

Relay...from Page 1A

surgery this week in their attempt to beat back cancer.

Allyson McGraw, co-event organizer, said 12 teams braved a downpour of rain to complete the 2014 challenge.

"We had a good turnout," she said. "We survived the rain and just like fighting cancer, we're going to keep at it."

Kids Korner once again was a popular attraction, and, of course, the Carlton Shaw Memorial Ugliest Legs Contest was a showstopper.

"We're right at \$72,000, maybe a little over and that's

super fantastic," McGraw said. "Union County has been so supportive of Relay For Life over the last 20 years. This community really out does itself."

"It was really nice having the folks there that are just starting their fight with cancer," McGraw said. "We were able to give them hugs and prayers as they begin their battles. That's what makes this event so special."

McGraw, who has been a part of the community fight against cancer for several years, said she's proud to have

been a part of the battle.

"After all these years, we now have people who are not ashamed of the fact that they are battling cancer," she said. "It used to be, folks would tell their family members not to say anything about their illness. Today, our event is a celebration of the fact that people can beat cancer."

"We're finally making a difference in awareness, education and we now have more and more people going to the doctor to get mammograms and colonoscopies and

they're not afraid to do that," McGraw said. "We're getting the message across and that's what I love about all of this. Folks are still suffering, but now, the diagnosis part of it is coming earlier, the survival rates are better and the research is making a big difference."

"We are making progress," she said. "The saddest part is that there are so many types of cancer. Relay For Life tries to support everyone who is fighting the battle."

See more Relay For Life photographs on Page 16A.

Tax List...from Page 1A

"After 12 months, the person in possession of the tax lien may start a process to redeem the property," Knight said. "All other liens and security deeds may then be cleared on the property. We are hopeful that these taxpayers on our sale list will come in and settle up their account before it gets to the July 1st sale day."

Meanwhile, Knight said his office is proud to announce that Union County property

tax information is now online.

"Customers can go to uniongatax.com and Search, View and Pay their property taxes online with a credit or debit card," Knight said. "We are working on also being able to accept electronic check payment."

"This will be useful to attorneys and mortgage companies to check taxes online," he said. "We will also try to put up a list of our delinquent

properties that are going to tax sale for July 1st on the News section of our website at uniongatax.com.

"Property assessments have been mailed out to the owner of record at January 1st, 2014 for the valuation of their property for this year," Knight said. "There is a 45-day window to appeal the valuation and then the total county property evaluations are sent over to the Union

County School Board and the Union County Commissioner to set the millage rate to meet their annual budgets.

"We all are blessed to live in a county where we have some of the best schools in Georgia and county employees that continue to be fiscally responsible with the taxpayer's money while providing great amenities and services to the citizens," Knight said.

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several varieties of garlic, just to name a few. Food a plenty, including cakes, cookies, breads as well as a multitude of canned goods also will be available.

There are vendors available to offer just the right flowers and plants, both annual and perennial, for your home flower garden needs.

The Market also is the place if you're looking for a Father's Day or birthday gift, as the Market craft and artisan

vendors include wood, iron and clay and pottery workers.

Natural soaps and lotions, jewelry, needlepoint, knitted and embroidered work and fabric items from purses to quilts can be found throughout the busy corridors.

"We've got it covered from A-Z this year, from Alpaca Products to Zesty Pickles," Cummings said.

Tuesdays at the Market continue to evolve as an enlightening experience.

The Market committee added more food vendors for this season on Tuesday evenings so you can come and enjoy dinner or dessert after shopping.

Bring your family, or start a Tuesday night dinner club with friends that meet at the market and enjoy the picnic tables and rocking chairs, Cummings said.

"Every year the challenge isn't to get vendors or buyers to the Market," Cummings said. "Our biggest challenge is to exceed expectations."

The picnic tables and rocking chairs that are available to all are a great way to take a load off your feet while enjoying a fresh-squeezed lemonade or a bowl of old fashioned homemade ice cream.

Some of the tables will be set up with checker and chess sets so that folks can sit and relax, challenge each other to a game.

"We want folks to not shop and leave, but to make it an outing where they enjoy the community fellowship each and every week," Cummings said.

Another challenge for the Market staff is to tactfully

enforce the "No Pets Allowed" policy. Even the tiniest dog in one's arms or in a purse is not acceptable.

This makes sense because there are food items being served on the Market grounds.

Volunteers are always needed to help with the events, sell shirts, show people how to sign up at the kiosk for event notifications, assist with food preparation on days that the Market gives away tomato sandwiches, watermelon, corn and conducts cooking demonstrations.

To sign up to volunteer, stop by the office during Market hours and ask for the volunteer contact form, Cummings said.

The Union County Farmers Market is located at 148 Old Smokey Road, in Blairsville.

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that could escape the deluge that hit on Saturday afternoon.

"The rain hit and all the customers left but we (vendors) stayed open until 5 p.m., so naturally, we had three hours of looking at each other," said Thomas Bartt of Tri-State Gem and Mineral Club. "Other than that the turnout has been fine and we've enjoyed getting to talk to all of the people. I like the new location, but now if we can just do something about the rain."

Things could have been worse, especially when it was time to get back to business following the storms.

Many of the vendors were elated to find wet concrete below their feet instead of the grass and mud that would have been an issue at the Grapelle Butt Mock House.

Overall, the move was a hit with the vendors in more ways than one.

"I think everyone likes it better here on the square, I like it better here, and I think I like the concrete better than the grass," said Kathy Cointeplex of Four Paws and a Treat. "The parking is better here and I can pull right up to my tent and unload my stuff and go park my car. It rained yesterday but overall I did very well and I plan on being here next year."

"We got hit by the rain but there was a good crowd before the rain," said local artist Richard Deroxtro with Blairsville United Methodist Church's Oasis Program. "I really like this venue. I like it much better here than up the road."

Homemade crafts, art, tables, chairs, jewelry, food, blankets, pillows, something for your pets, and plenty of children's items, such as toys, games, and even masks. Just about anything you could imagine was available and hand made by local artists and craftsmen.



Budget ...

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of money coming out of the local budget."

The more than \$1.83 million for instructional costs also includes additional teaching positions at Union County Schools, Dr. Williams said.

The Union County Board of Education will meet on Thursday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the BOE Conference Room to adopt the final Fiscal Year 2015 School Budget.

The public is invited to attend.