

## Indian...continued from Page 1A

most important components to a basketball squad. One of them was uniforms and the other was the basketballs themselves.

As a result, they held the first event of what became the Indian Summer Festival in Walter Woody's pasture with a only a couple of tables. Enough to fit inside the library room of the Suches Community Center.

"Somebody was selling barbecue, sorghum, someone was selling books, and little things like that. It was almost yard sale stuff," Jim Minor said.

What began as a way to provide uniforms for the basketball team has grown into an integral part of the Woody Gap School, the smallest public school in Georgia.

The festival continues to grow and has prospered over the years. It's beneficiary also has expanded beyond the scope of athletics.

Of late, the support that has gone to academic and day-

to-day operations has passed the amount that goes to athletics, he said.

"My wife, Ruth Ann taught down there for several years and she could tell you all the stories about running out of photocopy paper and the needs that the teachers have down there, that otherwise would have taken money out of the teachers' pockets if it hadn't been for the festival helping them out," Jim Minor said.

According to Ruth Ann Minor, the early days of the Indian Summer Festival was what prompted their move to Suches.

"We just happened to be driving through and stopped by," Ruth Ann Minor said. "We were living in Atlanta at the time. We stopped and I asked one of the ladies who was selling books, 'what grade are you in' and she said, 'I'm a teacher.'"

Saturday night a square dance was held while the day



Commissioner Lamar Paris is right in the middle of the Indian Summer Festival in Suches. Photo/Todd Forrest

was filled with live music from the Cartecay River Boys, Highway 76, Fort Mountain Boys, Jim Wood and the Woodpile, and the Morgan Pruitt Band.

An auction was held on Sunday with all the proceeds going to benefit Woody Gap

Schools and its programs.

"I think we've got nothing but winners coming out of Woody Gap," David Barton said. "It's the volunteers we have here to put on events like this that make this community so special."

## Sorghum...continued from Page 1A

Townsend and Waymores Outlaws (Waylon Jennings Band) will perform.

"Gosh, it's great to be back home and playing again at the Sorghum Festival," said Townsend, who now lives in

Nashville and tours with Waymores Outlaws. "We're going to play a lot of Waylon's music, and we'll do some songs from the Wounded Warrior Project.

"Then at night, we look forward to the Square Dance and John Nix and the Country Cousins," Townsend said. "It'll make you scratch your head just trying to figure out how many square dances that bunch has played over the years. I look forward to that as much as I do anything else."

The Square Dance begins at 8 p.m. at the old Middle School Gym. It lasts until, well, at least until John Nix and the Country Cousins get worn out.

Townsend will enter the festival grounds on Saturday in the two-mule wagon used by his Granddaddy Mimm to haul illegal moonshine years ago. Townsend of course has launched a line of legal moonshine products today based on the tried and true tradition of his Granddaddy Mimm's secret mountain recipe.

The festival is a walk back in time. All the locals know that when October arrives, it's time for the Sorghum Festival.

The festival, which began in the late 1960s, is part of the life blood of the Union County Mountain people, the folks that have scratched in the garden, canned fruits and vegetables and made some of the most pristine jams, jellies and canned goods in the Southeast.

The festival is a celebration of the Mountain way of life. It's like turning back the pages of history and enjoying a simpler time when folks came to town to celebrate their harvest and kind of forget about a summer of hard work and labor.



The Sorghum Festival is as popular now as it has ever been.

In fact, there's an Old Timer's Day, a time when the person dressed in the most traditional old timey outfit wins a prize. That event is Sunday (the first Sunday of the two-weekend event).

The festival is a time when folks come to town to enjoy themselves and enjoy the company of their neighbors and friends. In this case, thousands of friends. The festival attracts countless repeat visitors, who come to the Mountains to enjoy the fall colors and grab a few jars of that sweet Mountain sorghum.

There's lots of fun and games for the kids as well as adults.

The adult games include "pole climbin'," "rock throwin'," "log sawin'," and "biskit-eatin'," that are just as popular today as they've ever been.

"I remember the guy from Murphy, NC who would wait until the last week to enter the biscuit eating contest," Jones said. "It didn't matter what the number was to beat, if it was 25, he'd eat 27."

