

# School group to run cardboard boat races



Penny L. Pool

## Paddlin' 4 Paws transition

Patt High, who has overseen the boat races for years, and Randolph County Animal Shelter President Chuck Smith are handing the paddles over to Randolph County School Superintendent Rance Kirby and the Founda-

tion for Randolph County Schools Board of Directors Marty Kirby, Kathy Petersen, Tiffany Moore and April Huddleston for the 6th annual Paddlin' 4 Paws boat race fundraiser.

**WEDOWEE**--A group has formed to take over the 6th annual Cardboard Boat Regatta and is in the process of obtaining its 501C3 tax status.

Members of the board of Foundation for Randolph County Schools are Marty Kirby, April Huddleston, Tiffany Moore, Kathy Peterson and Greg Johnson.

For the first two years Randolph County Animal Shelter will continue to get part of the proceeds while the county school system will get the bulk of the money raised.

Superintendent Rance Kirby said he was approached by representatives of the Randolph County Animal Shelter and was asked to head a foundation to get it off the ground.

Patt High, who has been in charge of the an-

nual Paddlin' 4 Paws boat races for years, is ready to turn it over to someone else to promote and nurture. She joked she is getting too old to paint her hair, and it is Rance's turn. During the boat races she has appeared with wildly colored hair including strands of purple, green, and red, white and blue.

Animal Shelter president Chuck Smith said, "They'll do 90 percent of the work so they will get 90 percent of the proceeds. It is a good situation for them and a good situation for us. Other counties like Clay wanted to do it but we wanted to keep it in the county and Rance said by all means. It is a cash cow.

"They have got the model so they can follow in those footsteps. Getting the schools involved

is just fantastic," Smith said.

Marty Kirby already has sent out e-mails, primarily to people who have children in the county school system.

The e-mail says, "The best part of this is that the students of the Randolph County School System will financially benefit from this much anticipated and totally crazy event! Randolph County Schools will receive 90 percent of the profit in years 2014 and 2015, with the possibility of 100 percent profit in 2016, thanks to the generosity of the Randolph County Animal Shelter. This is fabulous news for our students."

An art contest will be held in all the schools to determine the design of the T-shirts. The winning art will become the art-

work for the 2014 Paddlin' 4 Paws T-shirt. It will set the tone for the races May 10 on Lake Wedowee. The rain date will be the next week of May 17.

The art winners will represent their schools on race day by serving as a Paw Ambassador. They will be recognized in a special boat ride at the beginning of the races. Entries will be picked up from the school by Friday, Dec. 6. The overall winner will be announced by January of 2014.

This is a natural since art is constantly going on in all the grades in all the schools. Each school will choose its own winner, then High and Smith will pick the overall winner.

The county school system has six schools and the career technical center.

High said the schools will be a great source of upcoming paddlers. This is a great way to keep this event in the community.

For any information about building the boats etc. go to [RandolphShelter.org](http://RandolphShelter.org). High said instructions for how to build a killer boat, entry forms and rules can be found there.

In the 2014 year the agreement says the shelter will get a minimum of \$1,500 or 10 percent of the profits, whichever is greater. High will continue to run the boat-building clinics and assist with the transition. The second year she will step back a little. The third year she and the shelter will be stepping out and turning it over to the schools and community. Smith said they will still be there with the dogs and animals for adoption but will be on the periphery of the event.

It takes from \$700 to \$1,000 to get the 501c tax status where donations are tax-deductible. Marty said they would be grateful if someone would donate for that.

They are also looking for volunteers, as many as want to donate their time and services.

Anyone wanting to help or volunteer, or who has questions, can call Foundation Board of Directors members Greg Johnson at 256-452-3708, Marty Kirby at 256-610-1738, April Huddleston at 256-201-3504, Tiffany Moore at 256-452-3276 and Kathy Petersen at 256-343-1460.