

# Tributes...from Page 1A

just needed a fine young man to help others get along. We don't know the reason, but we believe there is one."

Earlier in the week, Paris and other county officials were on hand at Meeks Park as a swing designated for handicapped children was officially opened and named "Lilly's Swing" after 7-year old Lillian Plott.

With family gathered around the Meeks Park playground on Monday afternoon, the county christened two brand new handicapped swings as "Lilly's Swing," in honor of Lillian (Lilly) Plott.

Lilly, the daughter of Daniel and Kayce Plott was born with severe developmental delays, seizure disorder, as well as a craniofacial deformity. She is legally blind, has hearing problems, and has never crawled, walked, or



Lillian Plott gets first turn in the swing dedicated in her honor at Meeks Park last week. Photo/Todd Forrest

talked. Last October, Aimee Ledford spearheaded a Face-

book campaign to raise the funds needed for the swings. By the end of the year, the

money was raised and the county picked up the bill for the fencing, concrete, sand, and padding underneath the swings.

"It's not often when someone comes to you with a new idea and a check to help get the ball rolling," Paris said. "This was an easy decision and we were glad to help."

This isn't just for Lilly and her family, but for all special needs children and their families."

The North Georgia News congratulates Union County Commissioner Lamar Paris for taking the time to make a difference in the lives of these two families.

There is a time to be a government official and a time to be a human being.

We're proud Commissioner Paris takes the time to do both jobs.

# Festival...from Page 1A

recent history.

Arts enthusiasts and music lovers didn't allow the precipitation to dampen their spirits on Saturday, and for those who came on Sunday, the clouds rolled away to reveal blue skies over the park.

"Most all of the vendors were very happy and were surprised they did as well as they



did considering the weather situation," said Mike Smith of the High Country Artisans. "It sprinkled all day long on Saturday but we still had people out there and they were buying."

The rain only frightened away a small handful of the 72 vendors and the ones who stayed enjoyed steady crowds both days.

"The vendors who were there knew that the crowd that

we usually have are not lookers," Smith said. "They are coming to buy quality art and most all of the vendors did well."

One of the crowd favorites that braved the elements both days was the student art display at the Union County Middle School booth. What makes the booth so unique is that much of the artwork on display were left behind by the students, explained Union

County Middle School art teacher Sylvia Garner.

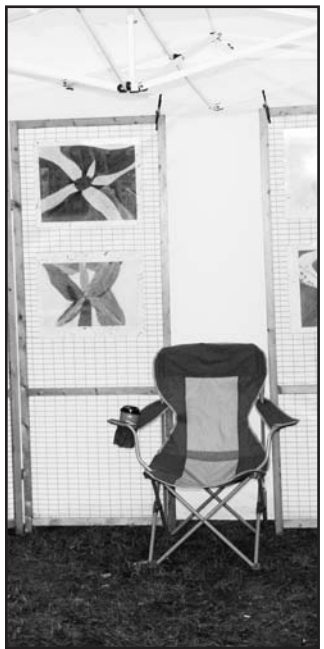
"Most of the artwork was done last year or two years ago," Garner said. "Some of the kids moved away in the middle of the year and didn't tell you they were leaving. Or some students just think that they're not any good so they don't come back and get them, so I save them and put them on display and I put their names beside their art. I figure that one day they might want them and I'll still have them."

The High Country Artisans donate a portion of their proceeds to Meeks Park, summer camps, and the after school program.

"Of all of the events held at Meeks Park, I think we are the only ones who actually give something back to the park," Smith said.

There was plenty of live music and entertainment at the festival with Bruce Adams, Bill Torrance, Fast Gear, Elvis, and Raven & Red.

Not only is the festival free, but there is no charge for parking as well. Gates opened at 10 a.m. on both days. Art lovers came out and enjoyed one of the most treasured community events in Union County history.



Photos by Todd Forrest