

Saturday another great day for Randolph County

Saturday was a great day for Randolph County due to two remarkable events that demonstrated and reinforced that we live in a special place.

The first was the Bike Hike, the 37th consecutive one. While it has changed through the years, with the actual Bike Hike being only one fundraising event of many leading up to it, the result of the changes are more people participating to raise money to keep the Randolph County Learning Center operating.

Though this year's total of more than \$80,000 is not a record—last year's total also exceeded \$80,000—it is nevertheless quite an achievement during tough economic times. It seems that more worthy causes are soliciting funds than ever before. The fact that volunteers and monetary contributions for the Learning Center have not suffered as a result says much about the willingness of local folks to give of themselves to help others.

Cuts in state funding and more limited grant opportunities make local support of important local institutions like the Randolph County Learning Center critical.

As always, Randolph County came through.

The Bike Hike was followed Saturday by the Paddlin' 4 Paws Cardboard Boat Regatta on Lake Wedowee. This fundraiser for the Randolph County Animal Shelter is only in its fourth year and has far to go to reach the funding levels the Bike Hike brings to the Learning Center, but its one-year leap in participation and fundraising is impressive.

From \$12,300, a new high in 2011, the 2012 boat races raised \$21,403, all of which went directly to the shelter to help the animals. Additionally, all of the spayed and neutered dogs brought to the event from the shelter were adopted, including a mother and her entire litter.

Again, Randolph County came through. We shouldn't expect anything less.