

Market...continued from Page 1A

year we ended up serving more people than last."

In an effort to stick with all locally-sourced goods and promote local farmers, several vendors donated tomatoes for the sandwiches this year: 7M Family Farm, Freddie Collins Farms and Kathryn Litton. Sandwich bread was also a local commodity, with all 18 loaves donated by Logan Turnpike Mill.

Piled-high sandwich stacks sat atop the tables inside the Union County Canning Plant, lending themselves to a consistent line of patrons awaiting the juicy red and yellow tomato creations.

While some market-goers look forward to Customer Appreciation Day every year, others found themselves taking part for the first time.

Locals Albert and Martha Davenport have been going to the Farmers Market since it opened, but had never tried one of the famous Customer Appreciation Day tomato sandwiches until this year.

"Tomato sandwiches are one of my favorite foods," said Mrs. Davenport. "You've got to have the mayonnaise, though. I prefer yellow tomatoes. They seem milder. I think it's a wonderful thing that they do this at the market every year. It's so generous."

"If you ask me, we have some of the best tomatoes here in Union County. This is the first time we've ever eaten a sandwich over here - we just never took the time to. We would usually go home for lunch after coming to the market. But, we eat tomato sandwiches for lunch about everyday, so this is a real treat."

For those who found themselves in need of something other than a tomato sandwich, the market stayed busy bustling with plenty of other wonderful finds, especially at Murrell Crafts.

Ruth Murrell, owner of Murrell Crafts, has been selling her handmade goods at the Farmers Market for as long as the market has been open. Murrell offers a wide variety of hand-sewn quilts, pillows, potholders, aprons, hot handle holders (her biggest seller) and much more.

"My husband started going when they started having the market at the courthouse," said Murrell. "I started selling my crafts there and he sold woodworking, like his stools and such. When he passed away three years ago, my daughter took over his Saturday shift here."

"Then, after my daughter passed away, my

other kids told me that maybe I should take over Tuesday and Saturdays. I make all the crafts, aside from what my son-in-law and son makes. He makes the carpenter bee traps and the birdhouses.

"My son, he makes a different kind of birdhouse and the stools. Our stools are kind of our trademarks. My husband learned how to make those years ago, and we've had them for as long as we've been selling."

Aside from her wide array of homemade goods, Murrell always makes special orders for those who want a specific pillow, or even just a makeover for an old dishrag. Murrell can be found in the second market pavilion, and is more than happy to take care of any craft needs.

Next week at the Union County Farmers Market will be a day of learning with the market's first Georgia Mountain Research Education Council Day.

The Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center is part of University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

According to the center's website, the experiment station covers 415 acres in Union County that includes orchards, test plots, pastureland, historic sites, forests, and specimen and preservation gardens.

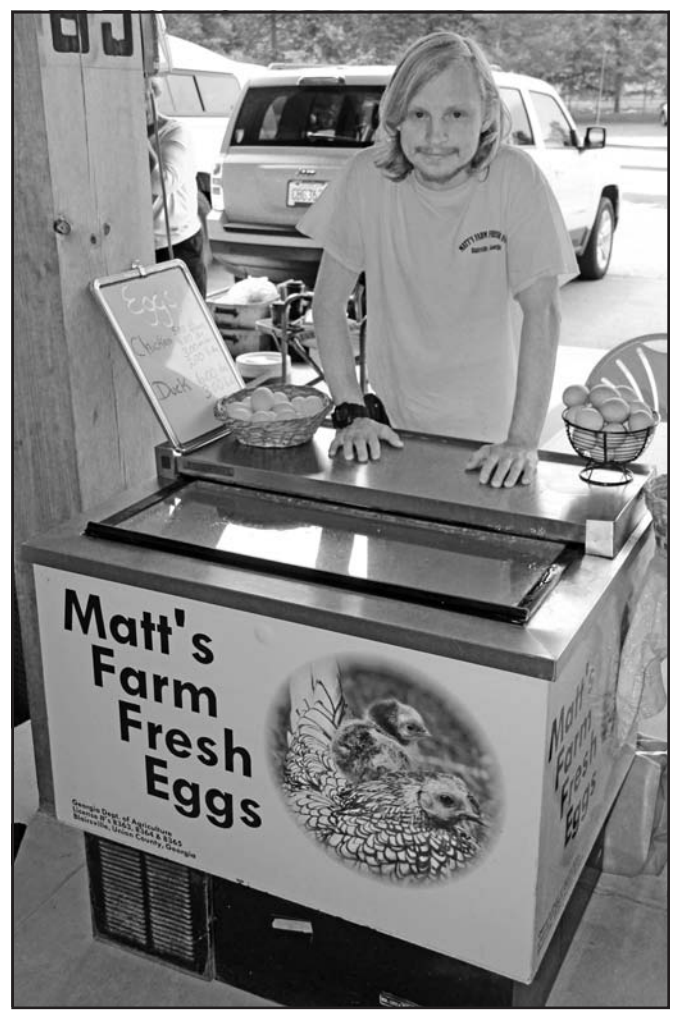
"The Georgia Mountain station is located about five miles south of town," said Cummings. "It's a day where they're going to come out and make people aware of some of what they do down there. They do some really important research."

