

# Henderson...from Page 1A

home began the afternoon of Wednesday, March 1, when he headed out of Atlanta to meet with about 10 patrol cars from the Union County Sheriff's Office.

His fellow deputies waited for him at the top of

the mountain, near the Union County line, in order to escort him across the county, through Blairsville, and into Towns County, where he resides.

As the procession pulled into the City of Blairsville and made its way down Cleveland

Street, Sheriff Mack Mason and his deputies turned on their sirens and lights to let everyone know that a VIP was coming through town.

Stacy Raper, mother of Henderson's girlfriend Kaley Raper, organized a special "Welcome Home" banner for Henderson that Wednesday, placed near the exit from Bob Head Street on Georgia 515 for Henderson to see as he drove by on his way home.

Gathering along the SR 515 Overpass, Stacy and several members of First Baptist Church of Blairsville, where she works, joined friends of Henderson and Kaley's, including Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris, in waving to Henderson as he headed home.

Along the way, officers from the Blairsville Police Department worked to clear traffic from the route, and the warm welcome continued as the procession moved into Henderson's home county of Towns.

Henderson lives in Young Harris, but he's currently staying in Hiwassee while his home undergoes a few renovations.

As the procession moved through Towns County, seemingly all first responders joined in to see him home.



This photo, contributed by a member of the community, shows the crowd of friends and loved ones gathered to welcome home Deputy Henderson at the Georgia 515 Overpass in Blairsville on Wednesday, March 1.

The Young Harris College Police Department, the Towns County Fire Department, the Towns County Sheriff's Office and the Hiwassee Police Department all chipped in to assist with traffic lights along the route.

And just after Henderson arrived in Union County, the skies at first opened, and then let loose.

"That's a testament to everybody who helped with the red lights, they stood out in the pouring rain," said UCSO

Lt. Daren Osborn, who led the procession. "Mitchell coming home is a big deal to us."

The Saturday following his return to Union and Towns, Henderson's family and friends threw a cookout in his honor, welcoming him home in a gathering of good food and fellowship.

Since the two communities of Towns and Union counties first learned of Deputy Henderson's accident last September, they have come together many times in

order to raise money to help Henderson's family be able to stay near him during his initial recovery stages.

Everyone has seen the #239 Strong shirts in support of Deputy Henderson, and fundraisers have ranged from a 5K "Turkey Trot" at Meeks Park to a motorcycle ride out of Hiwassee.

Again, the *North Georgia News* and the *Towns County Herald* would like to welcome home UCSO Deputy Mitchell Henderson.

# Corn...from Page 1A

Southeastern Farmer's Co-op.

Before lunchtime, Dr. Dewey Lee, a retired UGA professor and extension agronomist, gave general advice on growing corn, as well as specifics on what stages of plant growth to start treating for disease. Dr. David Buntin, a UGA professor of entomology, discussed pest management, pesticide usage and how to best combat certain insects that can damage crops, such as the brown marmorated stink bug that can cause lack of nutrients

in the plant when feeding.

Guests also heard from Dr. Bob Kemerait, UGA associate professor of plant pathology, who spoke about disease management during planting season and otherwise, providing suggestions on how to best identify and determine which diseases are infecting the crop. According to Kemerait, there are three different types of contagions that farmers in the region should monitor for: ear rot, leaf blight and nematodes.

While there are various strands of ear rot, each will result in decayed, molded corn and an unfavorable crop. Leaf blight poses a similar threat to the crop by causing red and brown lesions to form on the stalk and husk, eventually spreading to the cob itself. While both these diseases may seem difficult to manage, Kemerait suggested rotating crops as well as using resistant strains of corn for the season following an infestation.

This same method of treatment holds true for nematodes as well, though the damage produced by the nematodes varies depending on the field and region.

Finally, Alex Scheer, a plant nutrition representative from WinField, discussed the various micronutrients needed for corn production and provided information on the company's products concerning such nutrients.

A healthy corn crop requires attentiveness on the grower's part, both during the planting season and the off-season. The leaves, stalks and soil of each crop should be checked regularly in order to determine minor problems early on, before it becomes a serious concern.

According to UGA research, the best time to plant corn is when the temperature and moisture become favorable for seed germination and seedling growth, when the soil temperature is 55 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

However, planting should be delayed if cold weather drops the soil temperatures below 55 degrees, though if soil temperatures remain at or above 55, and weather forecasts show a warming trend, planting the corn is encouraged.

The next extension program will take place on March 14, for the Northeast Georgia Vegetable Production Meeting at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. Those interested can RSVP to the invite by contacting the Union County Extension office.



Farmers at the Feb. 22 event had the good fortune of eating a lunch catered by Jim's Smokin' Que.



Melissa Mattee, Union/Towns Extension Agent

## SMART Recovery program

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