

# Hall of Fame...from Page 1A

of the trio of 2015 Hall of Famers, and he attended the ceremony with his wife Sue, and had many more family members in tow.

A lifelong educator and lover of farming, Collins sold produce with his son Bill at the family grocery store on the Nottely River.

"One of the main reasons Mr. Collins was inducted into the Hall of Fame was his contribution to agriculture," said Cummings. "His contribution was that when he was elected school superintendent, he resurrected the canning plant. He bought new equipment so the canning plant could begin operation again, and without his efforts in the 1970s, there would be no canning plant because we would have forgotten about it."

For 42 years, F.E. Dyer

ran a general country store for which he grew produce and sold seeds and many other staple products, such as flour and lard. Dyer was one of the first farmers in Union County to grow bell peppers, served on the Union County Board of Education for decades, and he is remembered as a kind man who often sold goods to farmers on credit.

The Union County Agriculture Hall of Fame is a bit of a Dyer family tradition, as F.E.'s father, Jewell Marion Dyer, and his grandfather, Francis Jasper "Bud" Collins, were inducted in years past.

"I really appreciate people remembering him," said Tim Dyer, F.E.'s son, who grew up in his father's store and farmed with him until he passed in 2009. "It's easy to forget people from

the past, and we need to remember the people that really brought our county to where it is today. He helped a lot of folks out, and of course, a lot of people helped him out, too, through the years."

Zed Seabolt would be 105 years old if he were alive today, and he is perhaps best known for his sorghum syrup, which he sold in several states and as far away as Virginia.

"One of the first visits I made in Union County was out to Zed Seabolt's place, and when I went down there, he said, yeah, you're the county agent, come on up here," said Cummings. "I went up and sat down and talked with him and his wife, and we never talked about farming. I just sat there and listened to Mr. Seabolt talk, and he treated me like long

lost family, and that's the type of person he was."

Seabolt's niece, Pat Seabolt Holbrook, was in attendance that Saturday, and was proud to see her uncle honored.

"I've got a lot of fond memories of Uncle Zed," said Holbrook. "We used to go up there and play and work and strip cane."

Seabolt's three sons - John, Jerrell and Ray - produce sorghum syrup in the county today, and they are gearing up for the Blairsville Sorghum Festival that starts the second weekend in October.

Each of the 2015 Hall of Famers' names joined a select few others on a plaque honoring individuals who have been instrumental to the agricultural development of Union County.



# Caught...from Page 1A

window in the front of the house," Lt. Osborn said. "It was basically blowing with flies. The front door was locked; the side door was not locked. When she opened that door, of course she noticed a horrific odor."

"She went in, cleared the house, found the body and backed out of the house," Lt. Osborn said. "Deputy Carnes realized something was suspicious. Mr. Siggers' truck was gone, and he hadn't been in contact with his relatives. She contacted our Criminal Investigations Division."

Union County sheriff's detectives soon arrived at the scene. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Scene team was summoned, Lt. Osborn said.

"The GBI Crime Scene team arrived and began processing the scene," Lt. Osborn said. "By midnight, early Thursday morning, we had developed a person of interest and a possible murder weapon."

That person of interest was Dohnert, who authorities learned had been living with Siggers. With a mountain of questions still to decipher, Lt. Osborn said that contact was made with Dohnert's family in Rabun County.

"They told us they had spoken with him in the past couple of days and that he was staying at a motel in Moultrie," Lt. Osborn said.

A call to Colquitt County determined that Dohnert was indeed in Moultrie at the Moultrie Inn. A check with the

Rabun County Sheriff's Office determined that Dohnert had an outstanding warrant in that community.

Colquitt County arrested Dohnert on the outstanding Rabun warrant, Lt. Osborn said.

Sgt. Hammond and GBI Special Agent Couch set out for Moultrie. By 7:30 a.m. Thursday, they had a murder confession from Dohnert, Lt. Osborn said.

He was returned to Union County Friday afternoon, along with Siggers' stolen truck, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

Prior to leaving Union County, Dohnert pawned several of Siggers' possessions including a utility trailer, a Cub Cadet lawn mower, an air compressor and a skill saw, Lt. Osborn said.

Dohnert has a long list of burglary, forgery and theft convictions in Stephens and Rabun counties. He was paroled in 2011 from Spaulding County Correctional Institute, Georgia Department of Corrections records show.

Memorial services for Siggers are planned for Saturday, Sept. 12 at noon at Meeks Park. The family will meet with friends following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to help defray expenses in Randy's memory at an account at United Community Bank.