"Then there was the guy who did the pole climbing event," Jones said. "He'd latch his arms around that pole and walk right to the top. Those are things you can only see at the Sorghum Festival."

Another unique event, is the annual Good Neighbors Car Show at United Community Bank that has been a tradition since 1983. It's all about pride in this one.

The Sorghum Festival is a unique community tradition that continues to run as strong and as sweet as the sorghum that fills those pint jars. Come join the fun, become a part of this wonderful Mountain tradition.

## Nguyen...continued from Page 1A

caped from them and fled through the parking lot to the back of the retail store.

She scampered down a hill, went through the woods, and was doing her best to make it to Georgia 515, authorities said.

Union County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Hogsed spotted Nguyen about 75 yards out in front of him.

He told her that he was a deputy sheriff and that she needed to stop running, Union County sheriff's reports show.

According to Public Information Officer and Union County Sheriff's Investigator C.J. Worden, Nguyen replied to Deputy Hogsed, "I haven't done anything and I've got kids."

"Hogsed then pursued Nguyen on foot to Jasmine Lane," Worden said. "He spotted her walking the shoreline of Lake Nottely. Deputy Sally Verdone also spotted Nguyen and radioed that she was coming up the hill to the Coosa Bridge. That's where she was apprehended."

Nguyen apparently had kicked, bitten and scratched Asset Protection's Jeff Griffin and stolen his cellphone, sheriff's reports show.

She had a Chrysler 200 illegally parked in the fire lane in front of Walmart, sheriff's reports show.

Underneath the front seat on the driver's side deputies found two counterfeit \$100 bills. She had been driving on a suspended license and gave officers a false name and date of birth.

Thus, ended the first round with Nguyen.

On Sunday, Buck Dills Bonding bailed Nguyen out of the Union County Jail. Dills drove her in his car to

her home in Knoxville, Tenn, Union County sheriff's reports show.

"Apparently, the arrangement between the bonding company and Ms. Nguyen was unsatisfactory upon arrival in Knoxville, Tenn.," Worden said. "Mr. Dills drove her back to Union County to surrender her and revoke her bond."

Apparently as all this was taking place and Dills was explaining his return with Nguyen, she crawled from the passenger seat into the driver's seat of her vehicle and fled the scene, Worden said.

Here we go again. Nguyen headed to Georgia 515 and was en route to Towns County when Deputy Travis Gibson gave chase.

Nguyen actually pulled over at Heritage Propane as Deputy Gibson edged closer to the back bumper of the Chrysler.

"She was just sitting in the car and when I cracked open the door of my patrol car to get out and confront her, she took off like a rocket," Deputy Gibson said.

Deputy Gibson quickly resumed the chase of Nguyen as she raced the Chrysler toward the Towns County line, with speeds reaching 109 mph as they approached the Union-Towns line, sheriff's reports and arrest warrants show.

"I was called off the chase at Brasstown Valley Resort," Deputy Gibson said.

It was there that Towns County sheriff's deputies gave chase of Nguyen. They chased her into Hiawassee and she made a swift turn onto Bell Creek Road.

Towns deputies gave chase to the North Carolina line before yielding to Clay

County, NC sheriff's deputies.

She was chased by Clay County deputies all the way to Shooting Creek, as she raced toward Franklin, NC, Clay County sheriff's reports show.

"She was on old 64 and she turned onto a logging road trying to lose the Clay County deputies," Deputy Gibson said. "She got into a position where she couldn't go forward anymore and she tried to maneuver her vehicle in the other direction."

"She tried to run over a Clay County sheriff's deputy," Deputy Gibson said. "Somehow, they managed to get her under control. The method involved the use of a taser."

Nguyen was taken into custody in North Carolina and charged with fleeing attempt to elude an officer with a motor vehicle, she also was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, assaulting a government employee, reckless driving and no driver's license.

In Georgia, charges include battery, shoplifting and theft by taking. She remains in custody in North Carolina with additional charges pending in Union and Towns counties.

Nguyen also tried to sign her car over to the bondsman. The Chrysler was a rental out of Georgia.

Union County Sheriff Scott Stephens expressed many thanks to the agencies involved in the apprehension of Nguyen.

Nguyen, incidentally, has been banned for life from Walmart. The newspaper is pretty sure that means all Walmarts, not just the Blairsville Walmart.