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ects with SPLOST especially realizing there is no guarantee of certain revenue amounts?

A. The law allows that if you do not have adequate funding, you are allowed to adjust the project as best possible to make the maximum amount of progress with available funds. Funding is based off estimates and projections. However, back during SPLOST II, which ended March of 2009, the SPLOST law was different. Some folks like to take the current law and try to apply it to past county SPLOST, but you cannot do this. The law is constantly changing and when it changes, it only pertains to future SPLOST. That is why we utilize consultants to keep us abreast of the many and constant changes for not only our SPLOST projects but the new laws related to SPLOST.

**Q. Could you give us an example of a SPLOST project that you had to manage based on revenue collections not being adequate?**

A-1. With some projects like our transfer station renovation, you have to look at the obvious. You can only do what you can afford to do. The first step is that our construction plans have to be approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). The current plans have been finished and are awaiting the final approval

from Georgia EPD. (This process of presenting plans and having to make changes has been going on for many months and sometimes years). Once we receive the final EPD approval, we can begin the process of construction. We must effectively manage the project based on revenue receipts. If we want a new double bay transfer station building and because of the old landfill location, EPD will not approve it, then the size or location may have to be adjusted. Likewise, if revenue estimates are reduced, the building may have to be built smaller. However, we have also listed this project in the new SPLOST IV, so if additional funding is required, we will have access to some of those funds if needed in the future.

A-2TheOldRedGym(Rec Gym) was also on the SPLOST list. This project will be managed by first completing all preliminary studies and then if adequate funding is available, developing a set of construction plans and documents. We have also gone ahead and replaced the entire roof, because no matter the detail of the final project, it would require a new roof. We simply do not have the funding to do more at this time and hope to be able to work on it further during SPLOST IV. However, that will have to be determined based on adequate future SPLOST collections.  
*To be continued...*

**Cummings...continued from Page 4A**

stars. There was a hint of dawn as the sky began turning pink. The woods were quiet except for a squirrel that was barking at some unknown danger. Just before sunrise I caught something out of the corner of my eye. As I turned my head I saw a big owl in a dive coming right toward my head. The owl was about 10 feet away and had mistaken my gray haired head for an opossum or a squirrel. When the owl saw my face it put on the brakes and made a 90 degree turn to the south. I don't know who was more scared, me or the owl. I could just see the headlines of the *North Georgia News*, "County Agent Found Dead with Owl Stuck to His Head".

Another tradition that goes along with this time of year involves the pumpkin. Millions of pumpkins are purchased each year to be used as

decorations for Halloween, Thanksgiving and to consume as pumpkin pies. This year at the Union County Farmers Market we will launch a new tradition. The Great Butternut Creek Pumpkin Contest will be held at the Farmers Market on Oct. 18th. This contest will seek to find the largest pumpkin in our area. We have had interest in the contest from as far away as Alabama. If you would like to see pumpkins as large as 500 to 1,000 pounds, come to the Farmers Market at 10 a.m. to view these large pumpkins.

Also, the last regular day at the Union County Canning Plant will be Oct. 16th. We will open for special days on Nov. 11th and 18th and possibly a day in December.

So, come see us at the Union County Canning Plant.

**Derflinger ... continued from Page 4A**

their members who go against the party leadership? Check it for yourself. Even House Majority leader Boehner has voiced his concern and anger over how some Tea Partiers have gone against his wishes. And by the way have you ever attended a Tea Party meeting? It might surprise you to see both Democrats and Republicans there. They may have different opinions, but they all have one thing in common: They love this country.

When you spoke of the tradition of Congress working together until lately and your reference to the past six years, may I remind you that it was just two years ago that both Houses and the President were controlled by the Demoratic Party? In fact I think that this divide between the three branches of government goes back several decades. Don't you? I am somewhat confused by your statement that bills are being held up in the House. It was my belief, according to all news services, that the House has sent some 352 bills for the Senate to vote on, and the Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Reid D-NV has refused to send any of them to the Senate floor to vote on. This includes some 55 bills that were originated by Democrats in the House. So who is really to blame for the gridlock? Many old timers will tell you they remember Presidents who would use thier experience, statesmanship, and knowledge to broker a compromise in Congress. Which brings me to why I don't believe President Obama is or has been a good leader.

