

Scottish Festival...from Page 1A

"I've been coming here for three years but this is the first year that I've been able to convince my family from North Carolina to come for the weekend and they absolutely love it," said Festival attendee Ellen McCarthy of Lawrenceville. "My husband and I have been going to the (Highland) Games at Stone Mountain in October for many years, but it was difficult for some of my family to make it. But since Blairsville is about two hours closer, they were able to attend this year."

With approximately 400 people in attendance, the Ceilidh kicked things off Friday night at the Seasons Inn Plaza with music, dancing, and entertainment at both the Seasons Inn an inside the Historic Courthouse, where it was standing-room only.

Saturday morning the gates at Meeks Park opened at 8 a.m. with the opening ceremonies taking place at noon. There were plenty of arts and crafts, jewelry, food, clothing, and a little bit of anything



Scottish.

"I like the crafts and the apple cider slushy," said 12-year old Keera Smart when asked what she liked most about the festival. Keera and her family have been coming to the Blairsville Scottish Festival for almost half of her life. "I like everything about

the (Scottish) Festival and can't wait to come back. It's always a lot of fun."

Another popular location was the genealogy tents, and clan tents that stretched around the main field, where one could explore their Scottish heritage and then discover which clan they belong to.

Of the more than 30 clans in attendance, this year's Honored Clan was Clan Donald.

At the far end of Meeks Park, approximately 100 people gathered for 'MacDaisy,' the 11-story tall, and 11-story wide hot air balloon. The balloon was able to stay up for about an hour on Saturday.

The festival also included the Kilted Mile footrace, a Mini Cooper Car Club parade, Border Collie demonstrations, Scottish Fiddle and bagpipe workshops, Falconry demonstrations, massed band performances, the Bonniest Knees contest, and the ladies' Haggis Hurl and more proved that there was plenty of excitement to go around for all ages.

The Highland Games are a traditional Scottish athletic competition that originated in the 11th century A.D. when King Malcolm III held a foot race to find the fastest runner to become his royal messenger. At the Blairsville games, both men, and women competed Saturday and Sunday in events such as, the Caber Toss, the Sheaf Toss,

the Open Stone, the Heavy Hammer, and more.

There was also plenty of athletic events and entertainment for the youngsters at the family friendly event.

"This year we had more people wearing Scottish attire and people who are into the Scottish culture," Varian said. "People were dressed to the nines, they looked great."

No matter the time, or the day, there was plenty of entertainment to be found.

The featured musical act was Celtic-rock band Seven Nations, who have appeared in more than 20 publications including *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, *Playboy*, *Maxim*, *GQ*, *Stuff*, and *FHM*.

Other entertainers were Raven and Red, Royal Scottish Country Dancers, Colin Grant-Adams, Glencoe Highland Dancers, Scottish comedian Bob Valentine, High Country Harmonizers, and The Blarney Girls.

Corrugated...from Page 1A

will initially add 10 new employees and another 10 employees by 2016.

"We're thrilled with CRI's expansion," says Mitch Griggs, Executive Director of the Union County Development Authority. "We've been working with Bob and Stan Lee on various expansion strategies over the last few years. Corrugated had maxed out capacity at

their existing facility so the immediate availability of a new building in the Industrial Park was just what they needed. We appreciate CRI's investment in our community and the quality jobs they will provide for our citizenry."

"I want to thank Corrugated Replacements for this and their past investment in our County. The company is important to our

community and their growth is a testament to the Lees' leadership and commitment to Union County and to their employees. We want to create a great environment for businesses to grow and look forward to Corrugated Replacements' continued success in our community," said Lamar Paris, Union County Sole Commissioner.

Persons interested in

employment opportunities with Corrugated Replacements may contact the company at:

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Phone: (706) 781-6650; Fax: (706) 781-6649; Marlene.Landrum@corrugatedparts.com

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9 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Saturday, skipping over the July 4th weekend.

"They'll get to have a hands-on with a cat and a dog," said McConnell.

Sherry Manuel of Blairsville will be teaching the classes, with help from Dena Randall and certified therapy dog Cheree, pronounced "Sheree."

Adoption fees were also drastically reduced for Saturday's event, and Pet-a-Pet garnered help from various pet-friendly businesses and organizations from Towns and Union counties.

Blairsville Animal Hospital personnel were on hand to educate patrons on their services in Union County, offering free physical examinations for pets adopted Saturday.

Dr. Rinday Barrett of Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital shared pet acupuncture information and fielded "ask the vet" questions.

Carl Haines of Wholly

Cats Rescue informed people on the dangers of failing to spay and neuter cats, and Sandy Hazen represented Operation PUP, an acronym for Preventing Unwanted Pups.

Mountain Shelter held a silent auction to benefit the Humane Society's local efforts, and money was raised on items ranging from dog food to cat carriers.

Devin Saunders walked dogs during Pet-a-Pet, continuing his tradition of volunteerism at the shelter.

Saunders, 15, began volunteering for Mountain Shelter to earn his Merit Badge with Boy Scouts of America Troop 101, and ended up completing an Eagle Scout Service Project at the shelter by building an agility course for the dogs.

"They learn basic commands and how to be controlled on a leash, and gain confidence, and when they go to a home, they feel good," said Saunders of his agility course.

And Union County's most famous K-9, Deputy

Sheriff Lacey of the Search and Rescue team Lacey and Deputy Sheriff Jeff McConnell, made an appearance.

"What we do is man trailing, tracking," said Deputy McConnell. "We do lost people, especially people with dementia, Alzheimer's - lost hikers, lost hunters. Somebody, say, that we go to serve a warrant on at their house, they run out through the woods, they call me in and we go find them."

Lacey loves children, and when she's not busy tracking people or visiting with kids at the school, she spends her time off doing many things that children love to do.

"She loves the water," said Deputy McConnell. "My grandma lives on the lake, so I take Lacey to the lake and she plays fetch in the water."

Saturday was a special day for another reason, as the Pet-a-Pet event served as the local debut of the song meant to benefit the shelter, "Please Take Me Home," as written by Greg Martin and performed by John McLane.



Those interested in showing financial support to Mountain Shelter can stop by either of its two thrift stores, in Blairsville and Hiwassee, and/or purchase a Memorial Brick to be laid on the premises, leading up to the shelter's Rainbow Bridge.

All in all, the day was a success, as several animals were adopted and the shelter garnered "lots of memberships, Memorial Bricks, and lots of loving," said Shelter Director McConnell.

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