# NHC pitches in

## Boutique event raises money for Alzheimer's

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*Duane Sherrill photo*
Amanda Sain, right, was among those who operated a craft booth at Boutique Madness at NHC Saturday. The event helped raise money for Alzheimer's research and treatment.

National Healthcare Corporation held the Boutique Madness event Saturday, its goal both to raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's.

There were a total of 19 booths on site. Vendors sold items such as clothes, candles, dog treats, essential oil, make up and purses. The event raised $1,600 for Alzheimer's research and treatment.

Alzheimer is a top killer for people ages 50 and up. The disease attacks the brain and forces it to shut down. This shut down eventually leads to death. Amber Judkins, Chairman of Boutique Madness, has first-hand experience with the disease.

"My grandmother had Alzheimer and I take care of patients with the disease," she revealed. "We hope today's event makes the community aware of the disease that is undermined."

Some indicators of the disease include the individual may experience memory loss that disrupts daily life. There may be challenges in planning or solving problems. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure. The patient may have confusion with time or place. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships. New problems with words in speaking or writing. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps. The patient may have decreased or poor judgement. The disease causes one to withdrawal from work or social activities. One may also experience changes in mood and personality.

Similar to the warning signs of the disease, support is extremely important.

"NHC is very supportive of Boutique in the aspect that they want to make the event an annual operation. They let us use their facility." Judkins said. "People at NHC wanted to raise money for the disease similar to the relay for life which is for cancer patients. I thought up the idea other people were supportive. That's how Saturday's event became reality."

# Old Timer's Day makes comeback

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Old Timer's Day was rekindled Saturday in historic downtown Alexandria as the smell of cooking and the sounds of gospel music rose from the rural hamlet like it did many decades ago.

"The square used to be full of people and there was an all-day singing at the fairgrounds," recalled Kevin Bandy as he cracked corn using his turn of the century engine, the one he displays around the mid-state to show how things used to be done before rural Tennessee got electricity. "Old Timer's Day was around for a long time, as long as I can remember but there was a little lull."

Saturday marked the second year the event has been resurrected in Alexandria. Crafters and concession booths lined town square, the humid early September weather not dissuading visitors to the quaint harkening back.

"This is something we would really like to restore to how it used to be, when the square was full of people and this was a really big event," said Alexandria Mayor Bennett Armstrong while singing the praises of the best hotdog he had ever eaten, found at the fire department fundraiser stand. "There's good music, good food and good conversation."

The theme of this year's event was honoring fire-fighters and veterans. Scout Troop 757 began the day with a salute to the flag and Bikers for Christ showed up in force. Several musical acts took the stage, adding a background of song for those milling about, visiting the various vendors while others sat around fondly talking about the good old days.

No one was quite sure what prompted the once huge even to fall by the wayside for the better part of a decade.

"Maybe people found other interests," Bandy suggested, noting that now there is a move toward nostalgia, something that could see Old Timer's Day restored to where it used to be. "People are starting to get back into touch with how things used to be."
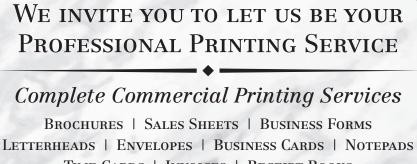

*Duane Sherrill photos*
Kevin Bandy cracks corn at Old Timer's Day in Alexandria Saturday afternoon. The storied event was revived last year and there are hopes it can someday regain its prominence that once saw the squad packed.


Riley Overstreet paints Monica Carlton's face at a booth at Old Timer's Day in Alexandria Saturday afternoon.