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Glory Days Patriotic spirit shines during rainy day of events

U.S. pride, traditions on display

By Rebecca Logan

Staff writer

Elements of Americana were once again on display in downtown Fayetteville on Memorial Day.

A steady stream of people made their way through several stops Monday, although turnout for the annual Glory Days celebration wasn't as high as it likely could have been had it not been for the weather.

The problem in the morning was some brief but substantial rain.

A crowd attempting to stay dry under some awnings groaned when a Del Shannon song blasted out over the loudspeakers. It was "Runaway," the one in which Shannon sung all about "walkin' in the rain."

Jeff Fetters sought refuge from the rain in his 1950 Ford, which he'd just finished waxing Monday morning before driving it in from Vander to be in the Classic Car Cruise-In.

And a tank full of goldfish suddenly seemed in their element as they swam uninterrupted during a brief reprieve from becoming game prizes.

By mid-afternoon, the rain had made way for humidity — the kind that prompted several attendees to suggest to the men dressed up in old military uniforms that they should take off their wool coats.

But despite all this, many people still enjoyed crafts, vendors, inflatable bouncy rides, carriage rides, live music and the bicycle races that sent cyclists speeding down Hay Street.

Ice cream appeared to be among the most popular food selections. Pies weren't moving particularly well.

But baseball was a hit.

At the SwampDogs pitching booth, Eric Dale managed to clock one at 43 miles per hour — no small feat for a 5-year-old.

And the displays of vintage military equipment drew quite a crowd.

"I like looking at this stuff," said Manley Yates of Fayetteville.

Last year Yates had a backyard cookout and missed out on Glory Days.

"This year we decided to skip the barbecue," he said.

Staff writer Rebecca Logan can be reached at loganr@fayobserver.com or 486-3582. Staff photos by Andrew Craft

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