"This is the only place in the state where they can do cold weather tolerance studies. They're going to emphasize what they do and make people aware."

"This year, we've been trying to do some things that really bring in as much of the community involvement as we can."



Sheila Ruud of Crooked Creek Farms speaks with customers about the healing properties of her handmade sinus tablets. Ruud can be found at the Farmers Market every Saturday, selling her handmade lotions, soaps and more



Matt McGillis is new to the Union County Farmers Market this year, and every Saturday and most Tuesdays he brings with him his unique selection of eggs that range in color from blue to black to copper and chocolate

Union General Hospital Auxiliary hosts Robin Gerard jewelry sale

By popular request from previous patrons, you don't want to miss this opportunity to visit Robin Gerard's jewelry sale, sponsored by the UGH Auxiliary. Two full days: Wednesday, August 17, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday, August 18, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sale will be located in the old lobby of the hospital, Deep South Farm Road side of UGH.

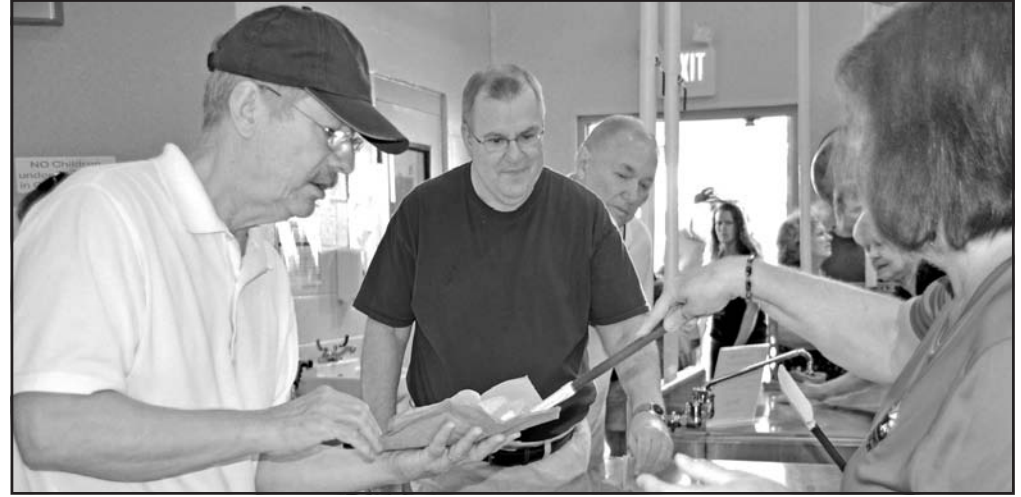
Buy any necklace and select a free pair of earrings - your choice! Come by to register for a drawing of \$75 in free jewelry each day! Prices start at \$5 and cash, checks, and all credit cards accepted.

Robin Gerard celebrates over 20 years in the fashion jewelry business. He has represented and worked with Givenchy, Calvin Klein, Karl Lagerfeld, Ann Klein, and Liz Claiborne. He has also represented the fashion houses of Nine West, Guess, and Walt Disney. His work has landed in most quality department and specialty stores.