First, let's look at his background. As I know it to be he was hired out of law school to be a community organizer not a lot of leadership experience in the matter of conducting the business of a nation. Working for a non-profit group does not truly give you the knowledge you need to run a country. At least in my opinion. Now let's look at his next job. A junior Senator from arguably one of the most politically corrupt states for more than a hundred years. If you look at this time as a Senator nothing really stands out to lead me to the conclusion that he is qualified. Now as for his job performance: ObamaCare is his only true claim to doing a good job, at the present. And only time will tell if that is a good thing or a bad thing for the country. Seems each day we hear about more and more serious problems with the program. How

about these examples: The President is the leader of the government. However major scandals and violations of law have happened in important parts of government, lead by people he appointed. And, by the way I am old enough to remember when many of his advisors were actively trying to destroy this country, with many of them openly claiming to be Communist. Or more recently, in my mind, the lack of statesmanship and common decency when he could barely tear himself away from the golf course to speak to the Nation regarding the recent beheading of an American. Or the case of a Marine Sgt. being held in a Mexican jail for six months, and our government gives Mexico millions of dollars of aid each year and will not try to help him. Or the releasing of five top rank terrorists which went against the advice of all the experts and advisors, even his own, and oh by the way was in violation of the law. I could go on but I am sure others can tell you more.

I believe that if you are going to elect a leader of the country you should respect his/her character, his experience, his beliefs and leadership abilities more than just "like" a person. In my opinion, Mr. Obama lacks in several of these areas. Futhermore, I have said this before, and I guess it needs to be said again. In an open rational discussion on issues, other than those pertaining to race, why do you feel it is necessary to play the race card? Is it because that is the only way you think you can prove your thoughts? I am over 70 years of age. I learned in the military, and in the years that followed, that you gauged a man by his actions, by his character, and then by his words. Has President Obama's actions as a leader matched those of previous presidents? Has the reputation of our country gained, or lost ground in world opinion? Can you truly say, that his actions show that he truly loves this country?

In my years I cannot remember an administration that has had to contend with so many scandals such as the IRS, Benghazi, Treasury Department, Attorney General and so forth. I would suggest that for future elections you do some honest research. Don't just listen to what the Democratic or Republican parties tell you, keep track of what is going on in politics and then make your mind up.  
**James Derflinger**

**Leone...continued from Page 4A**

My maternal grandmother, Rose, was a great pumpkin pie baker. I have her recipe and I use it nearly every year. It never turns out as good as hers, at least as my memory would have it. My custard doesn't set quite the same, the crust gets just a little too soggy on the bottom, and the spice combination, though good, isn't perfect like hers.

For many years I made the most enviable pumpkin bread; dark, rich with spices, loaded with raisins, walnuts and as moist as could be. Everyone wanted to be gifted with one. It was a recipe that I was given by a friend who told me that I had to use Comstock canned pumpkin filling. I took her at her word and it was always sinfully delicious. Then one year I couldn't find a can of Comstock to save my life. I tried a different canned filling. Didn't work. Year after year I messed with it, till there was no

**Parris ... continued from Page 4A**

shed tears, but there is a time to work, witness and walk with the wounded and broken lives of humanity. All around us are the wounded and hurting who have been stripped of all hope and need someone with skin on to speak a kind word, love and minister to them. Why don't you choose someone to minister to today?

