

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



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

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. Guillain-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 talents to bring the best quality fashion jewelry directly to you. Today, Robin focuses mostly on fund-raisers 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!

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



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

Member SIPC



TOTAL RECOVERY
PAINT & BODY
(706) 745-9703

391 BLUE RIDGE HWY

ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED



**10% OFF Any
Interior Painting**
with this Ad

Serving Towns, Union & Clay Counties
blueridgepaintingservices.com

706-970-1409



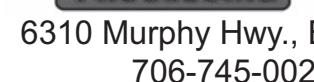
**SOUTHERN STYLE
SALON & BOUTIQUE**

Misty Garrison • Lisa Harris

935 Murphy Hwy.

706-745-3378

Fresh Cuts All Natural Meats!



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



**Daily or Weekly
Beginning June 6**
Get up to \$50 off*

Complete hands-on experience with horses and riding. *See website for discount details. Advance reservations required.

706-745-5252

www.TrackRockStables.com



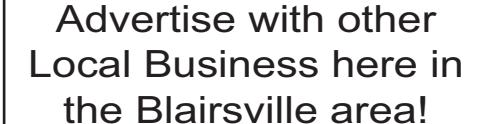
**SC PAVING
DIVISION INC.**

706-400-2988

DRIVEWAYS
PARKING LOTS
SUB DIVISIONS

TAR/GRAVEL

Commercial • Residential



Advertise with other Local Business here in the Blairsville area!
Contact Joe Collins

706-835-8769

or 706-745-6343



Personal Loans • Starter Loans • Consolidation Loans and more

417 Blue Ridge Street, Suite I

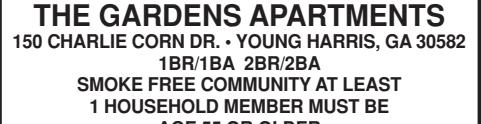
BLAIRSVILLE

706-745-6111

*All loans subject to our liberal credit policy and limitations, if any. 1st Franklin Financial Corporation, NMLS#141654, Georgia Residential Mortgage Licensee #5656.

1st Franklin Financial

Serving One Neighbors Since 1941



150 CHARLIE CORN DR. • YOUNG HARRIS, GA 30582

SMOKE FREE COMMUNITY AT LEAST

1 HOUSEHOLD MEMBER MUST BE AGE 55 OR OLDER

Managed by

IMC

Industry Management Company

Energy Star

EARTH DAY

ADA

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL gardensyh@invmgmt.com OR CALL 229-247-9956 • 762-349-1501



Decks • Driveways • Single Level Homes

Blairsville Pressure Washing

Ask for Chris (706)400-9824

Ask for Mallory (706)897-8297