

Fireworks...from Page 1A

Walmart parking lot, at McDonald's, North Georgia Technical College, and in front of the Methodist Church. Those are all great places but if you want to get up close and personal, Meeks Park is the place to be. And if people want to bring their guitars or instrument for an open pickin' at the park, that would be wonderful. We have so many talented musicians up here that I think it would be great."

The Suches Fire Department Independence Day fireworks has grown from a casual gathering of the department in a members' back yard with a few bottle rockets, to an event which is recognized as one of the best in the area drawing large numbers of community residents and visitors from miles away. It is a fine example of how smalltown America celebrates its independence and never fails to be a meaningful and enjoyable evening for all who attend.

The event is funded by special contributions from sponsors - individuals and businesses - from the Suches community and the county - so

the operating money of the department can continue to be directed to protecting and serving the community.

When the list of contributors is finalized, it will be posted at the event and those attending are asked to patronize business sponsors and thank those individuals who participate.

The Suches Fire Department invites everyone in the area to join them in their celebration of our nation's independence on the Fourth at the Woody Gap School in Suches.

The two fire stations in Suches are a part of the county-wide fire departments which consists of the paid headquarters station in Blairsville and a dozen volunteer stations in five districts throughout the county.

The career and volunteer firefighters and first responders throughout this system are dedicated to the protection of life and property of Union County residents and visitors alike.

If you are interested in sharing this rewarding service, contact the department at (706) 439-6095 and you will be put in touch with representatives

of the district and station that serve where you live.

The Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with the Woodmen of the World to bring you this year's Blairsville show. The fireworks are also due in large part to the support of the following businesses: Blairsville Realty, RE/MAX Highlands-Blairsville, Causey Orthodontics, Coosa Creek Marketing Products, M-Design, Jeff Davis State Farm, Blairsville Pack & Ship, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Huddle House Restaurant, Victoria's Center, Appalachian Home Health, Logan Turnpike Mill, and Ms. Julie's Child Care & Learning Center.

The Chamber also is selling raffle tickets for \$10 each for a shot at \$1,000 on the evening of the Fourth.

Chandler also reiterated the importance of this holiday - our nation's birthday.

"We hope that Blairsville, Suches, Union County, and all of our visitors enjoy the show, and God Bless America, and thank you to all of our troops for giving us this great country," she said.

Security...from Page 1A

house security which includes inspections of the building, morning checks, and conducting searches of individuals.

"It's just the standard training that you must receive whenever you are doing some kind of specialized job," Sgt. James said.

The hand wands are expected to be in use during the first half of this week. The walk through metal detectors also are ready to be put into use and should be in place this week as soon as an electrician can make adjustments to the circuits to handle the detectors. The X-ray machines, similar to what's used at airports, where you'll be asked

UC Canning Plant open dates

The Union County Canning Plant, 148 Old Smokey Road, Blairsville will be open the following dates in July from 6 a.m. -12 noon: Tuesday, July 8th, Thursday, July 10th, Tuesday, July 15th, Thursday, July 17th, Tuesday, July 22nd, Thursday, July 24th, Tuesday, July 29th, and Thursday, July 31st. Pricing: pints .25 and quarts .35. For more information visit cannery@uniongov.com or ucfarmersmarket.com.

Cruise In...from Page 1A

Car Club will present their "Red, White & Blue" Awards with trophies being given to the "Top Five" classics, along with Sponsors Choice Awards.

All afternoon you will be treated to some great music, a 50/50 raffle, fabulous door prizes, and some good old-fashioned American delicacies hot off the grill.

While the Cruisers will accept a small donation for the delectable treats that come off the grill, kids under 12 will enjoy a hot dog plate for free.

And if that wasn't enough, for a \$5 donation per ticket (or 5 tickets for \$20) the Blairsville Cruisers will provide you with

an awesome opportunity to take home a fabulous 2004 40th Anniversary Edition Mustang Convertible (or \$3,000 cash; winner's choice). All proceeds benefit local children's charities.

Just in case you can't make it on Friday night, the Cruisers will host their original "Cruise-In to the Downtown Square" classic car show around the historic Union County Courthouse the next day, Saturday, July 5th, at 4 p.m.

Plan to join the Cruisers on the Downtown Square this on Saturday.

The address for the boat parade and Nottely Marina are 86 Doucette Circle in Blairsville,

and on the water at marker No. 10.

Everyone is invited to take part, or simply remain a spectator - there is no charge for either.

Spectators are encouraged to watch from any locale they choose but for safety reasons, the docks must remain off limits.

For more details call Nottely Marina at (706) 745-3638.

If you would like more details about the bike/car show on Friday, or the car show on Saturday, contact Brian Betters (Biker Barn) at (706) 781-6729, Don Gessmann (Blairsville Cruisers) at (706) 897-5857, Pete Barley at (706) 678-5964 or email secretary@blairvillecruisers.com.

