

# Farmers Market...from Page 1A

Needless to say, ramps are a local favorite, and since 2020 Ramp Day had to be canceled due to COVID-19, the 2021 outing on the first day of May is sure to be extra sweet – and spicy – for guests and vendors alike.

Farmers Market Manager Mickey Cummings and Assistant Manager Kristy Peney are incredibly excited to be hosting the event again this year, though the setup will be different from recent memory.

“You can’t take a plate and go up and get fried potatoes or blooming ramps like we have in the past,” Cummings said. “What we’re going to do is give away some door prizes at the top of every hour. Those door prizes are going to be related to ramps – ramp jelly, ramp salsa, ramp pesto. We’ll give away those things

that have been processed in probably half-pint jars.”

Cummings and several volunteers head out a week or two before the annual event to gather up ramps growing in the mountains, and he said the market will have a few ramp plants to give away to folks in addition to the pre-packaged ramp door prizes.

And though it’s still a tad early for many agricultural vendors, people will also be able to buy some local produce from a select few growers who keep greenhouses.

“Strawberries will be here, too,” Cummings said. “Those will be imported because the strawberries up here aren’t ready yet. And we’ll have cold, hearty things – lettuces are ready, and some of those real early greens are ready.”

Added Cummings, “And

this year, instead of giving away ground beef like they’ve always done, our Blue Ridge Mountain Cattlemen’s Association will be giving out prepackaged meat sticks; a donor has purchased those for the Cattlemen’s Association.

“So, they’ll give away meat sticks and some of their beef recipes, and you can ask questions about cattle production in the area, because May is National Beef Month.”

The cattle industry in Union County is worth upwards of \$1.5 million a year, Cummings said, noting that Ramp Day will be a great opportunity for people to learn more about local cattle farming.

For the event, vendors will be required to wear masks as a precaution against COVID unless they have a barrier in place or are socially distanced

and there were no problems in the open-air venue.

“It’s going to be safe this year, and we’re going to continue to make this place as safe as possible for the public,” Cummings said. “We treat Ramp Day as a dry run or a dress rehearsal for the Farmers Market, where we’re just trying to get people back in the groove

again coming out. So, we want people to come out and enjoy themselves.”

The Farmers Market regular season opens the first Saturday in June, and then every Tuesday and Saturday thereafter through the end of October. And people can check out the Canning Plant starting July 6.

# Hanna...from Page 1A

Charges were quickly filed against Hanna in connection with the initial victim, Foos said, and he was taken into custody and transported that same evening to the Union County Jail, where he remained without bond at press time.

Last week, subsequent investigation and a forensic interview with the younger sibling turned up even more testimony of abuse, which Foos said resulted in additional felony charges being filed against Hanna for a total of six.

Hanna has a history related to this type of crime, UCSO Lt. Daren Osborn said. Osborn is another member of the Criminal Investigations Division.

“We really don’t know how many times he’s done this, and here’s the kicker – we think there’s more victims out there,” Osborn said.

Foos and Osborn encourage any victims of abuse – past or present – to reach out to the Sheriff’s Office at 706-439-6066 to speak with

an investigator. The same applies for family and friends of children suspected of being abused, with the Sheriff’s Office asking people to report such abuse.

“If anybody is a victim of any crime or knows somebody who is and needs to report it, please call us,” Osborn said, to which Foos added, “Regardless of if it will warrant an arrest, it will still be investigated.”

Hanna has been charged only and is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

# North Georgia Chamber Symphony May concerts



The North Georgia Chamber Symphony will perform in Blairsville May 7.

# Build a Bed for Towns/Union 4-H

Earth Day on April 22 is the perfect time to start your own small raised bed garden at home. The University of Georgia, Towns/Union Extension, and Hamilton Gardens are providing the opportunity for you to have a ‘hands on’ experience learning how to build a raised bed. Better yet, you can pre order one to take home this very day. The beds are 4’ x 4’, unassembled, and small enough to fit in your car. Space is limited so please pre-register for either the educational portion on how to build and/or to pre-order your take home bed.

All proceeds from a pre

order purchase (\$40) goes to support the Towns/Union 4 H Clubs. Join us for a great learning opportunity at Hamilton Gardens on Thursday, April 22 @ 10 a.m. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today by calling the Union County Extension Office @ 706-439-6030 to register and pre order. CDC guidelines for social distancing and masks will be followed.

Hamilton Gardens is located at the top of Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Enter from US 76, make the first right turn and come to the very top parking area. For more information call 706-970-0011.

The North Georgia Chamber Symphony is proud to present three live concerts in May. Social distancing will be practiced at all events, and extra masks will be available.

Blairsville, Friday, May 7th, 7 p.m., Meeks Park, New Pavilion, Free.

Dahlonega, Saturday, May 8th, 7:30 p.m., Hancock Park, Free (Bring lawn chairs or blankets to Hancock Park).

Gainesville, Sunday, May 9th, 6:30 p.m., Atlanta Botanical Garden Gainesville. Tickets \$10 on sale at ABGG website.

This concert is given in honor of philanthropist and supporter of the arts Lessie Smithgall.

An exciting duo, Anastasia Petrunina and Denis Petrunin, has joined us for this program. Our opening piece is Astor Piazzolla’s Fuga y Misterio, arranged by Denis, for violin, vibraphone and string orchestra. Georges Pelécis’ Blossoming Jasmine follows, with the same soloists. Denis and Anastasia created the duo ViMaDeAn at Yale in 2010 to expand the repertoire for violin and percussion, working closely with living composers. Anastasia is the concertmaster and Denis is the principal timpanist of the Augusta Symphony.

Dag Wirén’s Serenade for Strings, a four-movement serenade brimming with cheerful optimism and a March as its final movement is next.

Celebrating Americana are Aaron Copland’s Prairie Night and Celebration from Billy the Kid, Tamborito from Danzas de Panama by William Grant Still and Leonard Bernstein’s Danzon from Fancy Free.

After a medley of James Bond themes, The Armed Forces Tribute and John Phillip Sousa’s Stars and Stripes Forever complete the program.