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Honaker, the gunner for Franklin, always brought up the rear of the patrol in their MP Humvee.

"The lights stopped working on the squad leader's vehicle," Honaker said. "Bobby was the assistant squad leader and we ended up moving to the front. The lead vehicle went to the middle, and the middle vehicle went to the rear."

The MP patrol hit the streets, and had been out on patrol for 20 or 30 minutes. They circled the area and were returning back to the base area when they spotted something in the roadway.

"We couldn't tell what it was, but it was so nasty over there, and so much junk was laying around, and there was nothing to indicate that this was an improvised explosive device," Honaker said. "We're in the lead, heading back into the populated area. We were on a divided four-lane, Bobby saw the junk in the road; one thing you don't do is straddle something like that."

"Bobby moved the Humvee over so the junk was on our left side," he said. "Just as we got up next to it, I was scanning the tops of the buildings and the bomb went off," he said.

Franklin's foot instinctively nailed the gas; the Humvee struck a concrete Iraqi police stand head-on. The next few moments were chaotic, Honaker thought he had climbed out of the gunner's turret.

"They told me I fell through it and came out the side door," Honaker said. "My ears started ringing and they haven't stopped to this day. It got deathly quiet, I knew my legs were hurting, my back was horrible."

"I went over and checked on Bobby. He was laying on the ground, blood was coming out of his mouth. I prayed for Bobby right then and there. Everything started happening real fast," he said. "I was looking around to see if we were set up for another attack and I realized I was bleeding from my side."

"My legs started hurting and I started getting real dizzy. "The next thing I know, they had called in a Med Evac," Honaker said. "They flew Bobby and me out on two separated helicopters. I found out the next day that Bobby didn't make it."

"Not a day goes by that I don't remember him and remember Aug. 20, 2003," Honaker said.



Iraq war vet Chuck Honaker during his tour of duty in Iraq.

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Of course there was a lease agreement or two. First with Union County and Ninth District Opportunity to lease office space at Haralson Memorial Civic Center through June 30, 2013, and a local share agreement with Union County and Legacy Link. The local share to operate the Union County Senior Center in 2013 is \$90,244.

Commissioner Paris then turned his attention to the Scouts, announcing their presence and why they were there. He felt the need, because usually, young boys with time on their hands aren't spending that time at boring government meetings.

Paris opened the

floor to questions. Scout hands went flying upward. The question? What does the commissioner do? Trouble shoot, delegate and make sure the ship is steered in the right direction, to paraphrase Commissioner Paris.

"The commissioner oversees the day-to-day operations of the county government," Paris said. "The other elected officials, they're the boss over their own employees, except for their budgets. Their budgets come through my office, we're basically responsible for all the money."

The county is obligated to keep the government budget process balanced each year.

"You've got a stack of

money over here called revenues, a stack of bills over here that those dollars are obligated to," Commissioner Paris said. "Our job is to keep both stacks at the same height. No more, no less. That's what we call balancing the budget."

The Scouts seemed interested and observant, they also were anxious to pose for a picture with the commissioner. Mission and goal accomplished.

"I look forward to seeing you boys come back and learn what goes on here," Commissioner Paris said. "It's important to learn the government process. I'm proud you were here tonight."

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popcorn, lemonade and balloons for the kids, Leone said.

The harvest season, Cummings said, is yielding an abundance of vegetables. The Farmers Market also has attracted a number of vendors selling their locally made wares at the Market.

Brian and Tammy Mason were selling freshly cooked pork rinds as fast as they could make them.

Ronnie Dyer was on hand selling ice cream after ice cream. The unseasonable warm temperatures made selling ice cream a profitable venture. For Dyer, it's a family affair that includes his wife and grand children. One thing's for sure, it's family fun, adventure and now a family tradition.

Freddie Collins' Farm was sold out early, as was the cabbage and broccoli grown by Willy Kerr. Dot Patterson, the "Blairsville Maid," was



Brian and Tammy Mason make pork rinds. Photo/Charles Duncan

selling her jams, jellies and relishes as quick as she could unload them out of her vehicle.

Harold Berry was smiling as he sold and sold and sold his home harvested honey.

Turner of course, was doling out her Spa Creations.

And Patrick Malone and his wife wanted to make sure everyone knows the raffle tickets they're selling at the Market are for the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Cummings said that the size of the crowd at the Market grows with each week.

"We had a great crowd here today," Cummings said. "I think it's busier today than it has been since any day since we've opened this year. I don't know exactly how many people are here, but we got busy real early and it hasn't let up. I think if you counted everyone that was here to day we had way more than 4,000 people here today. "A lot of people are selling out early," he said. "I really think we'll have more people next week. I said we'd have corn this week and I've had two or three people say they'll have corn next week. Freddie Collins and Jason Derreberry both say they'll have corn next Saturday. "Willy Kerr said he wouldn't have any corn until July," Cummings said. "There are one or two others who say they expect to have corn ready next week."

Cummings said green beans are coming in, tomatoes are coming in and there's plenty of squash, cabbage, broccoli, onions, cucumbers and radishes.

The Market will have its Grand Opening next week. Tomatoes, corn and green beans are the produce highlights of the week. "We're hoping to have our tomato day on July 7," Cummings said. "That remains to be seen at this time. We're hoping to have everyone a 'mater' sandwich out here July 7. We'll have to wait and see if Mother Nature cooperates."