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“forward fund” SPLOST projects so that some of them can be built before all the funds are collected for them.

### Q. Why would the county want to borrow money to fund a SPLOST project?

A. It would be similar to you taking a mortgage to build a house. While you could save your money for many years before building a home, your need for a home may be now or you may be afraid cost will increase more in the future than the cost of interest, and then not be able to build a home, or you simply know you can afford the payments and feel it is worthwhile to have the house now to use and not wait many years down the road until you have saved enough money to pay for it.

### Q. Did the public vote on borrowing money when we voted on the SPLOST referendum in 2013?

A. YES, we did. We discussed it at the public hearing and in the newspaper and it included a provision that the county could borrow up to \$10 million which was estimated to be about 50% of the SPLOST collections over 6 years, knowing that this was an amount that could easily be repaid

over the six year period of the SPLOST.

### Q. Did the county borrow any money during the past SPLOST?

A. Yes. We have borrowed money (bonded) on every SPLOST. The first SPLOST (I) was to build the jail. The second SPLOST (II) was the courthouse. The third SPLOST (III) was a large assortment of projects including our Library, Horse Arena, Recreation, Farmers Market and Cannery and Roads and Bridges, along with several others. This most recent SPLOST (IV) includes roads and bridges, recreation, public safety facilities, etc.

### Q. Did the county pay off each of these SPLOST bonds?

A. Yes, we did. The SPLOST Bond has the payments set aside each month into a separate account. Before any of the funds can be spent each month, first, money is taken out of the monthly sales tax collections and put into a special debt service account to make the bond payments. This way when the SPLOST is paid off, the bond (debt) is also paid off.

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outrageously successful Friday event. Or they want to know if we are going to continue Tuesday nights from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Market, when it isn't as well attended as Saturdays. Friends, Rome wasn't built in a day.

Mickey Cummings and his team work hard to grow the Market. That means we have to take chances. I can remember the first few months of “Trash and Treasures” inception on Friday mornings; it was dismal. We believed that we were offering the community an opportunity to re-sell their goods in a secure environment, with plenty of parking, restrooms (at that time, Porta-potties) advertising to bring buyers in and a covered space to protect them from the weather elements all for only \$10. It took a while for that to catch on, but last Friday, and three seasons from the start of T&T, we had nearly 60 vendors and the parking lot was full most of the 5 hours it was opened.

We believe that, with

time, Thursdays will get there, too. In order to encourage sellers to try it, and bring their resell items, crafts, antiques, art and collectibles, we are reducing the booth fee on Thursdays to just \$5 for the balance of the season. Pack your car up on Wednesday night and after two days at the Farmer's Market, and a \$15 investment, you'll come home Friday afternoon with little to unpack except your wallet. Buyers, you never have to pay. Start putting Thursdays at the Market on your errand list. You never know when you might find that amazing treasure you've been hoping to secure.

In just about 10 days, the grand opening of the 2014 season of the Union County Farmer's Market opens. While you are waiting, visit our Facebook page and “like” us. And then go on over to [www.UCFarmersMarket.com](http://www.UCFarmersMarket.com) and download the event list for the season, in order to not miss all the fun we have in store for you.

## Cummings...continued from Page 4A

stood up and took off his shirt. He looked at Dad and said, “I am not allergic to this stuff”. Then he grabbed a handful of the Ivy leaves and rubbed them all over his chest. He even stuck a few leaves up his nose just for good measure.

Old Fred wrapped his toes and hands around the enormous Poison Ivy Vine and shot up that tree like it was a foot stool. He located the coon and poked him out of the tree with a long stick and after hitting the ground the old coon was dispatched by the dogs. The long legged old coot then wrapped his arms and legs around the big old Poplar and shinned down the tree like it was a fire house pole. Upon hitting the ground he skinned the coon and wrapped the carcass in newspaper. Nothing on the animal went to waste. Each animal captured that evening went home to Fred's family and was baked with sweet potatoes. And they needed each animal because by Wednesday the next week Fred was in the hospital with the worst case of Poison Ivy rash old Doc Underwood had ever seen. The old man even had the rash up his nose.

If you are like Fred and just now finding out you are

allergic to Poison Ivy then you may want to eradicate the stuff from your property. There are a number of products on the market for just such a purpose. I like to use products containing triclopyr. This chemical works well on Kudzu, Poison Ivy and Blackberries. When trying to find such a product look for something that says Poison Ivy and Brush Killer.

Make sure that you follow all label instructions. If the vine has traveled very far up a tree you can chop the vine off about as high as your head and then spray the uncut leaves with the herbicide. I would recommend using rubber gloves and boots. Also, make sure that you avoid getting this product on any desirable shrubs, trees, or other broad leaved ornamentals.

