

Mountain Heritage Festival September 3rd and 4th



The Union County Historical Society will be celebrating its annual Mountain Heritage Festival this weekend at The Museum of Mountain Life. Activities will start on Saturday morning, September 3rd and conclude Sunday evening, September 4th. The Mountain Life Museum is located one block south of The Old Courthouse on the Square on the Cleveland Street (19/129S).

The Butt/Mock House, built in 1906, is an example of an upscale house of the period in which it was built. It has been refurbished and furnished as it might have been at the time when electricity became available, the early 1940s. There will be several activities and demonstrations going on, in and around the old landmark.

Farm buildings, representative of local farms in the 1800s, have been recon-

structed on the grounds. All of the buildings were original to Union County. The Payne cabin (dwelling) is the centerpiece. There is also a blacksmith shop (Duncan-Gillespie), corn crib (Byers) and barn (Mauney).

Ongoing each day will be demonstrations of early life in the county. Some of these include spinning, quilting, buttermilk churning, basket weaving, chair building, etc. Mrs. Cindy Rafter will be cooking on the old fireplace in the Payne cabin.

Live farm animals will be on hand to photograph and pet. Several activities are planned for children of all ages such as gold-panning, face painting, and storytelling. The side porch of the Mock/Butt House provides an excellent stage for the live music that will be going on both days. A large tent with chairs will be in front of the stage for shade and

keeping dry in case of rain. In addition to the Mountain Life Museum, The Old Courthouse on the Square will be open as well as the refurbished Haralson/Carr Law Office. Both are within walking distance, and there will also be shuttles running both days.

There will be plenty of crafts and other local goods offered for sale by the many vendors. These include many good edible delicacies and canned goods. The Mountain Heritage Festival is noted for the quality of the merchandise from its vendors.

There is no admission charge to the festival or any of the other venues of The Union County Historical Society. It is all part of the society's mission to show and help people understand the bygone days in Union County and this mountain area. We hope to see you at the Mountain Heritage Festival.

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women who are pregnant. Catching the virus itself can result in either no symptoms or mild symptoms, such as fever, rash and joint pain, and the long-term effects of the virus are not presently known.

Not all is doom and gloom concerning the virus, however, and Union and Towns Ag Agent Melissa Mattee says that people shouldn't panic about Zika.

"I really don't think we're going to get mosquito to human transmission up here," said Mattee, who has bachelor and master's degrees in entomology and did lab research on mosquitoes at the University of Georgia. "There aren't enough mosquitoes and there aren't enough people."

As with most things in life, preparedness is essential in staying ahead of the curve, and Mattee urges everyone to know the proper prevention protocol for Zika, which can be implemented anywhere

residents travel.

"The only way to really prevent it is to prevent mosquito bites, so don't have any standing water around your house, and if you do have birdbaths or something, clean them out once or twice a week, because mosquito larvae take about seven to eight days to mature," said Mattee. "Get rid of tires, get rid of trash, dump out kiddie pools, anything like that."

"Planters, even, don't overwater your plants to the point that water stands in their tray or their pots. Mosquitoes can breed in half an inch of water, so it doesn't take that much at all. Rain barrels are okay as long as they have a lid, but a lot of times their lids will have a lip around them and will still collect water at the top. So just look for the little wriggling larvae."

"Wear insect spray when you go out. I know DEET is really effective. There are also some natural

alternatives, mainly extracts from eucalyptus are very effective."

Mattee also suggests long sleeves and pants for people who are going to be outside, and added that mosquitoes hate heat and smoke, which is good news for people cooking out. Mosquitoes are also particularly weak fliers, so sitting outdoors with a box fan is a good way to enjoy a worry-free porch excursion.

There are several species of mosquito in the area, not all of which carry the Zika virus, though Mattee said that it's important to protect against mosquito bites even if Zika weren't a concern at the moment.

"My worry with this is that people are going to start to forget about the dangers of West Nile and other diseases that are more common here," said Mattee. "Zika is pretty much travel-related, but because we have so many people that overwinter in Florida, it's also important for us to keep in mind to protect ourselves, too."

