

# Hall of Fame... from 1A



The Annual Tractor Show at the Farmers Market is sponsored by the Georgia Farm Bureau. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Bradley.

The induction was held shortly after the Annual Tractor Show and Parade, sponsored by Union County Farm Bureau, which also served as a way to highlight the importance of local farmers and the business of agriculture in the area.

"This is just another way for us to highlight farmers," said Mickey Cummings, market manager. "I saw one at an expo several years ago and thought, why not bring this to the Farmers Market, and we've been doing a show and parade ever since."

As for the inductees, a finer group of farmers could not have been chosen.

Ronnie and Janie Dyer farm dairy cattle, pigs, chickens, hay and more at their family operated 67-acre farm, Mountain View Farm. Members of the Dairy Farmers of America, the Dyers have operated one of the largest dairy farms in the North Georgia region for more than 25 years and each year, Mountain View Farm manages more than 180,000 chickens annually.

Supplying the area with fresh, locally raised beef, pork

and chicken, locals can purchase products from Mountain View Farm at the Farmers Market or at the farm store, Southern Mountain Livin', which recently celebrated its first anniversary.

Joe Gray, the next recipient of the Hall of Fame honor, is a lifetime farmer in Union County, where he has raised various livestock and produce over the years. Gray truck farmed for 25 years, raised cattle for 50 years and hogs for 35 years, with each batch of hogs maxing out at close to 400 at a time.

While raising hogs, Gray would grow between 6,000 and 7,000 thousand bushels of corn each year to feed the hogs with, using a method of farming known as no till corn production. No till is a type of farming where only a small percentage of the land is disturbed to plant in and is often practiced as a way to conserve soil.

Gray has been a long participant of the natural resource conservation service in the county, where he encourages no till farming and similar conservative farming

practices.

Last, and certainly not least, to receive the 2017 Hall of Fame honor was Beverly Bradley, who represents another side of farming, horticulture. Part of the green industry, Bradley sells various types of plants and offers landscaping both commercially and residentially.

For 33 years, Bradley has been a landscaping contractor in the county as Beverly Bradley Landscape Design, formerly A Touch of Color, where she has been involved in landscaping projects at Union General Hospital properties, United Community Bank and several local resorts.

In addition to her countless landscaping projects, Bradley has also volunteered her time and skills with several community organizations to help keep Union County beautiful.

"This really means so much," said Bradley. "Thank you so much."

Each of the 2017 Hall of Famers' names joined a list of a select few on a plaque honoring like-minded individuals who have made a difference in

## Raven and Red in concert at the Old Courthouse

Once again the Union County Historical Society gladly welcomes Raven and Red back to The Old Courthouse on the Square for a concert on Friday, September 8. Their musical heritage comes down from at least three pioneer musical families of Union County: Collins, Parker, and Townsend.

Raven and Red is an award-winning acoustic music duo formed by lead singer/guitarist, Mitchell Lane, and fiddler/singer, Brittany Jones. Both graduates of the School of Music at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Mitchell and Brittany are well versed in Classical repertoire and enjoy combining these techniques in their songwriting, recordings, and live performances.

Their individual musical accomplishments provide the inspiration to creatively compose outstanding lead and harmony vocals with lyrical instrumental melodies. They strive to reach audiences through their original approach to Folk, Country, Americana, Celtic, Bluegrass, and other styles of acoustic music.

In 2014, Raven and Red released their debut EP,



Raven and Red

Live In The Studio, featuring a handpicked selection of the most popular songs performed at their shows. The Nashville, TN duo has performed hundreds of concerts at various festivals, venues, and events throughout the U.S. This season has seen them performing again at venues from New York City to Nashville, TN.

Raven and Red are very excited to include Mitchell's brother, Cole King, as a band member on mandolin and vocals.

In addition to their current repertoire, the group has expanded into the Celtic music genre with recordings and live performances, headlining several top festivals showcasing Scottish and Irish music.

There is no admission charge to concerts presented by The Union County Historical Society. The musicians donate their time and talents. Voluntary contributions to the maintenance funds are always welcomed and appreciated.

## Blue Ridge Cattlemen updated on toxic vegetation

A wet year followed by a drought year followed by a wet Spring – this is the challenge of ranchers working to provide quality forages for cattle. Compacted earth resulting from weather conditions has created an environment where weeds flourish. This was one of many topics Dr. Zager of Ocoee Animal Hospital of Blue Ridge shared with cattlemen.

Dr. Zager spoke about toxicity in plants effecting cattle including seed heads of dallisgrass which can now be found in pastures. He also addressed wilted leaves of wild cherry trees/limbs, acorns, persimmons, and plants of the Ericaceae family including azaleas, rhododendrons and mountain laurel. Through proper education and pasture management, ranchers control these toxic plants. Additionally, Dr. Zager gave an update on rabies, vaccines, and other animal health topics. Dr. Zager also shared exciting information about new leadership interests in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, including food animals.

Dr. Zager has been with Ocoee Animal Hospital since 1979. He has worked in every department at Ocoee, but his current responsibilities are predominately in large animal medicine and surgery (cattle, horses, llamas/alpacas, goats,



Dr. Zager speaks to cattlemen. (sheep, swine).

Dr. Zager has been a frequent speaker at Blue Ridge Mountain Cattlemen's meetings. He has been GA Cattlemen's Association Veterinarian of the year in 2010 and has an office named for him at the Georgia Aquarium. Dr. Zager was honored as a Distinguished Alumni by the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 2012.

Rhonda Mathews the Young Farmer Advisor provided cattlemen with an impressive update of activities at Fannin County High School. Rhonda has been the Agricultural Education teacher and FFA advisor at Fannin High for 14 of her 28 years as a teacher. Cattlemen were interested in the significant training opportunities she has plans to offer in her new role.

This chapter meeting's location and dinner was spon-

sored by Cohutta Country Store of Blue Ridge. Owners Laurie and Jim McClearn are cattlemen and association members.

Richard Myers, Association President, of Young Harris presided over the meeting.

If you are involved in the cattle industry and would like to attend a meeting, contact President Richard Myers at myersgogators@windstream.net. Members of the Blue Ridge Mountain Cattlemen's Association reside in Towns, Union and Fannin counties in GA and Clay and Cherokee counties in NC. The chapter is affiliated with the Georgia and National Cattlemen's Association and promotes conservation and improved land and cattle management and cattle health through its programs. Such practices ultimately improve the consumer's beef experience with a focus on quality, value, and nutrition.

agriculture development for Union County. The plaque will be on display in the Historic Union County Courthouse as well as the Union County Farmers Market.

"A lot of people may not think about the history of agriculture and how it impacts an area, specifically this area," said Lamar Paris, Union County Sole Commissioner. "We want to continue to promote agriculture in Union County and encourage our young people to get involved and continue with it."

"Thank you to everyone who is involved with it. It is truly an honor."