

Heritage...from Page 1A

town Blairsville with arts and crafts, live music, storytelling, and a little bit of something for anyone.

If your intentions were to soak up as much mountain living as possible in a two-day span, then Blairsville's Mountain Heritage Festival was there to meet your every need.

The annual event, held on Labor Day weekend is presented by the Historical Society, who since 1976, have sought to preserve the history of Union County, and the Mountain Heritage Festival is one of the ways the Historical Society raises the necessary funds to continue reaching their goals.

One of the primary objectives and largest beneficiary of the Mountain Heritage Festival is the restoration of the Historic Union County Courthouse.

Despite a few passing showers on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, the Festival, overall was a success with crowds pouring in from where ever parking could be found in Downtown.

"The rain didn't last long, it just came long enough to cool off the air, so it has turned out to be a great festival" said Union County Historical Society Volunteer Wanda Gibson.

"This festival raises money for finishing and keeping up the Mock House and the old courthouse. There is an elevator in the old courthouse now thanks to festivals like this," she said.

The Mock House is now the home of the Union County Historical Society's Mountain Life Museum.

The home was donated to the Historical Society in 1994 by the Grapelle Butt-Mock estate.

The museum has

been has been refurbished with 1930 - 40s furniture, much of which has been donated by locals.

The time period was selected because it represents a time when electricity first came to Blairsville from the River Mill on the Nottely River.

"People have donated most of things you see here (in the Mock House) and we put the names of who donated them on each item," Gibson said.

"People will come in here and see the item and say, 'I knew that family,'" she said.

The event featured handmade crafts, traditional foods, music, craft demonstrations that include quilting, spinning, basket making, chair caning, needlework and making rugs.

It also featured old-time music with live performances by talented musicians on autoharp, mandolin, guitar and the fiddle.

All activities are centered around the 1906 Grapelle Mock House, the restored 1861 Payne Family log cabin, the Mauney Family barn, the Duncan Family cabin, and other structures from Union County's storied past.

Other heritage activities historically have included sorghum cane to taste, gold-panning, holding or petting goats, mules, a calf, and lots of chickens.

Free and open to the public, the Mountain Heritage Festival lived up to its promise of wholesome family fun, and teachable moments for all ages.

The Historical Society also holds Friday night concerts and following the Blairsville Jaycee's Sorghum Festival, Christmas will be right around the



No, you didn't turn the clock back. Union County was celebrating its heritage over the weekend. Photos/Lowell Nicholson

corner and the Historical Society will be hosting its annual Christmas Celebration.

The Friday Night Christmas Concert, the

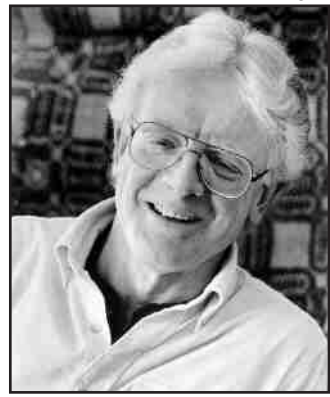
Christmas Parade, an open house, are just a few of the highlights that are certain to cap off another exciting year for Union County.

Friday concert features Norman Kennedy

The John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown will present a concert by Scottish folk singer Norman Kennedy on Friday, September 6 at 7 p.m. in the Festival Barn. Those attending are urged to park near Keith House or the Dining Hall and walk to the Festival Barn where there will be only a limited number of handicapped parking spaces available. Admission is free and donations are welcome.

Norman Kennedy was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, into a family with roots in that port city dating to the 13th century. While learning songs, stories, and lore from family members and neighbors, Kennedy spent part of his teen years "hanging around" the local handweavers.

Kennedy travels the country performing the old songs, telling stories, and teaching traditional weaving techniques. He received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2003 and in



Norman Kennedy

2006 appeared with Nova Scotia fiddler, Natalie MacMaster at Carnegie Hall. Don't miss this special treat!

Upcoming Folk School concert performers include Aubrey Atwater (Thursday, Sept. 12) and Steve & Penny Kilby (Sept. 20). The Folk School concert schedule is available on the world wide web at: www.folkschool.org. For further information call the Folk School at 1-800-FOLK-SCHOOL or 837-2775. NT(Sep4,26)gg

Workforce Development coming to Young Harris Library

Do you want to attend school to further your education? Need assistance during your job search? Let us help you reach your goals!

The Georgia Mountain Regional Commission will be holding a Workforce Development course. Visit our Mobile Training Unit to: Access resume writing software. Prepare for interviews. Access online interest surveys and assessments. Increase your soft skills by using Mavis Beacon Typing Software.

Mountain Regional Li-

brary, Young Harris on Tuesday, September 24 from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Call 770-538-2727 for more information or visit our website: www.gmrc.ga.gov.

SAFE Board meets

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be Tuesday, September 17th at 5:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting will immediately follow the conclusion of the monthly meeting. Call 706-379-1901 for location.