

Dailey & Vincent LandFest lands in Hiawassee this week

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For the second year running, music fans of every stripe can look forward to attending the Dailey & Vincent LandFest in the Mountains at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

The music festival runs Thursday, Sept. 6, through Saturday, Sept. 8, and features enough high-profile acts to keep folks coming back all three days.

"We still have tickets available," said Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason. "We are getting close to being sold out, but we still have a few of the three-day reserved, and we have the three-day general admission, and the two-day and the one-day.

"But we've sold over 2,000 tickets for Thursday, over 2,500 for Friday, and then on Saturday, we've got over 2,300 sold. And both campgrounds are full, so we're putting people in the overflow."

The 2018 three-day show will feature the Oak Ridge Boys, Lee Greenwood, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out, the Booth Brothers, Mike Snider, Sideline, Rave and Red, The Harmans and of course, Dailey & Vincent.

"And we're real close to having the talent booked for 2019," said Thomason, already looking forward to next year. "We're going to finalize it this week, and we're going to put the tickets for the 2019 LandFest on sale while everybody's here this year. If you attend the 2018 LandFest, you can buy tickets for 2019 at a 20 percent discount.

"It's a unique event, and it gives you a little bit of comedy, a little bit of Gospel, a whole lot of Bluegrass and some Country. So, it's a mixture for everybody."

The LandFest used to be held in Denton, North Carolina, but it outgrew its original venue and moved to Hiawassee in 2017.

"We have a four-year contract with them, and hopefully we will continue that contract if we keep doing good and they keep doing good," said Thomason. "Something new that we're



Jamie Dailey, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason and Darrin Vincent at Anderson Music Hall in 2017.

adding this year, we have a few vendors that will be setting up around the outside of the music hall, and we're going to raise the doors around the music hall."

One of the many neat things about music festivals like the LandFest is that all the performers know each other, which makes for a close-knit continuum of experience between the shows.

"Dailey & Vincent, they're good guys, they're good friends of ours," said Richard Sterban of the Oak Ridge Boys. "And let me speak for all of the Oak Ridge Boys, I can tell you, we're looking forward to coming to Hiawassee, and we are planning on having a great time.

"We are going to do our best to make it a great night, we really are. We want to encourage people to come on out and see the Oak Ridge Boys. And when you see the Oak Ridge Boys, you know you're going to get a good family show, that's what we are.

"There's something in an Oak Ridge Boys show for every member of the family, from grandma and grandpa on down to young kids."

And as with every Oak Ridge Boys performance, Sterban said the fans can plan on hearing the hits, including their signature song, "Elvira."

"We're going to do 'Elvira,' and we're going to do 'Thank God for Kids,' which is a very special moment in an Oak

Ridge Boys show," said Sterban. "We're going to do 'Y'all Come Back Saloon,' our first hit ever, and a lot of the hits that we've had over the years.

"And we're very excited about our new project called '17th Avenue Revival,' produced by Dave Cobb, who is the most in-demand producer in Nashville right now. He's really a hot guy, and he produced this latest project, and we're very excited about the new music on the new project.

"So, we will include some of the new music from '17th Avenue Revival' in the show. We are also very, very patriotic guys. We'll throw in a song or two, we'll wave the flag a little bit, and we'll honor our country and our troops and our veterans.

"We appreciate this country that we sing in, and we appreciate the freedoms that we have to be able to do what we do, so we'll get a little patriotic, along with our Gospel music. In general, it'll be a great night of good Country music and good family entertainment."

Tickets are also still available to see singer-songwriter Corey Smith, a Georgia native, on Sept. 15 inside Anderson Music Hall. And the Kentucky Headhunters are joined by Artimus Pyle and the Georgia Thunderbolts on Sept. 22.

For more information and to purchase tickets, check out GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.



The Annual Union County Farmers Market Tractor Show is always a family-friendly event in the mountains.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Hall of Fame...from Page 1A

By Jarrett Whitener
North Georgia News
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Regular patrons and first-time visitors alike gathered at the Union County Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 1, for the Ninth Annual Tractor Show and Parade.

Many local farmers arrived early that morning to prepare their farm vehicles for the always entertaining show and parade, and the excitement built as each tractor owner registered to display their farming pride.

The tractors ranged from new to old and big to small, and included a variety of Ford, John Deere, Case and other classic tractor brands.

