



### The smallest piper

Little Caleigh Bryan marched with her father Andy, and other members of the Knoxville Pipes and Drums group as they kicked off the fifth annual Scots-Irish Festival Saturday in Dandridge. (Staff photo - Ronnie Housley)

# Scots-Irish breaks records

## Largest crowds ever attend Dandridge Main Street event

**BY GAYLE PAGE**  
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The pipes, fiddles and jigs are all silenced, and the day ended far too soon, but it'll come round again next September, on the highland road.

The Fifth Annual Dandridge Scots Irish Musical Festival may be over, but next year, if it continues to grow as fast and big as it did in 2011, it will be one of the grandest festivals the town has ever seen. Organizers estimate that 4000+ festival-goers enjoyed the food, fun and frolic of the Scots-Irish gathering, and they ate so much that McClaerens Kitchen ran out of food, and Tinsley Bible's soda fountain ran out of ice cream. Although there were around 20 volunteers on hand, wearing easily identifiable yellow McStaff shirts, the celebrations ran them ragged.

"Committee members said this year was so good, they don't know how to top it next year," laughed Mark Murray, Festival Entertainment Chair.

There was a dog show and parade that raised about \$115 for Noah's Arc, along with loads of dog food. A cattle dog was the winner of the show by doing the magnificent trick of sitting and not gobbling his food. There were eight dogs entered in the show and about 30 in the parade.

Something new this year was a demonstration of athleticism by local Highland Games competitor Cameron Broyles. The sturdy young man did the caber toss, which is a traditional Scottish athletic event practiced in highland games involving the tossing of a large wooden pole called a caber.

Custom has it that the caber toss developed from the need to toss logs across narrow chasms in order to cross them. The caber is usually made from a Larch pine tree, and is typically 19 feet 6 inches

tall and weighs 175 pounds. Then there's the sheaf toss, the agricultural sport of hurling a burlap bag stuffed with straw over a horizontal bar above the competitor's head. It is not only Scottish, but Irish and Australian, and is usually done with a pitchfork. Then, or course there is the stone throw and hammer throw, all interesting athletic demonstrations for which Broyles recited the histories.

The Highland Dance Competitions had several classes and were judged by a professional instructor from Maryland. The winners were Mary McFarland, a young lady from Brentwood, Tennessee who won for the pre-premier events, and Erin Higginbotham from Huntsville, Alabama, who won the premier contest, as well as the Dance of the Day.

In the bagpiping competitions, the winners of "Pipers of the Day" were: in Class Two, Tracy Wilson, the only familiar and local winner; Class Three, James Bailey, Class Four Seniors Gerald Bailey, and Class Four Juniors, Wyatt Brown, all of Knoxville.

The entertainment was outstanding, as usual. The headliner band, Coyote Run, was sponsored by Twin Lakes Realty, and they were performing their farewell tour. The Scottish Balladeer Colin Grant-Adams, who was sponsored by McSpadden Construction, sang some old favorites and a couple of new tunes, while Cutthroat Shamrock tore up the stage with their uniquely wild and wooly performance, thanks to the generosity of H.B. Jarnagin Insurance Company. Dr. Dale and Lisa Bryant sponsored the wonderfully-talented Martin Family. There were multiple generous local sponsors for each of the classes and events, and that is why the public gets to enjoy this fantastic festival free of charge.

Organizers encourage people who have access to a computer to take the time to fill out a brief survey on the Main Street - Scots-Irish Festival Website, related to this year's unforgettable festivities. The first random five out of a hundred who complete it will win some surprise Scottish foods.

### Festival music

Conny O'tway and Steve Rohe perform for Scots-Irish Festival crowds on Main Street in Dandridge Saturday. Not pictured is Gary Roark, also a member of the Knoxville group. (Staff photo - Dale Gentry)

