

Moon...from Page 1A

never forget: "Well, they call me handsome," he'd said.

"She made such an indelible impression on me - I couldn't get her out of my mind for days after the call," McMichen said. "I called the hospital to check on her. I called her daughter the day after and found out that she was doing better, and things were looking up."

McMichen is a 2015 President's List graduate of the North Georgia Technical College EMS Program in Blairsville.

As an aside, it was revealed that donations made by Dr. Karisny and his patients on Moon's behalf almost exactly covered her expenses for the time that she was unable to work.

"I want to thank God for the friends and family I've got," Moon said, adding that it is indeed an incredible community in which the people of Union County live.



Union General Paramedic Tim McMichen, Frances Moon and Kyle Mead, also with Union General EMS, in a joyous gathering at the Skillet Café on Aug. 31. Photo by Mark Smith

Meeks Park Sign...from Page 1A

Sorghum Festival Club - then affiliated with the Jaycees - donated \$5,000, and though the club decided to incorporate as its own entity about five or six years ago, its members still wanted to help make the sign a reality.

All told, the Blairsville Sorghum Festival Club covered about \$70,000 of the new digital sign's cost, and the county paid for the stone masonry, which was about \$5,000.

Construction of the sign took roughly six weeks over the summer and reached completion around the last week of July, Conley said.

The Sorghum Festival began in 1969 with the selling of homemade sorghum syrup right on the Blairsville Square.

Festival organizers built

Old Fort Sorghum downtown to house the festival a few years after it began, and though the structure was recently demolished, it served as the decades-long home of the Sorghum Festival until the festival outgrew the venue and moved to Meeks Park in 2008.

Today, the Sorghum Festival attracts an average of about 10,000 people per weekend, which is much more than any venue within Blairsville City Limits can reasonably handle, not to mention the 110 to 120 vendors who work the festival every year.

Club Member Lisa Martin said she and the other members were thankful to have such a large public space like Meeks Park at which to hold the Sorghum Festival.

"This year will be the 50th anniversary of the Sorghum Festival, so we felt that the new sign would be a great way of showing our commitment to the community on this milestone occasion," Martin said.

Martin also said the sign is the club's way of expressing

its appreciation to Union County for all that it does to help with the Sorghum Festival each year. Of course, bringing in an average of 20,000 people over two consecutive weekends is a boon for the local economy.

All sorghum syrup sold at the Sorghum Festival is grown right here in the North Georgia Mountains, Martin said, adding that the making of sorghum syrup is becoming a lost art.

Only a few "old-timers" know how to properly carry out the process these days, which can be seen in live demonstrations during the Sorghum Festival every year.

"It's a lot of hard work, and we would welcome anyone who would like to learn how to do it," Martin said. "You can't read this stuff in a book, though. You have to just do it."

The 2019 Sorghum Festival will take place on the weekends of Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 19-20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Watch the new Meeks Park digital entrance sign for details.

Also new at Meeks Park is a beautiful covered pavilion

with a concrete floor, huge brick fireplace, bathrooms, a metal roof and a deck overlooking the Nottely River.

The pavilion, located behind the baseball fields on the upper level of Meeks Park, is now available to rent for weddings, family reunions and the like.

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