

# Sorghum...from Page 1A

To the delight of everyone gathered, the UCHS Marching Band put forth a full-throated effort in producing the larger than life sound for which they are known, leading the parade just behind the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Union County Fire Department.

Of course, the Blairsville Sorghum Festival Club took a flatbed trailer and piled high fresh-cut sorghum cane to make a float, atop which many children helped to throw candy to their peers.

The theme this year was "Bring Out the Kids," and boy, did the float builders ever. There were more than a few solid entrants into this year's parade, but only three were chosen as winner's to have their prize money donated to the charities of their choice.

First Place went to Denver Garrett with his super and colorfully playful pin wheeling mechanical wonder tractor.

The Brownie Girl Scout Troop #11636 put forth another bold, colorful effort straight out of Candyland, taking home the Second Place prize.

And taking home Third Place, students of the Woody Gap Band of Steel played their happy-sounding tunes aboard a moving platform decorated to match their breezy percussive ambiance, spreading joy with their unique steel drum act.

Another notable entrant into the parade was the Blairsville School of Dance, which brought its neon-clad kids out in force to dance their way straight into the hearts of attendees and all the way down the parade route, which featured a new route this year.

Instead of going all the way to the U.S. Post Office on GA 515 like it has for years, the parade instead took a right up the new downtown off-ramp, or Bob Head Street, before picking back up at its usual place by turning at the Old Fort Sorghum.

All in all, there was a pretty good mix of locals and visitors to the community who turned out for the parade. Big parade fans David and Lana Bruggeman, with their six children, were sort of both.

The Bruggemans are from Australia, though back in the early 2000s David's computer job brought them to live in Blairsville for a couple of years. One of their children, Rose, was born here, and they returned recently "to show that this is a real place and not just a spot on the map."

Traffic was heavy following the parade, as everyone scrambled to make it over to the Sorghum Festival itself at Meeks Park.

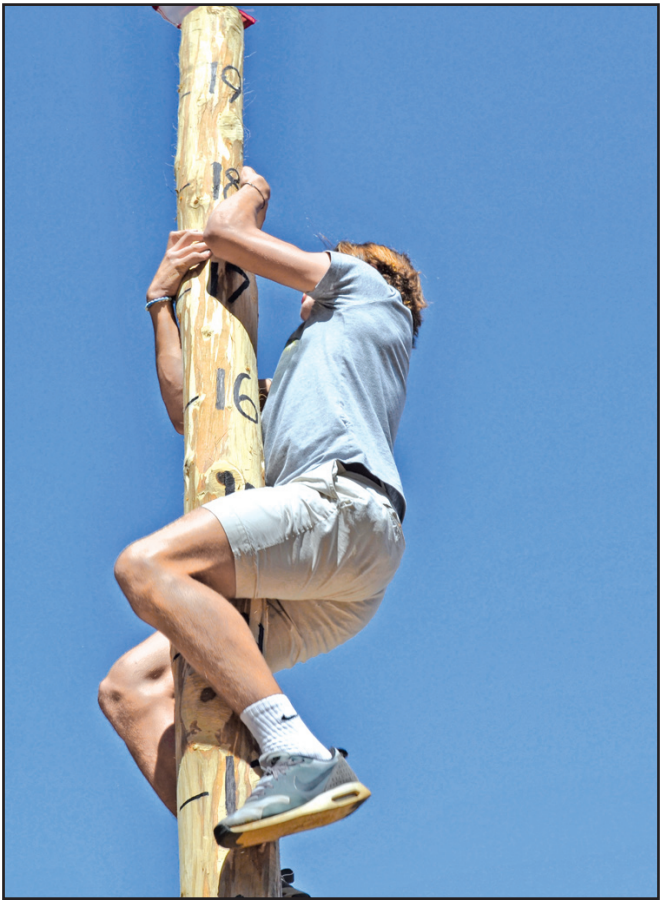
Thanks to the delay, it

was a little closer to the start of the games than usual, though there was still plenty of time for everyone to get there for all the excitement.

Biscuit eatin' and pole climbin' commenced shortly thereafter, along with the other games like rock throwin' and log sawin', and vendors sold their wares to patrons hungry for Sorghum Festival goodies.

The Sorghum Festival continues this Saturday, Oct. 15, and again on Sunday, Oct. 16. On both days, festivities run as follows: syrup making to kick things off at 9 a.m., music begins at 10:30 a.m., festival games start around 1 p.m., and festivities close at 5 p.m.

This Saturday, the festival will host a Sorghum Square Dance at the Old Middle School Gym, to start at 8 p.m.



This 20-foot pole is no joke, and for those who wish to take home Sorghum Festival Glory, they must find the top. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Retirement Party for Towns County's Commissioner Bill Kendall Saturday, October 15th at Foster Park

You and your family are invited to a retirement party in honor of Bill Kendall who will be stepping down from his Towns County Commissioner's job this December 2016. The get-together will be held at the Foster Park

Recreation & Conference Center on Mining Gap Road, off Hwy. 76 West, on Saturday, October 15th, from 4-6 p.m.

There will be light refreshments and desserts and a lot of fellowship and remem-

brances. The Veterans and ladies of the different services at Towns County VFW Post 7807 are sponsoring this event and hope you will stop by and wish Commissioner Kendall well in his retirement.



The Biscuit Eatin' Contest is one of the more popular games at the Blairsville Sorghum Festival. Contestants have 15 minutes to wolf down five biscuits smothered in delicious sorghum syrup – it's definitely harder than it sounds. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Each day of the Sorghum Festival kicks off with the making of sorghum syrup, which is a decidedly steamy process. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



Hundreds gathered around the Historic Union County Courthouse and up and down side streets to watch the 47th Sorghum Festival Parade.