After spraying and walking through the woods it would be a good idea to bathe all exposed skin with a good dishwashing detergent which contains a degreaser. This degreasing agent will break down the oil from the plant which causes you to develop a rash.

Don't forget our Trash to Treasures Days at the Farmers Market each Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m until 1 p.m. Have a great week.

## Mitchell ...continued from Page 4A

say are alarmingly large quantities of ammunition.

A little more than a year ago, the Social Security Administration put in a request for 174,000 rounds of “.357 Sig 125 grain bonded jacketed hollow-point” bullets, shortly after the US Department of Agriculture requested 320,000 rounds.

And, more recently, the Department of Homeland Security requested 450 million rounds — around the same time the FBI sought 100 million hollow-point rounds.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees the National Weather Service, has also requested 46,000 rounds.

The Department of Education recently purchased a Baker's Dozen of Remington Model 870, 12 gauge “assault” shotguns and thousands of

rounds of ammunition.

I have to ask: Why?

I've asked Senators Chambliss and Isakson about these purchases. I don't expect that I'll hear back. Whenever I get too pointed with my queries, all I get in response from them is silence.

Maybe I'll hear back from Doug Collins.

**George Mitchell**

## Parris ...

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do it anyway. People really need help but they attack you if you try to help them; try anyway. Give the world the best you have and you get kicked in the mouth; give the world the best you have anyway.”

The high road is the way to travel. It will lift you above and beyond the black dungeon of selfishness and guide you to a destination that is eternal and perfect. Our Captain has gone before us. His name is Jesus. Follow Him.

## Williams ...

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ing this year and for a variety of great coupons and offers, visit our website at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com) or call us at 706-745-5789.

### Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

Wednesday, May 28	
1 pm	Knitters Knitch Class - 64 Bracketts Way Ste.6
6 pm	Bingo - Haralson Memorial Civic Center
Thursday, May 29	
8 am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cooks Country Kitchen
8 am	Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market
12 pm	Rotary of Union County Meeting - 706-745-5565
5:30 pm	M+Arty Party Business Networking - The Blue Otter
6:30 pm	Union County Lions Club Meeting - Steve's Steakhouse, The Cookie Jar
6:30 pm	Trivia at The View - Union County Community Center
Friday, May 30	
8 am	Trash and Treasures Sale - Union County Farmers Market
10 am	Chamber Ribbon Cutting Applachian Home Health - UC Community Center
6 pm	Friday Evening Tapas - Crane Creek Vineyards
7 pm	Friday Night Concert "Bauman Family" - Old Historic Courthouse
7 pm	The Beatals - The Copperhead Lodge
Saturday, May 31	
10 am	Relay for Life Event - Union County Farmers Market
10 am	Spring Arts & Crafts Festival - Downtown on the Square
2 pm	"Vino and Vibes" @ Hightower Creek Vineyards - 7150 Canaan Dr.
Sunday, June 1	
10 am	Spring Arts & Crafts Festival - Downtown on the Square
Monday, June 2	
9 am	Garden Tours - GA Mountain Research & Education Center
10 am	Crochet Class - 64 Bracketts Way Ste. 6
11 am	Summer Reading Program - Union County Public Library
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Weekly Mtg. - Steve's Steakhouse, Cookie Jar Restaurant
6 pm	Alzheimer's Support Group - Cadence Bank 2nd Floor
6 pm	Texas Hold'em Poker - The Lodge at Copperhead
Tuesday, June 3	
8 am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Blairsville Restaurant
6:30 pm	Do You Sing? Join our Sweet Adeline Chorus! - First United Methodist Church
Wednesday, June 4	
5:30 pm	Women & Wine Series - Paradise Hills Resort, Spa & Winery
6 pm	Bingo - Haralson Memorial Civic Center

## UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC (May-Oct)	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Sweet Adelines	Unjited Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
First Monday of each month:		
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
Union County DFCS	Conference room	8 pm
(Feb, May, Aug, Oct ONLY)		
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	6:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114	off the square	6:30 pm
First Tuesday of each month:		
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Business Women	Cook's Restaurant	8 am
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
First Wednesday of each month:		
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
First Thursday of each month:		
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 am
Blairsville Sorghum Festival	Fort Sorghum	6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
First Friday of each month:		
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Walmart	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Cente	7 pm
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10 am
Firefighters Bkfst.	Hole in the Wall Rest.	9 am
First Saturday of each month:		
Cruise-In	On The Square	4 pm (Apr-Oct)