

SPLOST ...from Page 1A

\$19 million with the City of Blairsville receiving \$1.5 million of that amount per an intergovernmental agreement with the city, Commissioner Paris said.

"We want to anticipate low, and hope for high collections," Paris said.

SPLOST III was approved by voters to collect \$31.5 million. The projection of sales tax collections for SPLOST III was well before

the current recession.

With the economy still in a tailspin, the county projects \$19 million during the six-year course of SPLOST IV.

"It's better to hold it low and budget for projects within that financial framework," Paris said. "If it comes in high, well, that's just an added benefit."

Voters would be approving six more years of special purpose sales tax collections.

SPLOST III was approved for six years, with collections beginning in 2009 and expiring in March 2015.

Like SPLOST III, SPLOST IV will include projects for the city of Blairsville.

In terms of what projects will be proposed for SPLOST IV, Commissioner Paris said that list is yet to be determined.

"We're looking at several projects," he said. "We've

got a lot of road projects to look at. We want to involve the public in the process, get their comments and see where we stand there.

"There may be some things that we've overlooked, and we want the public to be happy with this process," he said. "We're looking at economic development. We need jobs, and we need to be able to attract new business to be able to do that."

Fireworks ...from Page 1A

liams said.

On Saturday, the National Weather Service is calling for isolated thunder showers.

Given the fact that the fireworks sponsored by the Woodmen of the World is more than a month late, one must keep their fingers crossed on

Saturday.

The fireworks display and the \$1,000 raffle ticket drawing culminate the celebration of Labor Day Weekend.

As it stands, the fireworks are scheduled for Dark Thirty, or 9:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Meeks Park is located on Georgia 515, a quarter mile West of Blairsville.

For those with a short memory, the Fourth of July fireworks became the Labor Day Weekend Fireworks because of constant rainfall the week of the Fourth.

The rains postponed many fireworks shows throughout Northeast Georgia. Flooding was a commonality throughout the region in early July.

Hopefully, the show will go on Saturday night at Meeks Park.

Salute ...from Page 1A

The Hall of Fame ceremonies are included in the annual Salute to Farmers Day at the Market.

The celebration includes the Tractor Show and Parade, and Bethel Buchanan will be playing his French harp to entertain those present.

"I'd like to thank Union County Farm Bureau for sponsoring the Tractor Parade and Show," Cummings said. "Farm Bureau has purchased shirts for the participants of the Tractor Show and will also provide plaques for the winners. Also, I would like to thank the Union County Historical Society for their sponsorship of the Hall of Fame Ceremony."

The Fourth Hall of Fame Ceremony coincides with the fourth year of the uber successful Farmers Market.

Cummings has nothing but praise for the Market and nothing but thanks for its patrons.

"This Market is nothing without all the wonderful

people that come out and make it what it is," he said. "It's literally become a weekly social event in Union County.

"We've got some rocking chairs out here that Alexander's Store donated to us," he said. "People can come, sit and talk and do business, and have all kinds of fun. It's a family event, there are a lot of kids out here.

"It's like when we were little and our folks took us to town," Cummings said.

The Farmers Market has been a blessing for local farmers, saving them repeated trips to the Atlanta Farmers Market to sell their produce, Cummings said.

"About 10 years ago, we talked about prices to go to Atlanta," he said. "Our farmers talked about just in terms of fuel, that it cost over \$100 a trip. Well, you can imagine what it costs today to pay for diesel for going down that far South.

"It's not just the fuel

prices, but the time that they spend having to go down there, sell their crops and come back," he said. "So you're at, well, at least a day, so it saves them money from having to spend their time in Atlanta."

In the current trend of hard economic times, locals are more than willing to drive to the Farmers Market and purchase fresh vegetables.

They're also getting a pretty good bargain. You see, farmers don't have to pay a middle man. They can broker a deal that turns a profit for themselves and gives patrons a bargain.

The Union County Farmers Market is unique in the sense that it's not just about produce. There are almost 70 booths at the Market, and only 30 or a little over, are selling produce. The others are selling flowers, honey, jewelry, lotions and creams, handbags, unique items, and stuffed toys.

The word Market has never meant so much to so

many people in one community.

It's also an attraction that brings folks in from other communities. They come to get a deal at the Market and spend money in our restaurants, buy gas, and stop in our other shops in town.

Bottom line, they're spending money here, and it's better than them spending their money elsewhere.

The idea for the Farmers Market was ingenious, and the construction of a new local cannery was just as brilliant.

The whole concept teaches us the community that it can be self sufficient.

That folks can survive hard times and still keep their dignity.

As we salute our farmers on Saturday, we remember where we've been and how we got here.

Saturday should make for an exciting day in Union County.



The Union County Farmers Market has become a weekly social event for local families and visitors from out of town. The Market features fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as hand-crafted items. Saturday marks the Fourth Salute to Farmers in Union County. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Midnight Express closes season for Enchanted Music on the Square

Enchanted Music on the Square completes a fabulous 2013 Summer Concert Series with its most popular band... Midnight Express. The Country sounds of this local icon will have you toe-tappin' and dancing even in your seat!

Led by Steve Phillips (owner of Benny's Sanitation) these wonderful musicians have been the opening act for several major bands performing at Georgia Mountains Anderson Music Hall. High energy and just plain fine Country Music is what will entertain you on the Hiwassee Town Square this Saturday, August 31 from 6-8 p.m. Also, Matt King is smoking ribs for the Labor Day holiday and they will be available Saturday night.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket, your family and friends and the family pet too (on a leash please... and with clean-up equipment!) Matt King and friends will be selling

their delicious BBQ plates, as well as hand-dipped ice cream. There are also a few Enchanted Music T-shirts left for sale. Thanks to all audience partici-

pants who generously donate a few dollars each week to keep this wonderful venue alive and well in Hiwassee! See you on the Square!



Cruise-in at Nursing Home

The Union County Nursing Home Fall Cruise-in will be September 8th. Make plans to bring your vehicles out and let the residents enjoy. They have a good time and you will too! Remember, September 8, from 2-4 p.m. Rain date September 15th. For more information 706-994-0251. N(Aug28,23)CA