

# Sorghum Festival...continued from Page 1A

had to build another one. Then we just ran out of parking and that's the reason that we're here at the Park. We enjoy having it down here. We've got a lot more room."

With vendors ranging from live music, to arts and crafts, plenty of food for everyone, contests, and helicopter rides, the wide open spaces provided by Meeks Park are a must for this flourishing event.

The opening weekend was deemed a success by most every vendor in attendance.

"We've had a wonderful crowd this weekend," Bridges said.

It was impossible to find someone who disagreed with Bridges' statement.

"Saturday was fantastic," said vendor John Greindl of Timber Wolf Chainsaw Carvings. "I sold about 19 carvings Saturday."

"I carved one this morning and it's already been sold," he said.

The Union County Panther baseball team also had a booth, selling an assortment of vittles for anyone anxious to chow down.

"We are raising money for the Diamond Club," Jeff Odom said. "We have been really busy so far. As long

as the sun stays out we'll be in good shape. The Diamond Club supports everything that the school doesn't pay for. Anything extra that the team needs, the Diamond Club covers it. That prevents the parents from having to pay for a lot of things."

The Festival will look for another profitable showing this weekend. And if this past weekend was any indication of how the second week will shape up, the Sorghum Festival and Union County will definitely benefit from two vibrant weekends.

"Fudge, funnel cake, Italian ice, fresh squeezed

lemonade, and sorghum syrup, I love the sorghum festival," Blairsville native Jake Gooch said.

First time festival goer Thresea Lomis, of Brunswick, said the event was simply incredible.

"It was a cool, crisp day, the wind was blowing and the leaves were changing," she said. "It's something I usually don't see until January."

"I started off by visiting the honey booth, then I met a very nice lady that made doilies," Lomis said. "She also had beautiful quilts. Up the hill, I found the chainsaw artist with the interesting art he

made out of stumps.

"I thought it would be neat to have him come to my yard and design something out of the stumps in my yard," she said.

Lomis also enjoyed the many food booths that she said could attract any visitor.

"The Union County baseball club booth had some delicious barbecue," she said. "The smells were absolutely incredible."

She also enjoyed the many games on display.

"I have never witnessed rock throwing, pole climbing, log sawing and biscuit eating contests," she said. "Appar-

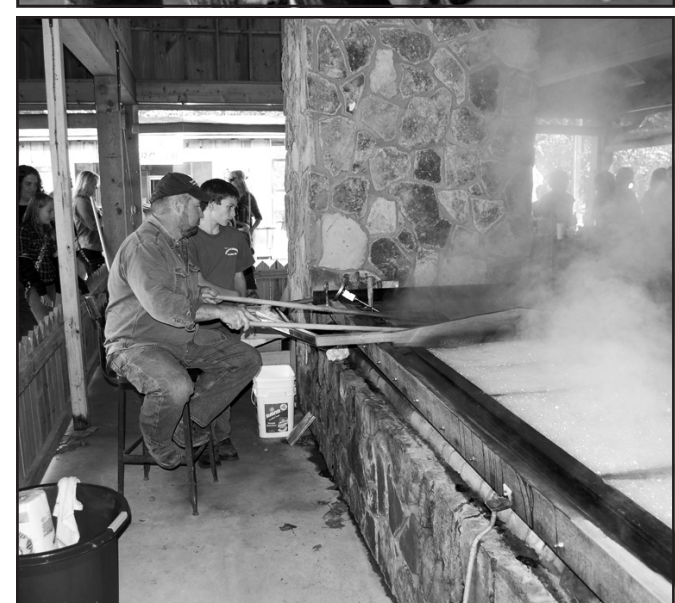
ently, the louder you grunt, the farther you throw the 60-pound rock.

"The highlight had to be the syrup making and the music," she said. "I think it was Tommy Townsend and Waymores' Outlaws."

"It was a great festival with lots of music, lots of games and lots of good food and incredible crafts," she said. "This is my first festival, but I'd like to make it again next year."

The syrup making process was also intriguing, she said.

"I had no idea that you made syrup using a mule," she said. "It was fun to watch."



The 43rd Annual Sorghum Festival was all things Blairsville over the weekend. The fun continues Friday. Photos/Todd Forrest and Lowell Nicholson