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Belmont Old Home Day draws hundreds

By JOHN KOZIOL

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DURING BELMONT'S Old Home Day celebration on Saturday, the Granite State Disc Dogs entertained an enthralled at Belmont High School, where team member Ashleigh Mix put Kangaroo Blue, a three-year-old Australian cattle dog that she rescued, through its acrobatic paces.
JOHN KOZIOL/CITIZEN

BELMONT — Overcast skies and the threat of rain weren't nearly enough to keep hundreds of enthusiastic residents from celebrating Old Home Day on Saturday, an annual affair that once again began with a community breakfast and ended with fireworks.

In between the 7 a.m. breakfast at the First Baptist Church and the 9:30 p.m. fireworks at Bryant Field, Old Home Day 2012 was packed with vendors, entertainment, and activities that were split between the day session at Belmont High School and the evening events, including a chicken barbecue at the nearby fire station, which were held at Bryant Field.

Among several athletic endeavors, Old Home Day featured a ten-mile run, a children's fun-run, a home-run derby, and a children's pedaltractor pull.

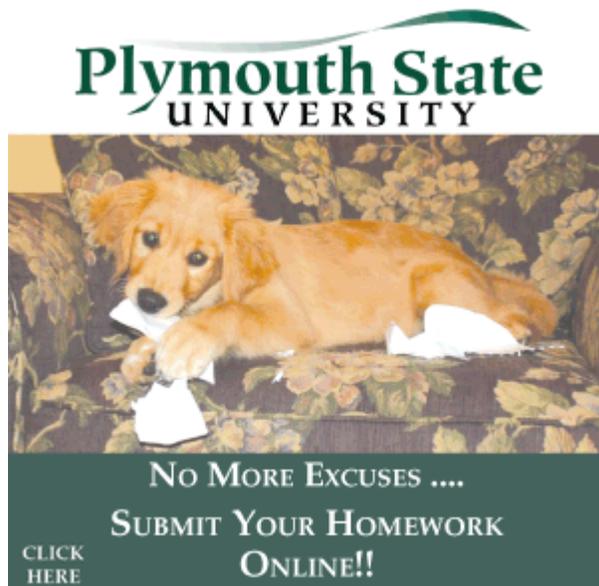
The BHS stage was graced in the morning and afternoon by Moulton's Band, the Jandee Lee Porter Country Band, and the Belmont High School Band; while local country music standouts — the Eric Grant Band — provided the tunes from 7 p.m. right up until the fireworks

As befitting an Old Home Day, there were vendors with arts, crafts, and novelties as well as local service clubs offering up a variety of foods.

Back in 1897, then Gov. Frank Rollins created the Old Home Week Association with the goal of bringing people who may have moved out back to their home communities and, hopefully, back onto their farms.

In recent years, however, Old Home Day has become an opportunity for each community to celebrate its history, and on Saturday in Belmont it was also a homecoming for Haileigh Hyatt.

Now a resident of Concord, Hyatt attended Belmont High School for two years before she and her family moved south.



On Saturday, Hyatt came back to her almost *alma mater* to perform as a member of the Granite State Disc Dogs, a trio of young female dog owners who put their pooches through a choreographed sequence of oooh-inducing canine aerial acrobatics.

Hyatt said she and her dog Clove, an Australian shepherd, have been working on their disc throw-and-catching for more than a year and, as part of the Disc Dogs in 2012, have traveled as far south as Maryland and as close as BHS for competitions and exhibitions.

As for being back at Belmont High, even if just for Old Home Day, "It's awesome," said Hyatt.

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