**Dyer/Hood**

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stepped into an extremely challenging position that left him with many difficult decisions. One of the major decisions Mr. Davenport had to make was for himself and C. E. Foster, Chairman of the Board, borrowing money from Union County Bank to meet the payroll in August 1972. However, with the leadership and guidance of these two gentlemen, which included the successful recruitment of Dr. George Gowder, things began to change for Union General. After opening an office on the hospital's campus, Dr. Gowder's long hours of dedicated service and his desire to see UGH do well, the hospital's economic state began to improve and the hospital survived! We feel that if it had not been for Dr. George Gowder's return in 1972 the Union General Hospital that we all know and love today would not be in existence.

This recognition of Dr. George Gowder is certainly well-deserved. Many longtime employees will always be grateful for having the opportunity to know and work with such a great physician and person. Again, Dr. Gowder, thanks for what you did for the citizens of Union County and surrounding area. (Dr. George, we too are proud of your sons as they carry on your legacy at Union General).  
Respectfully submitted,  
**Rebecca T. Dyer & Kathy Hood**

**Newton ...**

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HOPE used to cover the full cost of tuition and books, now it covers only 60 percent of tuition and fees for a typical student. When he broke the HOPE scholarship program, technical schools lost nearly 25 percent of their full time enrollment, 60 percent of HOPE funding, making it impossible for thousands to be trained for highly skilled jobs that could be filled today.

We need a change in leadership. Jason Carter is running for governor to build an economy that works for all Georgians and to strengthen and support our public schools. Your vote is critical. Use it wisely.  
**Emily Newton**

**Moore ...**

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Mr. Parris also stated in his commentary that "What a glorious privilege to be a citizen in the land of the free and the home of the brave." This is very true. But as I stated in my commentary a couple of weeks ago, not all Americans were always free. African-Americans were slaves in our country, and American Indians were forced to migrate and disintegrate and give up their land and freedom as well. Blacks and Indians sacrificed their lives while white Americans became free, and we cannot celebrate our freedom without acknowledging those sacrifices. I also challenged Mr. Parris to help provide theological answers to my topic and questions as to why God would allow such tragic circumstances to happen such as bloodshed and human sacrifice that African-Americans and American Indians endured while white Americans gained their freedom.  
Thank you, **Jess Moore**

**Williams ... continued from Page 4A**

and services that we are able to provide. Signing up for membership does not mean paying money to the local government. It does mean that you are opening the door for a variety of business services not otherwise afforded to you. If you believe in a thriving economy and prosperity for local business, you are a great candidate for chamber membership.

Myth 2: The Chamber is simply a festival planning organization.

Reality: While it is true that we play a significant role in helping promote local festivals because festivals equate to increased visitation and increased revenues for local businesses, that is not our only responsibility. A quick look at our program of work will tell you that our organization annually offers a number of networking and educational events for our members to grow and develop their business. This includes training classes, a business expo, buy local events, and business roundtables to name a few. We offer a number of marketing and advertising avenues across a variety of platforms including online, print, mobile, and social media. We also are extremely proud to serve on committees that work for the development of local business. Some examples of community designations we have received over the last few years are Entrepreneur

Friendly, Camera Ready, Appalachian Trail Community, and Georgia Work Ready. By partnering with a variety of local and regional entities, we are continuously spreading the word about the positive aspects of Union County and therefore working for the betterment of all who live and conduct business here.

Myth 3: The Chamber is a "clique" to which outsiders don't belong.

Reality: The Chamber is only as strong as our membership. Therefore, we welcome all businesses, organizations, and individuals who support our mission. Chamber members no doubt share a strong bond. Our members believe that relationships are key to business success and make a conscience effort to support other members. However, time and time again, I have seen new members enter the Chamber and instantly feel the support, connection, and boost that come as part of the membership. Again, if you share our vision of a strong business community, we welcome you into the Chamber.

Stay tuned for more myths surrounding the Chamber of Commerce in next week's column. In the meantime, should you have questions regarding the Chamber, please contact us at (706) 745-5789, online at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com) or me directly at [president@blairsvillechamber.com](mailto:president@blairsvillechamber.com).