

VFW...continued from Page 1A

"It's taken a year and a half, but we're proud to be standing where we're standing today," Hoibraten said. "I can finally uncross my fingers."

The commander and 10 members of Post 7394 joined Paris last week to dedicate a portion of the building as VFW headquarters.

"We've got more room, visibility, and we'll be much better equipped to support the veterans community here in Union County," Hoibraten said. "Yes, we're excited."

Commissioner Paris said Hoibraten was persistent in his pursuit of having the VFW being housed in a portion of the old Chamber building.

"We worked well together," Paris said. "We're excited to have the VFW in that facility. We're proud to have them in there and we hope it will help them attract new members."

Commissioner Paris said he was excited about the new digs for VFW Post 7394.

"We've had three main groups ask us about utilizing the old Chamber of Commerce building," Paris said. "The veterans were one of the first groups that came, another

was the Blairsville Cruisers, and the third was the Highland Games/Scottish Festival folks.

"So, we're trying to accommodate those folks and fill out the facility with multiple users," Paris said. "It's an ongoing project, we hope to add a meeting room onto that facility."

Commissioner Paris said that the Cruisers and Highland Games have meant so much to the community as well. They'll be in the building too, he said.

"There's still a great need for space for community organizations," Paris said. "We hope to add a meeting room on at the old Chamber building to help alleviate

some of that lack of meeting space.

"The Cruisers, man, they do a great job of bringing people to Downtown, and the Highland Games has become a major attraction to Union County," Paris said. "Both are putting money in our community."

"The Highland Games folks want to have a retail shop to sell products related to Scottish heritage," Paris said.

The county is trying to do as much as it can for the community's civic organizations, Commissioner Paris said.

"Obviously, we can't supply facilities for everybody," Paris said. "The Haral-

son Memorial Civic Center is probably the most used facility in the county and always has been. The veterans meet there quite often.

"We try to help our community groups," he said. "We try to balance things out regarding the number of people who will benefit from the space, we judge what their needs are, what their options are and just be as fair as we can to the community."

Commissioner Paris said the groups will share the expense of utilities for the building.

"It's one way where we can help some folks out and not put a drain on the taxpayers," he said.

Heritage...continued from Page 1A



Not so, Sam.

After working tirelessly for decades to promote music in Union County, from Friday Night concerts to SEBA Bluegrass festivals and more, you deserve your day in the spotlight. Congratulations for receiving this public recognition.

The 11th Annual event was better than ever this year with quality vendors, lots to see and do, plenty of food, and a good time for all that attended.

For more information about the Union County Historical Society, stop by the old Courthouse or visit www.unioncountyhistory.org.

The 11th Annual Mountain Heritage Festival was an event to remember in 2012. Thousands flocked to the Mountain Life Museum to visit the days gone by era of Union County Mountain life. From quilting, to blacksmithing to raising chickens, visitors got an up close look at the way life used to be in Union County's early days. It was the best festival ever. Photos/Janice Boling

Foodie

...continued from Page 4A all the hard work that he has done putting this on."

"We had more customers than some local vendors expected," said JoAnne Leone, public relations liaison for The Market. "And that's a good thing. I think next year we'll have more vendors because of this year's response to this event."

The event provided locals and tourists alike, the opportunity to sample the local flavors before the unofficial end of summer, Labor Day weekend.

"Everything is working really well," Cummings said. "What we are trying to do is expose people to local restaurants, especially barbecue before Labor Day Weekend, so if you like what you see tonight, you can go to Jim's Smokin Que, or you can go to Smoky Que, or you can buy some meat from Chambers and barbecue over the weekend.

"We even have corn and egg salad sandwiches," Cummings said. "The whole idea and concept behind this is to encourage people to buy locally raised food from local restaurants."

Others vendors included Loy Cook who was giving out free samples of his pork rinds while Paul and Linda Schuette from "My Pop-Pop's Nuts," also were giving out free samples of walnuts, cashews, peanuts and other varieties of nuts.

The Foodie Night also provides a boost to the local economy. Despite Labor Day weekend being the last big weekend of summer for tourism, The Market won't be slowing down as the leaves begin to change and fall is in the air.

"We're wanting to give our local restaurants a boost of business before Labor Day because everyone is going to be wanting to go out for Labor Day or buy something that they can barbecue," Cummings said. "Anytime you can get people to buy from local restaurants, it's a boost for local farmers, a boost for local grocery stores, and everyone."

So, with gas prices approaching \$4 a gallon, instead of going on a long trip, stay home and barbecue locally with your family, Cummings said.

"Labor Day is the last big weekend, but I think we'll keep going strong at The Farmers Market. "I think we'll have plenty of vegetables for everybody on up into late September," he said.