Fling...from Page 1A

jewelry pieces, unique work with gourds, beautifully sewn and embroidered infant and children's clothing, unusual gifts, all types of wood items such as hand carved pens, walking sticks, turned bowls, furniture, quilts, painting and photography.

The Mountain Fling held annually in the summer time is the Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild's (MRACG) highest drawing show with late November's Mistletoe Market coming in a close second.

September's Celebrate Autumn show in its second year, is the newest edition to the Guild's arts and crafts shows and is building steam as it becomes a household name along with its two sister shows.

"This show and the Mistletoe Market are our most popular shows," said Wendy Holden of the Guild. "It's a 12-month endeavor preparing for these shows. We start mailing out the applications in January for all three shows. Our Mistletoe Market show is pretty much full right now, but we still have some availability for Celebrate Autumn."

According to Holden, North Georgia Technical College is the perfection location for a show of this size and a lot of factors play into its success.

"On Saturday we had a slow but steady crowd and the next day was pretty good for a Sunday," Holden said. "We had the signs out and I think they help a lot. We love this facility. Its centrally located with the highway right there to make this a great facility."

It is the mission of ArtWorks, an artisan center, operated by the members of Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, a non-profit organization, chartered by the state of Georgia, to provide a



Vendor applications went out in January, and June's Mountain Fling and November's Mistletoe Market quickly filled up. A few tables are available for September's Celebrate Autumn show.

venue for the public to view and purchase the highest quality art and crafts created by our mountain artisans. The Guild encourages the development of high standards and will provide artisans an opportunity to share knowledge and skills by conducting classes, workshops and seminars.

Many rules and guidelines are in place to provide only the highest quality of arts and crafts to the public at these shows.

Crafts must be 90 percent handmade by the person submitting the work. Only completed crafts will be evaluated. Crafts must comply with state, federal and copyright laws. Crafts must be clean and neat with no objectionable odors. Crafts must be environmentally friendly. Appropriate language is to be used on all items. Glue must not be visible on finished items. Toys must be child safe. Plastic eyes, buttons and trims must be securely sewn. No wire or lead

paint is allowed. Items must be labeled regarding stuffing materials and proper cleaning instructions.

Only high quality materials and professional workmanship will be accepted.

These are just a few of the rules put in place by the Guild to ensure the the quality and authenticity of the items sold at these shows.

First time vendor, Robyn Ryan Brechbill of Hayesville, NC's Mountain Creek Creations has already made plans to return.

"This has been a good weekend and I'll be back for Mistletoe Market in November," Brechbill said.

"All of these vendors are local and that's what makes these events so unique," Holden added.

For more details, visit the Guilds at www.artguild-store.com or call (706) 896-0932. The email address is www.mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.

Herbs...from Page 1A

"Try to concentrate on herbs that are grown naturally," said Boling as she mixed her handcrafted, creamy moisturizer made from roses.

"Rose oil is very good for the skin, especially feminine skin. It's the queen of the herbs and oils. It is very expensive, as it takes about 30 roses to make one drop. In the fall, the settlers would gather rose hemp for Vitamin C and to treat scurvy. Some oils are natural bug repellants, such as lavender oil, as are mint leaves."

Boling had a portable stove in tow next to the lineup of dried herbs laid out for those present to gather a handful of their essence. Eucalyptus, granulated myrrh, jewel weed and mint leaves sat in baskets or suspended on a line - about eye level - for passersby.

square stem. They're all edible. As is sage - used in teas, sausages and other culinary areas. Rosemary, also a relative to the mint, was originally used to take the toxins out of meat and add flavoring."

Some from the crowd chimed in with knowledge of remedies - like sprinkling garlic in shoes to keep fleas out. Or of naturally found jewel weed and its ability to prevent the spreading of poison oak. Boling answered questions as well as commented on fact and fiction.

"Some things that grow naturally next to stuff like poison oak may or may not help, but I'd just assume stay away from the poison oak to begin with. There are some herbs that don't grow well in our humidity, such as lavender, but I still try to grow some. I get a lot of my herbs from Ken's Herbs here

in town. They're a lot cheaper there than you'll find on the Internet," she said, speaking of Ken's Herbs & Vitamins in Blairsville.

Boling also touched on the medical side of herbs.

"Please consult with your doctor before you decide to go the herbal route. Some herbs may interfere with a prescription drug. Herbs are not a quick fix. They are a way of life. If something doesn't sit well with you, that's your body telling you something. The more you play with them and walk with them, the more you'll get to know them and how they can work for you."

Wolf Creek Mountain Crafts Day will host soap-making, woodworking, and butter churning skills demonstrated on Saturday, July 19 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center.