Storytelling...continued from Page 1A

homemade blackberry and peach pies with ice cream and freshly brewed coffee as the group sat on the screened-in back porch of the Sid Chandler home, enjoying the breathtaking view of the mountains.

The Lifseys recently restored the Chandler home, which was built in the 1840s by John and Sarah Butt.

"The first house here was two rooms down, two rooms up and a kitchen," said Marion Lifsey. "If you walk around the house, you can see which rooms are the originals because of the pine boards."

"It stayed in the Butt family, passed down throughout the generations. Around 1900, someone must have been very prosperous, because he enlarged the house. There aren't any records except for looking at dates."

"We think Eugene Butt was the one who enlarged it because he seemed to be very active in the community as a commissioner or something like that. It was passed on from him to one of his daughters in the early '30s."

"Something went wrong at that point and she lost it in a bank foreclosure. Three years later, my mother and father bought it."

Marion's family first moved into the house when she was a child in 1935, and it has been in the family ever since. Though Marion's family owned the home, they rented out the rooms after the family moved to Athens in 1939, resulting in many people within the community having lived in the house as well.

The night of storytelling began with memories of the beautiful Chandler home, those in the group sharing the oldest story they could muster about any time they had spent at the



Mary Carol Akins, with her husband Bud, reminisces about her days spent in the Sid Chandler home. Bud and Mary Carol were part of a group who got together at the home on Tuesday, Aug. 23, to talk about the good old days. Photo/Lily Avery

house throughout the years.

"I think I might have been about three years old," said Marion Lifsey. "My oldest memory is when the man came in to put in the electric, and he was walking around in the attic, putting in the wires. I thought it was so strange for someone to be way up there. This would have been '38, and Blairsville first got electricity in '36."

With the mention of electricity came the spark of recollections throughout the years, from memories of the first time someone saw a light bulb, to tying logs onto vehicles to use as brakes while coming down a mountain, to the old service station in downtown Blairsville.

Lifelong Union County resident Bud Akins shared one particularly humorous story of his grandmother first getting electricity in 1944, when the family lived in Gumlog. According to Akins, the cost to get power installed back then was only \$1 a day, plus

dinner.

"It was something else to see the light come on," said Akins. "The guy installing told my grandmother that he was going to put in a plugin so she could get a refrigerator."

"She told the guy no, that she had a good spring box to keep her milk, butter and everything in, and that it was just fine. Well, he put it in anyways and sure enough, within two years she had herself a refrigerator in the house."

The storytelling lasted on up into the night, with everyone there smiling, laughing and enjoying reliving cherished memories of long-ago.

While those who inhabit the memories may be gone now, the act of retelling will forever keep the people and their stories alive. Oral histories are not lost because they are never written down; they are simply remembered in hearts and minds rather than on paper.

Watermelon...continued from Page 1A



Harold Berry, Gary Wendt and Janie Collins placed in the Top 3 at the 2016 Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest. Photo/Lily Avery

First Place went to Gary Wendt, who spit a resounding 24 feet 2 inches. Wendt was the last contestant to spit and even surprised himself with the high number.

Harold Berry came in a close second with his seed, which reached 22 feet 7 inches. Third Place was presented to Janie Collins, who spat an impressive 17 feet 9 inches.

Elsewhere in the market, a somewhat new vendor, Brothers On Farms out of Hayesville, North Carolina, sold USDA organic certified grass fed lamb, shiitake mushrooms, fresh oils and many other delicious organic treats.

"The whole business started when my sons were about 10 and 11," said Susan Ward, owner of Brothers On Farms. "They wanted to stay on the couch all summer and play video games, but we said nope, and decided to start a project. We started off inoculating logs and selling them at the Farmers Market."

"From there, we started selling the mushrooms, and then we got into the lamb. Now, we have a greenhouse where we grow organic vegetables, mainly garlic and peppers since they go well with the lamb."

"We do really well here. It's funny, because one week we'll have an explosion of all the mushrooms being sold, and the next week we'll sell out of the lamb."

