

Festival...from Page 1A

interesting, lasting event that would bring economic vitality to Union County and surrounding areas.

Jim McAfee and his wife, Linda, had been attending highland games and Scottish festivals around the country, and recognized how such an event could fulfill both desires – bringing tourism and benefiting the local community.

With a core group of other chamber board members and volunteers, Jim led the committee for 13 years in fulfilling this dream.

He did an outstanding job of forming a self-sustaining committee, which continues to bring the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games to town each year.

Continuing this year will be Level A and B Scottish athletics, Highland dancers, pipe and drum bands, traditional animals that are very important in Scottish agriculture, and special activities for the children.

The fun begins Friday, June 9, at 11 a.m. with the Kilted Golf Classic at the Old Union Golf Course. Cost



Massed Band at the 2016 Blairsville Scottish Festival. Photo/Shawn Jarrard



Jim McAfee

per golfer is \$75, or bring a four-person team for \$300. There will be great food and prizes. For more information, contact Scott Carter at (706) 745-7359.

The fun continues Friday, with Scottish music and entertainment at the Historic Union County Courthouse Museum from 6:30 p.m. thru 8 p.m., beginning with Appalachian St. Andrew's Pipes & Drums, followed at 7 p.m. by Colin Grant-Adams, Scottish singer and guitarist, and Scottish comedian, Bob Valentine upstairs in the Historic Courtroom.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, the adventure continues at Meeks Park as the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highlands Games embarks on its 14th anniversary.

This year's Honored Clan will be Clan Fraser.

Opening ceremonies for the Highlands Games will be held at Meeks Park at noon on Saturday.

On Saturday, another tremendous group of athletes will compete in the annual Highland Games, a Southeastern

Scottish Amateur Athletic Association sanctioned event.

Competition will be for levels Amateur A, B, Masters. Levels A and Masters will be held on Saturday, and the B levels will be held on Sunday. All athletics are SSAAA sanctioned. The games consist of seven different events.

Special activities for the children include the "Passport to the Clan," where children visit clan tents and once they learn one fact about the clan they receive a stamp, and once their passport is full they receive a prize. Other events include face painting as well as other activities especially for the wee lads and lassies.

Even if you don't know your family's heritage or have little or no Scottish ties, come experience Scotland without the need of a passport or international flight across the ocean.

Admission is \$10 per day or \$15 for both Saturday and Sunday. Children 12 and under get in free. Meeks Park on Highway 515 hosts all the events beginning at 9 a.m. each day of the festival.

Saturday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Entertainment Tent will be Blairsville's own Scottish Rock

Concert featuring the Blarney Girls and Seven Nations. Tickets may be purchased throughout the day Saturday or at the gate for \$5.

Volunteers are a vital part of the success of the Blairsville Scottish Festival and Highland Games, as more than 9,000 visitors attend each year.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting event, please contact Renee Deibert at (706) 897-4598.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



In loving memory of **Lori Michelle Nuce** by Mom, Dad, Bette Lou, and Maryann
Forever in our hearts and memories

Bell ringing information at 706-745-5493