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ing their money elsewhere. The idea for the Farmers Market was ingenious, and the construction of a new local cannery is just as brilliant. The whole concept teaches us that we can be self sufficient. That we can survive hard times and still keep our dignity. That word dignity was evident at the Market on Saturday. I saw a lot of proud folks selling their produce and goods. Where there is economic vitality, the word dignity can't be too far behind. I saw young children helping their parents at the Market. There were lessons in life being learned at the

Market and people were interacting with people. Young people were learning lessons that they will tell their grandchildren about. It was a sight to see. And yes, it was like a walk back in time. I felt 40 years younger on Saturday, and I have stories that I can share with others for a lifetime. You too can experience the Union County Farmers Market and harness new life experiences that you can share with others for a lifetime. The Market is open on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come on out, you'll be glad you did.

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must make cuts or be forced to totally limit spending the remainder of the year. If it is bad enough, we let them know they could lose employees.

Q. How often do you have a problem with a department overspending their budget?

A. It is very seldom and they are willing to do what it takes to bring the budget back in line. Some items are hard to plan for. For example, the recent drowning in Lake Nottely and subsequent recovery effort created an approximate \$10,000 unbudgeted cost to the county for both the EMA, Fire and Sheriff's Dept. , not to mention the thousands of dollars in donated labor from the dog teams and diving teams from other areas. The expense is well worth it, but most people do not realize that these funds must come from the taxpayers.

Q. What are some of the advantages of reexamining the budget each year also referred to as zero based budgeting?

A. Efficient allocation of resources, as it is based on needs and benefits rather than

history of what was done in the past; encourages departments to find cost effective ways to improve operations; detects inflated budgets; increases staff motivation by providing greater responsibility in decision-making; increases communication and coordination; helps identify and eliminate wasteful and obsolete operations.

Q. Has Union County been successful in our budgeting process?

A. Absolutely!!! We have maintained a balanced budget for all 11 years I have been in office. Our current budget is \$70,000 lower than it was in 2007, over five years ago!!! During this time, most everything used by the county has increased significantly in cost, including food for the jail, gasoline and diesel, asphalt, gravel, office supplies, medical insurance and the list could go on and on. We have our department heads, elected officials and employees to thank for this outstanding service to the people of Union County, while at the same time maintaining one of the lowest property tax rates of any county in Georgia.

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up his collards. The ground hogs would dig deep holes in a corn field which could cause an unsuspecting horse or mule to break its leg. Papa said? "Bowser was a great ground hog dog. All I had to do was dig out the hole of the ground hog den and expose the critter. Bowser did the rest." The dog would then go into the hole and stick his exposed nose into the den of the ground hog. The ground hog would bite onto the nose of Bowser and get pulled from his lair. Bowser would then crush the ground hog with his powerful jaws.

A few years later my grandparents married and had two sons. Papa still had Bowser who had become very old for a dog. So, one day the family acquired a Jack Russell Terrier, named Job, which turned into a very good squirrel dog. Daddy said, "Early one June day we found the den of a Ground Hog and Papa began digging out the critter. After digging a little ways the ground hog was spotted. But, before Bowser could be called Job jumped into the hole and the ground hog jumped all over the little terrier. That's all it took, Job

jumped from the hole and ran to the house yelping at the top of his lungs." Papa laughed and called Bowser. Slowly but surely Bowser walked to the hole and dispatched the ground hog with one bite.

You are probably wondering how I can relate this story to the Farmers Market. The best I can do is to say that Peaches are now on sale at the Farmers Market. Ray Long, Jason Clemmons and Jason Derreberry all have peaches for sale at this time. Michael Clark and Ray Payne have some annuals, perennials and nice shrubs for sale.

Freddie Collins has some nice squash. Willy Kerr has some beautiful broccoli. Phil Phillips and Clyde Woody have both greens and onions.

Ricky Sullivan has some cabbage, potatoes and squash. While Roger Gerber has some nice garlic.

There are also some crafts being sold. Finally, the Green Bean Festival will be held on July 28th at the Farmers Market and if you are interested in being a vendor you can go to greenbean-festival.com to find out more information.

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ety who are advocating doing away with a national Father's Day or Mother's Day because it offends children who have two moms or two dads! Indeed, the roles of men and fathers have been muddled by a Godless society. Any man or father who lets society tell him who he is will be bumfuzzled from the cradle to the grave.

The Bible says "God created them, male and female created He them." And may I add that all the king's horses and all the king's men will never change that. God has a Divine Design and the father has been blessed with the precious privilege to be the head and leader of the family. Fathers, read the Bible and know who you are, not by society but spiritually through

God's revelation. God bless you dear, Godly fathers. May the humor from a young boy brighten your Father's Day.