Mountain View Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tractors...from Page 1A

Along with Best in Show, the winner of Judges Pick won \$125, which was the top dollar prize of the five awarded. Kim and Kathy King of Calhoun walked away with the Judges Pick Ribbon for their 1937 Unstyled A John Deere tractor.

The show is up from six participants last year, and the tractors this year ranged from vintage collectibles with the 1937 John Deere all the way to a brand new John Deere with the bells and whistles.

"We've been trying it in various places," said Tim Dyer, president of the Union County Farm Bureau. "We had it uptown last year, and we didn't have a very good turnout, so we brought it back to the Farmers Market and had another good show. We do this to try to promote agriculture, and of course, Farm Bureau.

"We don't have anything finalized on it yet, but next year we're going to try to have this in April and have a swap meet for people who are interested in antique tractors and farm equipment and parts. That way, they can try to find parts for their equipment for restoring."

Hundreds of Farmers Market guests and customers lined up to watch the tractor parade as it made several laps around the market, and young and old alike were delighted with the various makes and models of tractors, and the smiling, waving drivers.

Market Manager Mickey Cummings highlighted this year's overwhelming youth participation from the Union County FFA, and Union County agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor John Clark Pettit announced Saturday, Nov. 7, as

the next FFA Blue and Gold farm equipment auction.

Other awards won at the Sixth Annual Tractor Show were: Smallest Running Tractor, Ethan Plott of Blairsville; Biggest Tractor, John Clark Pettit; Most Unique Tractor, Truett Blackwell of Morganton; Best Restored Tractor, Luke Stewart of Morganton; Oldest Running Tractor, Dakota Collins of Blairsville; Best Used Tractor, Andrew Collins of Blairsville; Honorable Mention, Billy and Janet Stiles of Murphy, North Carolina; and Honorable Mention, Don Cady of Blairsville.

Cady's entry, a red 1952 Farmall Super M, certainly turned heads on Saturday, and he's looking to sell if anyone is interested.

"I'll probably be here next year," said Cady. "I don't know whether I'll have an-

other tractor or not. I might have that one yet if it doesn't get sold. I enjoy the show. Being a farmer at heart, to me, it's really interesting."

Cummings thanked the events sponsors before announcing awards: Union Realty, United Community Bank, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Nelson Tractor, Farm Bureau, Rick's Rental, King Ford and the Farmers Market.

And even though he didn't end up winning a Blue Ribbon, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris proudly drove his tractor around in the parade.

"Thank everybody for participating," said Commissioner Paris. "I really want to thank the Farm Bureau for making this possible. This has really gotten to be a great event, and I think it'll only grow to be better."

# City...from Page 1A

had had with members of the church he attends concerning the officers conducting traffic into and out of the restaurant parking lot during its opening days.

Mayor Conley said that he informed these concerned residents that Chick-fil-A had hired the off-duty police officers - and off-duty county deputies - to work traffic at the site, and that neither the city nor the county was footing the bill for traffic control.

Blairsville Downtown Development Authority Program Manager Darren Harper informed the council that the pre-construction meeting for road construction on the Haralson property had been held, and that work would begin soon. The project is on hold until a surveyor marks

off wetlands to be avoided and protected throughout construction, which should be completed in the coming days.

The council voted unanimously to approve a contract with the GDOT to rehabilitate the south apron of the Blairsville Airport. The total cost of the project, including engineering fees, is \$870,585.55, of which \$783,527 will be federally funded, with \$42,642 in state funding coupled with a local match of \$45,416.55.

After approving the GDOT contract, the council voted unanimously to execute a contract with Colwell Construction Company for the airport rehab project in the amount of \$802,842.15, contingent upon review of the contract by Blairsville City

Attorney Janna Akins.

Mayor Conley also discussed with the council his recent trip to the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Convention in Savannah, where he took a class on Civics for Local Governments.

"When I first saw the title of the class, I had something else in mind besides what the class was really about," said Mayor Conley following the meeting. "What the class was really about was councils opening their meetings with an invocation and a pledge."

Mayor Conley suggested a procedure to be adopted by city council to allow for an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance prior to each monthly council meeting, and city council voted unanimous-



**Mayor Jim Conley** ly to authorize Attorney Akins to prepare documentations for these procedures for further review.

Councilmembers also received copies of the Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget for their review, and were informed that the 2016 budget was less than the previous year, and remained under \$4 million to run the city.

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