As the tractors lined up to prepare for the parade, hundreds of market attendees grouped around the pavilions ready for the show ahead.

With the start of the parade, many cheered their friends as they passed by on their tractors and waved to the large crowd.

More than 20 unique tractors joined the parade, the diversity of which offered parade watchers an agricultural glimpse through time, and each driver looped the grounds twice so attendees could examine the field-ready machines in motion.

When the parade finished, the drivers parked their

tractors and spoke with folks about their history.

All in all, the tractor show and parade served as a way to bring the community out to the Farmers Market with a fun event for all age groups to enjoy at the start of the Labor Day weekend.

"The tractor show serves as a salute to our farmers," said Market Manager Mickey Cummings. "I got the idea years ago at a festival, and I figured it would be a good way to bring people out and let farmers have a spotlight.

"It has been very successful in what we wanted to do with it, and we are very happy to see this turnout and the crowd loving what we are doing here."

Following the tractor show, the Union County Historical Society teamed up with the Farmers Market to induct two local farmers into the Union County Agriculture Hall of Fame.

"The Historical Society understands the importance of agriculture in Union County's past," said Society President Libby Stevens. "This community started from agriculture, and it's important for us to remember that."

The first of the farmers honored that day was Terry Queen, who influenced many local youths during his time as a

Union County FFA advisor.

"Terry really helped develop some farmers who have done great things for the community," said Cummings. "Without his coaching, some of these students may not have had the experience needed to be where they are today, and we thank Terry for that hard work he provided for the students and our community."

The second Hall of Famer to be inducted on Sept. 1 was Marion Todd, who served an important role in beekeeping for the community.

"He was the first in the country to present a project on honey bees during his time in 4-H," said Cummings. "He also helped create a resolution to the mite problems, which has been used across the state and a lot of the Southeast.

"This helped our community in ways many couldn't believe, and because of his work, we have honey bee farms and research done around the north Georgia area."

Marion Todd passed away on Feb. 29, 2008. He was the son of the Dahlia Man, Alvin Todd, who grew his famous dahlias out of Suches throughout the mid-20th century and was known around the world for his unique varieties.

All local Agriculture Hall of Famers are honored on sister plaques that are held at the Farmers Market and in the Union County Historical Society Museum.

Accident...from Page 1A



Union County Sheriff Mack Mason, center, with Blairsville Police, Union County Fire and Georgia State Patrol at the scene of the Sept. 1 accident on Murphy Highway.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

rest on the west shoulder facing south, according to GSP.

The Explorer traveled across the northbound lane, off the east shoulder of the road, then struck an embankment

where it came to rest facing south, according to GSP.

Telenko was airlifted to Northeast Georgia Medical Center, according to GSP.

After being extricated

from the Explorer with the Jaws of Life by the Union County Fire Department, Gibson and two juvenile males were transported to Union General Hospital, according to GSP.

The conditions of those involved in the accident were not known at press time, though none of the injuries appeared life threatening at the scene of the accident, according to authorities.

Georgia State Patrol, Union County Fire, the Union County Sheriff's Office, Blairsville Police Department and Union General EMS responded to the scene that day.

Some of the firefighters who responded at the Murphy Highway crash had been diverted to the scene while en route to a car fire on Gainesville Highway, and several more accidents occurred over the Labor Day weekend, according to authorities.

Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center Open House September 5th

Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center is excited to announce the upcoming Open House for our new location!

Our new office location is 136A Hospital Drive, Blairsville, GA. (Between the hospital and the cancer center.)

Please come by to join us Wednesday, September 5th at 11 a.m. and see our beautiful new office! Light snacks provided.

GMPC has been in operation for over a year now as a non-profit crisis pregnancy center serving in Blairsville and the surrounding areas. Our mission is to serve our community and provide free services which include: first trimester sonograms, pregnancy testing, counseling and educative sessions. We want to offer young women a variety of healthy options on how to handle an unplanned pregnancy.

Another part of what we do here at GMPC is provide primary prevention education for risk avoidance and unhealthy behaviors.

We are a 501(c)3 organization supported solely by donations from pro-life friends and churches. Call for information 706-745-0051. Check us out at www.gmpcpartners.org or like us on Facebook and Instagram! ©Sep5,2018