alone* survival TV series - will be Grand Marshal at this 46th annual parade.

The parade offers community churches, civic groups and businesses a unique way to raise money or give to charity, as cash prizes are handed out to winning floats.

Between the Blairsville Sorghum Festival, the Sorghum Festival Parade and the arrival of the many anticipated visitors for The Moving Wall Memorial, Worden expects that the first responders of Union County will have their very capable hands full with traffic control and security over the weekend.

Homecoming...from Page 1A

The grand finale of Spirit Week is the parade that rolls through the parking lots of each one of the four schools. The parade features floats designed and built by each grade along with floats for the football team, cheerleaders, and others who wish to participate.

As for the game, the Panthers will face off with Greene County in the most

important home game of the season. With only two home games remaining, and a brutal road schedule ahead with games at Rabun County and Washington Wilkes, Union County needs a win Friday night to secure a State playoff berth for the third consecutive season and improve to 7-0 for the second straight year.

The Panthers travel to

Rabun next Friday with major playoff implications on the line. A bye-week follows Rabun then Union returns home for Senior Night when they host Riverside Military Academy on Oct. 30th. The Panthers will wrap up the regular season at Washington Wilkes where both squads will be looking to improve or maintain their postseason positioning.

Seized...from Page 1A

\$17,615.87.

An investigation into the distribution of marijuana resulted in the arrest and prosecution of David James Potter. David James Potter was arrested on April 19, 2015, and subsequently charged and convicted with distribution of a controlled substance, marijuana.

Potter received a sen-

tence of 10 years, five of which are to be served in prison.

As part of this investigation the Sheriff's Office seized a 2006 Chevrolet 1500 that sold for \$10,000, and received \$35,000 in cash from Potter. After the award and disposition of the property, the seizure netted a total of \$45,000.

These two large seizures saved the taxpayers of Union County \$62,615.87 by supplementing the Sheriff's Office operating funds. It will allow the Sheriff's Office to have access to this additional funding, which will be used to acquire much needed law enforcement equipment that was not part of the 2015 operating budget.

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