"When Pop's down at the office, he's a mighty 'portant guy, he growls his orders, loud and fierce, an' makes his 'poyees fly. He's yessed by all, just like they think, whatever Pop does is right. When Pop's down at the office, he's a man of main and might. But when Pop's home, he's diffirunt; he hasn't much to say. An' does just what mom tells 'im, an' does it my mom's way. Mom contradicts him quite a bit, An' keeps Pop on the hop. He's a "big shot" at the office, But at home he's just a "pop."

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business information arises. Annual events are held to inform members firsthand of local, regional, state, and national happenings.

Strength In Numbers

There is strength in numbers. A unified voice is much louder than that of an individual.

By being a member of the Chamber, you are part of one of the largest collective pro-business voices in the county.

We work for you behind the scenes every day in the areas of economic development and government affairs to ensure Blairsville-Union County remains a great place to live, work, and play.

And The Bonus

We know how important the bottom-line is to you. As a Chamber member, you can tap into significant savings from some of our members who provide programs for products and services you need.

Today, you can start saving 3-5 percent on your health insurance with Auto Owners or Blue Cross Blue Shield or 7.5 percent

on your worker's compensation insurance. Additionally, membership dues are tax-deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense for federal income tax purposes. Please note however, dues are not considered a charitable tax deduction.

To recap, Chamber members can advertise to many target audiences via the Chamber's membership directory, website, and weekly e-newsletter to name a few.

Numerous sponsorship and cooperative opportunities are available throughout the year to send your business message out to an audience of Blairsville-Union County's citizens and fellow business owners/managers as well as the 1,000s of visitors that travel through our beautiful area each year. Joining the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce can mean big returns for your business.

For more information on becoming a member call (706) 745-5789.

I can be reached any time at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

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community for all its support.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the

Mike Sims

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from the 75 percent share of the TIA tax \$25 million for the 129/Murphy Highway project estimated to cost \$50 million. Union will have to make up the other \$25 million from local funds. The only other project Union County has on the project list is \$725,408 for the Glenn Gooch By-Pass paid for by the 75 percent TIA share during the 1-3 year cycle of the tax.

In order to get the expected revenue to be collected, the state economist has projected our Region 2 will collect tax revenues with an increase at a rate above 6.5 percent every year for 10 years straight.

The state economist has projected Region 2 (our region) will have the highest percentage increase in tax revenue every year in the State for the TSPLOST tax; more than the Atlanta region, more than the Savannah Region, more than all Regions. Banks will not make predictions like this and give you that kind of percentage on your savings, responsible financial advisers will not guarantee you those kinds of percentage increases today.

The 1-cent tax collection will not increase more than 6.5 percent every year for 10 years straight.

From June 2011 thru May 2012 Union was refunded \$3.4 million on the 1-cent SPLOST tax.

The 1-cent TSPLOST tax would be even less because of special interest exemptions, i.e. gasoline, Manufacturing energy use, etc. which amounts to over 13 percent off that \$3.4 million SPLOST tax.

Union would need over \$1 million more next year in tax rebates to even get to the \$4 million needed to match the state economists prediction of reaching \$40 million over 10 years. That's not going to happen in the economy we live in today where all indications point to a slow recovery over 5-10 years.

Proponents for this tax say get informed about this tax.

I say the same, and when you do you will be able to make a decision based on real knowledge not by me and not by those who gloss over the pitfalls of this tax.

Mike Sims, Blairsville

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

	Every Monday:	
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	Noon
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	St. Francis of Assisi	Noon
	Third Monday of each month:	
High Country Artisan	U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 pm
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211	Blairsville Airport	7 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Prostate Cancer Sup.	U.C. Cancer Center	5 pm
	Third Tuesday of each month:	
UC Anti-Drug Coal.	Conference Room	Noon
American Legion, Aux	Civic Center	7 pm
Chatuge Gun Club	Senior Center, Hia.	7 pm
UC Homemakers	Dooley Chapter	Noon
	Third Wednesday of each month:	
Blairsville Garden Club	Location not listed	1 pm
Friends of the Library	Library Com Room	2 pm
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota	Cadence Bank	7 pm
	Third Thursday of each month:	
Jaycees	Fort Sorghum	7:30 pm
Good N'bers Auto	Meeks Park	7 pm (May-Sep)
Tip-off Club	UC High School	7 pm
UC Saddle Club	Arena Clubhouse	7 pm
Commissioner's Meet.	County Courthouse	6 pm
UT Home Builders	Moschetto's	6:30 pm
Shape Note Music	Old Courthouse	6:30 pm
Kinship Care	Civic Center	Noon
MOPS	First Baptist Church	6 pm
	Third Friday of each month:	
No activities listed		
	Third Saturday of each month:	
Blairsville Cruisers	On the Square	4 pm (Apr-Oct)