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will be a guest speaker. He will discuss the Best Ways to Obtain High Yields with your Corn Crop. The meeting will have a sponsored meal. Also, participants will receive 1 hour of credit toward pesticide recertification.

Second, if you are a produce grower/farmer the Farmers Market will begin taking applications for reserving spaces for the 2013 season on March 1. Farmers have the

first opportunity to reserve a booth for the 2013 season. The cost for a season reservation will be \$209. To reserve a booth go the UCFarmers-market.com website to obtain a registration form. Complete this form and return it to the County Commissioner's Office with your check. Farmers have until March 15 to RSVP. You can also pick up a form at the Extension Office.

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the support posts do not encroach the stream bank you can build a deck over the water but remember it is limited to a total size of 100 square feet (10' x 10'). This is a one-time buffer encroachment for minimum land disturbance and any additional land disturbance will require a buffer variance from EPD unless the land disturbance use is for agricultural gardens.

Q. Does the county go around looking for violators of these stream buffer regulations?

A. No, 90 percent of all violations are turned in to the county or the state Environmental protection Division (EPD) by downstream property owners. The first sign that there is a problem upstream is when either debris or mud is seen in a stream. It is virtually impossible to get away with violations undetected.

Q. Are there any other stream buffers located along streams we should be concerned about other than the 50-foot wide trout water buffer and the 25-foot wide state water (warm water) buffers?

A. There is one additional buffer and it is called

the "water supply watershed protection buffer." This buffer (corridor), 50 feet wide for residential and 100 feet wide for commercial on either side of the stream, includes all streams within seven miles upstream from a public water intake. The only public water intake is owned by the City of Blairsville and is located about three miles south of Blairsville just off Highway 19/129 South. This buffer basically covers all streams in the Notely River Watershed South of Owtown. All of these stream buffer rules are state law and the county has no discretion and only EPD can give variances on these streams.

Remember, for guidance on what can and cannot be done around a stream, please contact our Land Development office at (706) 439-6057 or call the Commissioner's office at (706) 439-6000 and we will put you in touch with the correct office. We cannot cover every detail of the law but have tried to give you general guidance on what can and cannot be done around streams. I hope the five Q & A series on stream buffers has been informative even though it can be a little confusing.

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Union County students.

So I would end with these suggestions. Exercise both your right and responsibility by getting to the polls for the March 19 special election. Secondly, while I plan on voting YES, I would only ask that you educate yourself on the benefits of renewing

the E-SPLOST and then you make a well-informed committed decision in the voting booth.

The misguided politics of "NO" has no place in Union County.

**Patrick Malone
Blairsville**

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this country and traveled back across the Atlantic Ocean to Ireland.

Heading east from Ireland to the Mediterranean Sea you'll arrive at the land of my ancestors, Sicily. Sicilians celebrate St. Joseph, husband of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the patron saint of the family. His sainthood is celebrated at the spring equinox (March 19). At one time, the Feast of San Giuseppe, as he is called in Italy, was an Italian national holiday. St. Joseph's feast day is still celebrated with families gathering together to create enormous buffets for neighbors and friends. The table is said to overflow with an abundance of food that the Father of the Holy Family provides.

St. Joseph's Day is a feast of bread. The traditional St. Joseph's bread is beyond description. The texture and the taste is so imbedded in my gusto gemma (taste buds), I actually will drool if we talk about it for any period of time. Just like a St. Patrick's Day feast isn't just corned beef, San Giuseppe is not just about the bread. But you'll have to wait till next week's article to hear more about those delicacies.

This week, I'm giving a shout out to a dear lady I met in the locker room at the pool this morning. She was so

kind to share with me that she a loyal reader of this column. She's also the one who gave me the inspiration to write today's article. Then she shared a recipe for a great easy, Irish Soup to accompany any St. Patty's Day feast. It's key ingredients are made out of two of the most prolific crops we sell at the Farmer's Market, spring through fall, Kale and Sweet Potatoes.

Here's what you'll need:

- 1 quart chicken or vegetable broth;**
- 3 cups water;**
- 1/2 tsp salt;**
- Peel 2 pounds sweet potatoes or yams, cut into 1-inch cubes;**
- 1 clove garlic, minced**
- pinch of cayenne;**
- 1 large bunch kale, washed and chopped into 1-inch pieces;**
- salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste.**

Bring it all to a boil. Simmer until the sweet potato is fork tender. Serve piping hot. Low-cal, fat-free, full of nutrition and flavor. What's not to love? Or, there is one thing. Remember that there aren't any snakes in Ireland? Well, seems that there aren't any orange potatoes, either. Only white ones. Be sure to stay tuned for my Sicilian feast memories, next week.

