

Market...from Page 1A

Knight Farms, Crooked Creek Farm can be found nestled in Building A of the market, stocked to the max with homemade goat milk soaps, body butters, aromatherapy necklaces, sugar scrubs, lotions and much more.

For founder, owner and Foxfire Blends extraordinaire Sheila Ruud, soap making has been a part of life for as long as she can remember. In fact, she grew up watching her great-grandmother and aunt make soaps as a child and has

since continued the family tradition.

“My great-grandmother and my aunt used to make soaps,” said Ruud. “They would make it in the big pots outside. That’s how I got interested in soaps. Before I retired, I made soap anyway for my family but then after I retired, I wanted to start something else.

“So, I started making soap and then I got my goats, so I could make goat milk soap. Then I just branched it out into all of the other products that I offer now.”

Using a hot process to make her soaps – which speeds up the saponification process and creates a milder soap – Ruud’s products are almost entirely organic and are most certainly all handmade with plenty of skill and care.

“I like things all natural,” said Ruud. “And I think that’s what most of us want now. The majority of the things that I have are 100 percent all natural, but some of them aren’t totally because I have to use germ killer and stuff like that.

“This is sort of a family tradition to make soaps and lotions and I really enjoy getting to make something that’s all natural.”

Offering more than 40 different soaps and countless other lotions, scrubs and more, with plenty of seasonal goodies such as her pumpkin crunch soap, Ruud has something for every taste, from Patchouli to Lavender to Eucalyptus.

While Ruud enjoys making the soaps and creating new scent combinations, for her, it all boils down to producing something that can make someone else happy in the skin they are in.

“My favorite thing about making soaps is when someone comes in and says, ‘oh, my skin feels so much better,’” said Rudd. “The goat milk nourishes the skin and it offers a lot of vitamins for the skin. I love being able to help someone with the things that I make.”

Rudd and Crooked Creek Farm can be found every week at the Farmers Market, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. from now until Saturday, Oct. 28.



Fall is in the air, and on the ground, at the Union County Farmers Market. Photo/Lily Avery



Farmer Lee Knight had plenty of corn for sale at the Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Missing...from Page 1A

And once they have been forgotten, reclaiming the remains of these veterans is not an easy task, requiring the joint efforts, time and compassion of many individuals and organizations, including local, state and federal agencies.

Fortunately, that’s where the volunteers of the Missing in America Project come in.

In April, Poirier enlisted the help of local veterans’ organizations and other volunteers, along with the

Mountain View Funeral Home of Blairsville, to bestow Military Funeral Honors upon five such forgotten veterans.

“You served your country in the military through a war or peacetime,” said Poirier then, speaking of the languishing cremains. “You expected to receive a military funeral. Because of your commitment to our country, you expected no less. Instead, you reside on a shelf in a funeral home, or mortuary or storage facility.”

But thanks to the efforts of Poirier and the volunteerism of others with like mind and spirit, those five veterans are forgotten no longer, and have been respectfully interred at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton.

And recently, on Sept. 22, Poirier traveled to Macon with MIAP State Chaplain Loris Sinanian to attend the Georgia Coroners Association Fall Meeting.

Approximately 60 of the 300 coroners and deputy coroners in Georgia’s 159 counties participated in the meeting, and Poirier and Sinanian met with many attendees who were excited to hear about the Missing in America Project.

During the meeting, Poirier delivered the MIAP mission statement, and



Daniel Poirier of the Missing in America Project, Fanning County Coroner Becky Callihan and MIAP State Chaplain Loris Sinanian.

addressed veterans’ funerals and the long search for the cremated remains of veterans, while Sinanian talked about the Georgia code dealing with deceased veterans.

The two also touched on their great need for the assistance of those in the meeting, especially in acquiring information from counties south of I-20 to the Georgia/Florida line.

Poirier is confident that the labors of the Missing in America Project will continue to bear fruit, and the search goes on to find and honor forgotten veterans.

This weekend, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will be hosting a fundraiser for MIAP at Copperhead Lodge, on Oct. 6

and Oct. 7.

