

# Cardboard Boat races Saturday

This Saturday is the 6th Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta Races at Chimney Cove Properties on Lake Wedowee.

"This event provides us with an extraordinary opportunity to help our schools and our homeless animals," said Marty Kirby of Foundation for Randolph County Schools. "We, as a Foundation, truly believe it is within our power as a community working together to make Randolph County Schools the best they can be. Please join us this Saturday, May 10, to help two great causes and have a whole lot of fun."

She and other foundation members have overseen this year's planning and promotion with the assistance of long-time cardboard boat regatta master Patt High.

Foundation members Marty Kirby, April Huddleston, Tiffany Moore, Kathy Petersen and Greg Johnson, and event helpers Pam Johnson and Brandie Hill have all been working together to get this event off the ground, Kirby said.

The races begin with the National Anthem Boat ride at noon. County T-shirt Art Contest Winners, along with Patt High, volunteer extraordinaire and queen of cardboard, will be our grand marshals, Kirby said.

"We are extremely excited about this opportunity to support Randolph County Schools students and the Randolph County Animal Shelter. The Foundation for Randolph County Schools has assumed 90 percent of the work for this event this year; therefore, we will earn 90% of the proceeds, which will in turn, benefit students in the Randolph County School System. The Animal Shelter will receive 10% of the proceeds from the event," she said.

The foundation will meet this summer to determine in what areas they would like to financially assist the school system. Items under consideration are the new pre-kindergarten program Superintendent Rance Kirby is working to start up this fall, dual enrollment initiatives (scholarships for high school students) between Randolph County Schools and Southern Union State Community College, technology, professional development for teachers, fine arts implementation, or other worthwhile projects.

"We are hopeful that we can reach our \$20,000 goal, but we do recognize this year as a transition year. If anyone or any business would like to make a donation



please contact us. Your donation may be tax deductible," she said.

In a day packed with events come early and stay late. Boat registration, inspection, and team photos begin at 9 a.m.; however, the Wedowee Hospital Auxiliary will begin serving breakfast as early as 8:30 a.m.

Participants, please don't forget your life jackets, paddles and water shoes!

Beginning at 10 a.m. Wadley High School Coach Ken Fordham will be sitting in the dunking booth. RCHS Coach Pat Prestridge, among others, will follow.

Beginning at 10 a.m. a booth for face painting and crazy hair will open.

There will be a boat show courtesy of Wedowee Marine, a petting zoo courtesy of Flaming H Farms, and a trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C. that will be given away courtesy of Alabama 100.7.

Wadley High School student Connor Fordham will be auctioning off homemade cakes and pies courtesy of Tracey Carpenter and the employees of Bank of Wedowee. Come out and support him and bid on one of these delicious items. The cake auction begins at 10:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m. the first watermelon eating contest will take place. Contestants are Coach Tyler Hall, band directors Dilmos Hamilton and Adrian Peters, Principal Allan Robertson, Pastor Cade Farris, Wedowee Mayor Tim Coe, Rev. Russell Hestley, Board of Education member Jerry Walker, and parent Tim Bales. Final winner will be decided by a "spit off" determined by who can spit their seed the farthest.

Roanoke Academy of Ballet will provide entertainment at 11:45.

There will be a silent auction for baskets provided by Wedowee Elementary School, Woodland High School, Randolph Roanoke Career Technology Center, and Rock Mills Junior High School.

Lunch will begin around 10:30 a.m. The Randolph County Cattlemen's Association will provide beef patties for hamburgers. Five dollars buys you a hamburger, chips and a drink, or two hotdogs, chips and a drink. Wedowee Hospital Auxiliary will provide baked sweets for dessert.

A number of vendors will have tents, including Buster Miles, Wedowee Hospital, Tanner East Alabama and many others. Inner tube races start at 12:15. Entry fee is \$2 per person.

The major event—the cardboard boat races—begin at 1 p.m. There are 26 photo plaque awards available. Only six are based on speed. Youth rowers age 8 and under will receive a 3" gold medal just for braving the high seas. The Plundering Pirate Award will go to the last boat floating during the Demolition Derby with the entire crew still inside.

Awards are at 4 p.m. along with the drawing for the Myrtle Beach, S.C. trip.

The event T-shirts feature the art design created by Woodland High School student Jake Crowson. They cost \$15 for sizes up to XL. The 2X size is \$16.

The proceeds from this event benefit the Randolph County Animal Shelter and Randolph County Schools. Please come out and support your schools, shelter and all who will be participating. There are no entry nor parking fees.

If case of inclement weather the rain date is May 17.

"Finally, we are so grateful to the Randolph County Animal Shelter, RCAS president Chuck Smith, and volunteer Patt High for sharing this wonderful event with us and helping us provide opportunities for students in Randolph County Schools. We certainly could not have put on this event without the wonderful guidance of Patt High. Our sincerest gratitude goes to this wonderful lady who truly believes in helping her community," Marty Kirby said.