In 2007, while on a design trip to Asia, he ingested a food borne virus which even-

tually rendered him paralyzed from the neck down and required an extended hospital stay and intense rehabilitation period. Guillian-Barre Syndrome did not stop him from eventually getting back most of his normal functions. But, with all life changing experiences he decided to leave the corporate world behind and use his experiences and artistic talent to bring the best quality fashion jewelry directly to you. Today Robin focuses mostly on fundraisers using his design talents to help others and non-profit organizations. He interprets current fashion and color trends in unique but understandable fashion jewelry pieces. Some of his favorite materials include turquoise, coral jasper, pearl crystal, and shell.

The Auxiliary will benefit from a percentage of sales and therefore continue to have funds to help with scholarships, needs of residents at the nursing home and other community projects. We always appreciate our community's support with our Auxiliary fund raisers!



Volunteers doled out more than 300 free tomato sandwiches during Customer Appreciation Day on Saturday, Aug. 6

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

SalonTru
Excellence in Organic Hair Care
706-781-3015 • 417 Blue Ridge Street
Book Online at www.vagaro.com/salontru
Susan Anderson • Glory McGinn
Lindsey Gaylord • Sarah Jane Serra
Valorie Carter • Sasha Watson

WAZOO! QUILTING
Longarm Quilting
Commission Quilts
Quilt Restoration
Quick Turn Around
Located in Blairsville, GA
706-781-1423

SHAWN'S HOME FURNISHINGS
Mattresses, Porch Rockers & More!
"From the Front Porch to the Back Door We've Got You Covered!"
568 Blue Ridge St. • Blairsville, GA
FREE DELIVERY! 706-835-1209
Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

Declare your financial independence. Call today.
Flip Varney
Financial Advisor
178 Brackets Way Suite 2
Blairsville, GA 30512
706-835-1385
www.edwardjones.com
Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

TOTAL RECOVERY
PAINT & BODY
(706) 745-9703
391 BLUE RIDGE HWY
ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED

Blue Ridge Painting Services LLC
Paint & Staining Specialist • 25 Years Experience!
10% OFF Any Interior Painting
with this Ad
Serving Towns, Union & Clay Counties
blueridgepaintingservices.com
706-970-1409

SOUTHERN STYLE SALON & BOUTIQUE
Misty Garrison • Lisa Harris
935 Murphy Hwy.
706-745-3378

Fresh Cuts All Natural Meats!
FARM FRESH PROCESSING
6310 Murphy Hwy., Blairsville
706-745-0027
www.farmfreshbeef.net
farmfreshprocessing@gmail.com

Southeast Geothermal & Spray Foam
706-745-8685
1442 Blue Ridge Hwy.
www.segeothermal.com
www.sesprayfoam.com

Horse Camp
Summer at Trackrock Stables
Daily or Weekly Beginning June 6
Get up to \$50 off!
706-745-5252
Complete hands-on experience with horses and riding. *See website for discount details. Advance reservations required.
www.TrackrockStables.com

AS PAVING DIVISION INC.
706-400-2988
DRIVEWAYS
PARKING LOTS
SUB DIVISIONS
TAR/GRAVEL
Commercial • Residential

Affordable **HEARING AID SOLUTIONS**
706-896-0051
Debra D. Spaulding
Hearing Instrument Specialist
411D HIGHWAY 515 • BLAIRSVILLE, GA

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!
Advertise with other Local Business here in the Blairsville area!
Contact Joe Collins
706-835-8769
or 706-745-6343

We Make Loans.
Personal Loans • Starter Loans • Consolidation Loans and more
www.1ffc.com
417 Blue Ridge Street, Suite 1
BLAIRSVILLE
706-745-6111
*All loans subject to our liberal credit policy and limitations, if any. 1st Franklin Financial Corporation, NMLS#141634, Georgia Residential Mortgage Licensee #5656.

Call us about our referral fee \$\$\$!
THE GARDENS APARTMENTS
150 CHARLIE CORN DR. • YOUNG HARRIS, GA 30582
1BR/1BA 2BR/2BA
SMOKE FREE COMMUNITY AT LEAST
1 HOUSEHOLD MEMBER MUST BE AGE 55 OR OLDER
Managed by **IMC**
For information please email gardensyh@invmtg.com or call 229-247-9956 • 762-349-1501

Blairsville Pressure Washing
Decks • Driveways • Single Level Homes
Ask for Chris (706)400-9824
Ask for Mallory (706)897-8297