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Disney First Baptist in Oklahoma; Big Lick Baptist in NC; Flintstone Baptist in GA; Cash Baptist in Mississippi; Occupy I Baptist in LA; Knob Noster Baptist in MO. And then there is Bugtussle Baptist in Oklahoma. I would like to know where that name originated. Over the years I have visited some Baptist churches that if named properly would have names like the "Unfriendly Baptist Church," "Only Kin Folk Baptist Church," "Don't Care What the Bible Says Baptist Church," the "Applause Baptist Church," the "Non-Appraise Baptist" and the "We've Never Done It That Way Baptist Church."

Most churches do a wonderful job in representing Christ. The most important part of the name is "Church." Every member in every church needs to remember that Christ is the Head of the Church. As followers and disciples of Christ we are called Christians who are to reflect the attributes of Christ. In this mixed up, dark, sinful and corrupting world, each church and each church member needs to be light and salt.

No matter your church's name. Make sure that you demonstrate the love, mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Williams

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job posting board on our Web site. Members who are hiring are able to post open positions on our site. If you are looking for a job, be sure to check back from time to time to see the latest openings.

e-Newsletter Subscriptions – Did you know that the Chamber offers a variety of e-newsletter subscriptions to keep you informed of community happenings? From our Web site, you can enter your e-mail address and customize your selections. Subscriptions include a weekly local events e-mail, a seasonal festival and events e-mail, and a business and information e-mail. Choose one or choose them all! These can be used to plan your weekend, send to friends who are visiting, or include as part of your personal blog. The more you use and share, the better for everyone.

Business Directory – This is probably the one with which you are most familiar. Through our welcome center, online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com and in our printed community magazine, we offer you a listing of our fantastic member businesses so that you need not look any further to find your next vendor.

Events Calendar – One of the most inclusive and thorough online events calendars can be found on our Web site. Step out and experience the community in a new way by finding your next activity.

Itinerary Building – This is another one of my favorites. Did you know that we are great at helping you plan your next "staycation" in Blairsville? With new businesses opening all the time, no doubt there are things to see and do right here in Blairsville that you've never experienced. Ever been to Misty Mountain Model Railroad? Have you explored the new Byron Herbert Reece Farm and Heritage Center? Does an Alpaca Farm peak your interest? There are tons of activities for families, couples, and individuals, and we'd love the opportunity to help you plan.

Live Chat – Technology loving residents, this one's for you! Have a question about a local business, local event, local anything? Our Web site live chat instant messaging feature allows you to

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allow them to see an itemized budget before they vote on it, and certainly before they vote to increase school tax again.

Even though they elected a Democrat to lead them, whether the three Republicans board members realize it or not, they now own the responsibility for any and all actions taken by the Union County School Board, including any tax increase. They have run, but they cannot hide from the responsibility they have undertaken.

**Sincerely,
Robert K. Honea,
Blairsville**

chat directly with a Chamber employee and get answers to your burning questions.

In addition to these great offerings, the Chamber is also an all around great source for area maps, newcomer information, Blairsville-Union County souvenir t-shirts and postcards. If we can assist you in gaining access to any of the above information, please go to VisitBlairsvilleGA.com, call us at 706-745-5789, or e-mail me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



February 13th
In memory of
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Meeks
by Ginger & Terry Meeks

February 14th
In memory of
Frank Shuler
by Betty J. Shuler

In memory of
Dr. Sid Williams
founder
Life Chiropractic College
by Dr. Dennis and
Cindy Mae Tidwell
**Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493**

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com	
Wednesday, February 20	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
2 pm	Friends of Union County Library Meeting - NGTC
Thursday, February 21	
8 am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting – Cooks Country Kitchen
12 pm	Rotary Club of Union County – Cadence Bank, 2nd Floor
2 pm	The Cat in the Hat Visits Union County Public Library–Library Community Room
5 pm	Tacos & Trivia – Union County Community Center
6 pm	Union County Lions Club – Steve's Steakhouse & Cookie Jar Restaurant
Friday, February 22	
10 am	Sisters in Faith - February Meeting – St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
7 pm	Bingo – Union County Community Center
Saturday, February 23	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6:30 pm	Good Neighbors Auto Club – contact Marcus Tuschel @ 706-835-9010
Monday, February 25	
9 am	Nail Art Basics – NGTC
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting – Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
2 pm	Chamber Ribbon Cutting for Waffle House – Hwy 515
6 pm	Gluten-Free Living - NGTC
Tuesday, February 26	
8 am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting – Cooks Restaurant
Wednesday, February 27	
11 am	Chamber Ribbon Cutting for H & H Variety Sales–Victoria's Center
12 pm	Misty Mt Quilters Lunch & Learn Program – Library Community Room
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane