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people are enjoying it, and I just hope everybody can get something they like."

Mike and Jan Ziegenbein left the market happy with several lovely floral arrangements from Mike Clark of English Country Gardens out of Hiawasse, and they liked the ramps and eggs, too.

"We're big fans of the Farmers Market, so every opportunity we come here," said Mr. Ziegenbein. "We come here for the fresh vegetables and to see what's new that crafters are doing. And we always like to see Mike and look at his flowers and buy flowers from him."

The Ziegenbeins live in Cumming and have their second home in Blairsville, and Mrs. Ziegenbein added that "any time we're up, we try to make it to the Farmers Market."

Will and Jennifer Kerr of Mountain View Farms got a kick out of the festive atmosphere of Ramp Day at the market, and they brought a new offering of their own. Mountain View Farms is known for its fresh eggs, milk and produce, and now, they're



A cast iron skillet of Fried Ramps and Taters. Photo/Travis Kerr

known for their fresh meats.

"This is our first year with fresh meats," said Mrs. Kerr, pointing out that they grow their own corn to make feed and don't use any commercial fertilizer. "We have the animals slaughtered and we sell it all natural. It's USDA-inspected beef, pork and chicken."

Mrs. Kerr was especially excited on Saturday because, for the first time since last market season ended, she

said she was able to offer all-natural products to her market customers, and by extension, the people of Union County and surrounding areas.

To get to know other market vendors, make sure to attend the annual Strawberry Day/Beef Appreciation Day on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Union County Farmers Market.

The grand opening for the market will be Saturday, June 4.

Health Fair ...continued from Page 1A

longer worry about breathing. We focus on circulating the blood with chest compressions."

Derrick Moody of Air Life was on hand to discuss the free Medical Helicopter Family Memberships that were arranged in a joint partnership between Union County and Union General Hospital. And there's still time to sign up for that free insurance, with applications available at the hospital and library, and even online, with a deadline of May 15.

Several services are new to Union General and were on display for the fair, including the wound care center, which will soon be opening with its hyperbaric chamber to encourage wounds to heal faster and better.

There is also a new plastic surgeon in residence,

Dr. Edwin C. Pound, who said he does it all - from reconstructive surgery to cosmetics and everything in between.

"It's just a good thing for the public," said Hospital CEO Lewis Kelley, discussing the fair. "A lot of people can come by, get tested at a real reduced cost. We always find somebody during these health fairs that is in bad shape and needs immediate assistance. So it's a good public service, and we like showing off our hospital, and we like telling people about what we can do."

UGH Chief Nursing Officer Julia Barnett coordinated the event, which featured dozens of vendors and hospital staff, plus hundreds of dollars in medical testing savings for the average would-be patient.

"We want to provide

services for people that might not otherwise get them done," said Barnett. "Our staff volunteers, physicians volunteer, so it's 100 percent volunteers, everybody that's here providing these services for the community today."

Linda Maddox, who said she's attended the fair every year for going on four decades, visited this year's fair with her two daughters, Emily and Star.

"It's a lifesaver," Maddox said of the fair. "It enables me to get tests done and checks that I otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to do. And it's all consolidated so that I can come to one place. They're all very helpful, they're friendly, it helps people be aware of things, and I even learned a couple of things today that I didn't even know anything about, so it's educational also."

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