For more information on the fundraiser, which will feature a scenic mountain ride, live music, vendors, food, drinks, door prizes and more, contact Bandit at (803) 983-9307, by email at usaf2cop@aol.com, or check out the NGACombatVets Facebook page.

To date, the project has visited 2,147 funeral homes across the United States, found 15,265 cremains, identified 3,495 veterans’ cremains, and interred 3,205 veterans.

To find out how to volunteer with the Missing in America Project, contact Charlie Warthling at Harley4ever@miap.us.

Corn Maze...from Page 1A

October, weather permitting, families can head on over to the corn maze for a cool day of unique entertainment.

More than 100 volunteers have come together since April to get the maze ready for its primetime debut, and visitors will not be disappointed.

All information about the maze can be found at www.JDRCornMaze.com, but basically, the maze features three levels for varying ages: the Niblet, the Cobb and the Kernel.

The Kernel is for older kids and adults, and contains three miles of natural corn maze goodness to explore.

Located just outside Blairsville, about a mile from Wendy’s restaurant on Georgia 515, the Joshua Dream Ranch Corn Maze has a little something for everyone.

The Corn Maze, which is really something akin to an October festival, will feature a hayride, a raffle, and plenty of fun fall activities, including face painting, pony rides, a train ride, corn hole, pumpkin bowling, archery, animal petting and more.

Entry into the maze is \$10 per individual, and the hayride will be \$5 per ride, though kids ages 3 and under get both free.

Cash and credit cards are accepted, and for more detailed pricing information on activity bundles or group discounts for schools, churches, etc., check out the website.

“The Joshua Dream Ranch is a 501(c)3 nestled in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains,” according to the website. “We are the only ‘free’ therapeutic ranch that gives animal interaction and experiences to families, children and adults with special needs and those with life-threatening illnesses.”

Continues the website: “Our Corn Maze is designed as a fundraiser to support the ranch and our animals. We depend on our volunteers as we support families from all over the Southeast throughout the year. When you come to our Corn Maze, we want you to know that you are making a difference in so many lives.”

Come the end of October, the Joshua Dream Ranch Corn Maze will embrace the Halloween



The entrance to the corn maze, with a bridge over the Butternut Creek, located on Georgia 515 a mile up from Wendy’s restaurant.

holiday with “SpookTacular” events on Oct. 27, Oct. 28 and Oct. 31, from dark to 11 p.m.

Each “SpookTacular” evening will feature a Haunted Hayride and a Glow Maze in the corn, both of which promise to be spooky adventures in the spirit of good Halloween fun for the whole family.

Joshua Dream Ranch proprietor Gino Zalunardo and JDR Development Director Debbie Forcier-Lynn, along with all the volunteers who continue to come together in the name of the ranch, are extremely excited for the opportunity to provide such a unique family-friendly venue for the community.

Zalunardo said recently that special needs schoolchildren

from Union, Towns and Fanning County school systems will be visiting the maze for a special field trip, to explore the maze and enjoy all the activities for free.

Both Zalunardo and Forcier-Lynn are intensely passionate about the guiding light behind the ranch and the corn maze – Zalunardo lost his young son Joshua to cancer nearly a decade ago, and Forcier-Lynn’s 7-year-old grandson is currently battling the illness.

Along with maintenance of the ranch, proceeds from the maze will go toward expanding the ranch in both size and scope, which will allow Zalunardo and friends to continue “Building Champions” in the North Georgia Mountains.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US PG13

Starring Kate Winslet & Idris Elba
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH: 7:00PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 6:50, 9:20
SUN: 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 6:50 • MON - THUR: 1:10, 3:20, 7:00

BLADE RUNNER R

Starring Ryan Gosling & Harrison Ford
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH: 7:00PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 12:10, 3:30, 7:20, 9:10
SUN: 12:10, 3:30, 7:20 • MON - THUR: 12:50, 3:40, 6:30

A QUESTION OF FAITH PG

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10
SUNDAY: 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10
MON - WED: 1:00, 4:00, 6:40 • THUR: 1:00, 4:00