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syrup as we usually have. We expect that to be much different this year.”

The Parade format in the way floats are judged and prizes awarded remains the same this year. The event provides an opportunity for the entire community to reap rewards, Bridges said.

“We’re giving out three cash awards,” she said. “If a business wins, the award goes to the charity of their choice.

“If it’s a club or church that wins, they’ll keep that prize,” she said. “I think that will help churches and different groups get involved in the parade.”

The prizes will be broken down as first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Prize amounts are \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place.

The traditional fun includes the annual Bisket Eat-in Contest.

That kicks off at 1 p.m., on Saturday. The competition is open for all comers, 16 years and older.

It usually takes downing 10 or more biskets to win, and the girls usually give the boys a run for their money.



The Sorghum Festival Parade is Saturday at 11 a.m. in Downtown Blairsville. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

The sorghum sopping begins at 1 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday of the opening weekend.

Other games include the Pole Climbin’ Contest, the Log Sawin’ event, the Rock Throw, and Baccur Spittin’ Contest. Those games will be held each day of the festival.

Pole Climbin’ is open to all ages who wish to attempt to climb their way to the top of a fresh cut poplar. The person to climb the highest and the fastest claims the victory.

The Log Sawin’ event also is open to all comers who want to try and be the fastest team to saw a huge log in two pieces. The log is chained down.

The Rock Throw is for all ages to determine who can heave the rock the farthest. The size of the rock varies and depends on the size of the per-

son tossing the rock.

The Baccur Spittin’ event is for individuals 18 or older who choose to bite off a big wad of chewing tobacco, work up a spit, and see if they can spit the farthest with the worked up chew.

Other family entertainment includes a friendly game of horseshoes.

Anyone who is up for a friendly game of horseshoes, well, they’ll find a game at the Sorghum Festival.

Of course there’s also music a plenty, Gospel, Country Music and Bluegrass.

The music is flowing Saturday and Sunday, as well as Oct. 18th and 19th.

Steven Phillips and Midnight Express will perform at the Square Dance on Saturday and Oct. 18th, with special guest John Nix. The

dance is at the Old Middle School Gym both nights. The fun begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday and Oct. 18th.

On Saturday, headlining entertainers include Steven Phillips and Midnight Express, Tommy Townsend and Waymore’s Outlaws, and Blairsville School of Dance.

Speaking of Townsend, the Grandaddy Mimm’s Gift Shop at 161 Pappy’s Plaza opens on Friday.

Moonshine tastings will be held at Armadillo Grill on Friday and Saturday, from noon to 1 p.m., and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., both days, Townsend said.

“We should start bottling in early 2015,” Townsend said.

On Sunday, headlining entertainers include Ensley & Company and Raven and Red.

On Oct. 18th, headlining entertainers include The Sundown Band and Sweet Tart Cloggers.

On Oct. 19th, headlining entertainers include Raven and Red, and Steven Phillips and Midnight Express.

Other entertainment includes Atlanta Puppet, which will perform puppet shows and workshops both weekends.

The festival runs the weekends of Oct. 11th and Oct. 18th.

Come out and enjoy both weekends of this exciting annual event that celebrates the good old days in Union County.

*Inside today’s edition is a pull out section for the 45th Annual Blairsville Sorghum Festival.*

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validates who Lowell is and what Lowell’s about, and anytime you can recognize somebody that gives to our community, our school, our kids the way Lowell does, it’s always a good thing. And so, we were honored to do that for Lowell.”

Assistant Coach Shannon Moss read over the loudspeakers to all who would hear the official declaration of the softball field as Lowell Nicholson Field, as it was written on a plaque presented to Lowell by Principal Gibson.

“October 2, 2014, Towns County High School officially named the Fastpitch Softball Field in honor of Lowell Nicholson. Lowell has faithfully served Towns County Athletics for more than 40 years, starting as a student manager in the late 1960s and today as Sports Photographer for the *Towns County Herald*. Lowell threw out the first pitch ever in our inaugural fastpitch season in 2002.

“It is our honor to name TCHS Softball field after our very own No. 1 Fan, Lowell Nicholson.”

And Nicholson remembers that first pitch like it was yesterday.

“They didn’t tell me they were going to do it, and I said, what are all these people doing up here – there were that many that showed up,” said Nicholson. “When I got there, Coach Shannon Floyd was the athletic director, and he said, ‘We’ve got somebody here today that is going to throw out the first pitch.’ And I didn’t have any idea it was going to be me. And when they announced my name, I had tears in my eyes, because I didn’t know they were going to do that.”

People started calling the field Lowell Nicholson Field after that day, a day that culminated in the dedication 12 years later.

“I’m glad they’re doing this for Lowell,” said Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall before the event, who deftly deflected a pre-game practice foul tip barehanded as it came barreling down on Nicholson. “Everybody I’ve talked to about it is proud of him.”

Nicholson would like to thank a great many people who turned out to support him that day, including Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, the entire youth football team, several umpires he considers to be friends, and his pastor and second cousin Billy Nicholson.

“I want to thank the people from my church that came, too, from Pine Top Baptist

Church over in Union County – the church has supported me in it and everything,” said Nicholson. “The preacher even got up and read the plaque in front of the whole church Wednesday night – tears were in my eyes.”

Also making the Nicholson appreciation list of people who made the day special was attendee Ed Ash of Hayesville.

“I’ve known Ed for 40 years or longer,” said Nicholson. “Ed and me are good friends, just like Coach Darryl McClure. I used to play softball with Ed and Darryl.”

The list goes on. “I just want to thank Mr. Gibson and all of them for doing that, including the board of education and the entire school system,” said Nicholson. “And I also want to thank Charles Duncan for coming, and Kenneth West for allowing me to work for him for all these years. Thanks to Coach Jessica Berrong and Coach

Brandon Rowland for letting me be in the dugout – it was great just being in the dugout and supporting the kids.”

Channel 4 showed up to film the event, which aired locally Saturday night.

“I finally made it on the TV,” joked Nicholson.

And to top it all off, the Lady Indians won the day with a resounding shutout of Providence Christian Academy.

“That made my day,” said Nicholson. “Good luck to all the seniors – I’m going to miss them next year.”

But when all was said and done concerning the dedication and the game was underway, Nicholson went right back to doing what he does best.

“I took my pictures like any other day,” said Nicholson, perfectly capturing the humility for which he has come to be known. “Like I said, it’s not about me, it’s about the kids.”

## Early ...continued

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bin Shipp.

There are two Public Service Commissioner races, Republican Incumbent Doug Everett faces Libertarian John Monds; Republican Incumbent Bubba McDonald faces Democrat Daniel Blackmon, and Libertarian Robin Gilmer.