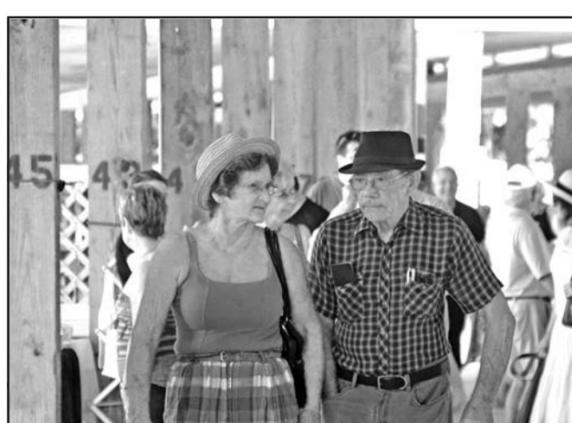
"I don't like to compete with the other farmers - we all need to make a living, and I'm glad that we can offer something that no one else is."

While Ward is a huge supporter of organic farming, she says that it's not because she thinks traditional farming is harmful, but rather she felt there was a higher demand for it in today's society.

"I'm not anti-traditional farming, but organic is what I prefer to use, and it seems to be what consumers demand," said Ward. "I just think it's better for you. In this society, we're



Some say it's sweeter than the red, but Market Manager Mickey Cummings says this yellow variety tastes just as good as any. Watermelon Day was Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Union County Farmers Market. Photo/Lily Avery



This couple, like many others, bought some fresh produce at the Union County Farmers Market last Saturday. Photo/Lily Avery

attacked by so many different things that are not natural. If you put natural things in your body, I think you're just going to be better in fighting off all the other unnatural substances."

Next week at the market will be more than just fun and games, as the market puts on its Sixth Annual Salute to Farmers Day. During the event, one special farmer will be chosen as this year's Agricultural Hall of Fame inductee and will receive honorable mention at the market on Saturday, Sept. 3.

"We take applications every year, and the (Union County) Historical Society judges those applications," said Cummings. "What we're looking for is a farmer, living or deceased, who's had a significant impact on agriculture in this county."

"I think we have three or four applications right now, so we'll just see how the judging goes next week. The winner will have a plaque with their name on it here at the market and another at the Historical Courthouse."

Osborn...continued from Page 1A

by William Simmemon, 56, of Alto, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Simmemon also died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. Dwayne Osborn's passenger, his wife, Vivian Osborn, 54, of Hiawassee, was injured and transported to Northeast Georgia Medical Center, according to GSP.

Afterward, Vivian Osborn was released from the hospital and allowed to return home, where she was recovering from injuries as of press time.

The crash happened at 7:25 a.m. on Cleveland Highway/Ga. 11, according to GSP.

GSP responded to the crash at 7:25 a.m. on Cleveland Highway, south of Walden Pond Road. Simmemon was traveling northbound on Cleveland Highway in a Mitsubishi Gallant in a right-hand curve as Dwayne Osborn was headed southbound in a Ford Escape.

"Vehicle 1 (Simmemon) failed to maintain his lane of travel and traveled into the southbound lane into the path of the (Ford Escape)," according to state patrol.

Dwayne Osborn was a lifelong resident of Towns County and worked for and retired from the Georgia Department of Transportation. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon.

He is survived by his loving wife Vivian Adams Osborn of Hiawassee, mother Veta Mae Osborn of Hiawassee, two sons and one daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Stephanie Osborn of Young Harris and Ryan Osborn of Hiawassee, grandchildren Alexis Nicole,

Griffin, Bobby Taylor, Eddie Bradley and Rita Bradshaw.

The following gentlemen served as pallbearers: Kevin Holcomb, Edwin Adams, Kevin Hunter, Ken Hunter, Brent Osborn and Kevin Thomas. Honorary pallbearers were Garry Holcomb, Bert Rogers, Doug Rogers, Alden Hunter, Frankie Burden, Bryan Osborn, Eddie Osborn, Tyler Osborn and the deacons of Macedonia Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Macedonia Cemetery Fund in memory of Dwayne and Walter Osborn. Banister Funeral Home in Hiawassee had charge of all arrangements.

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