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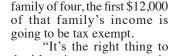
state, we've got to cut some regulations.

"Which means I'm going to put economic development

liaisons in every single agency in order to streamline permitting processes in an effort to get businesses up and running and people employed.

"I also believe that we've got to make sure that we have a \$100 million tax cut in the first 100 days, which is going to help every single Georgia taxpayer."

What that tax cut means



as Cagle put it, has to do

county.

"In the bound audit

report, there are two statements

in the entire report that bring

all activities of the entire

government together into

one," said Pilgrim. "Those two

statements are the statement of

net position and the statement

of activity. The statement of

Net position is similar to a

balance sheet for a business

are going to bring all of the

activities, whether it be the

general fund, all the different

special revenue funds, capital

projects and even enterprise

funds, like the golf course and

the county's net position can

be broken down into three

categories: Net Investment

in Capital Assets, Restricted

Net Position and Unrestricted

Net Position. Taken together,

the three categories help the

county to see where it stacks

up year over year in its net

assets takes into account all

buildings and land owned by

the county, net of depreciation

and any debt related to those

assets. For 2016, the county's

net investment in capital assets

which is the county's equity

essentially, is monies that

are restricted by enabling

legislation or an outside party

on how that money, or equity,

can be spent. For 2016, the

county's restricted net position

Restricted net position,

was \$38,149,388.

was \$5,195,938.

Net investment in capital

According to Pilgrim,

recreation, together.'

"These two statements

enterprise.



Nita Cagle and Casey Cagle with Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

position, and how the net financial standing of the

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position reflects the overall

of that family's income is

infrastructure.

marketplace.

going to need.

willing to go around.

(information) superhighway

Blairsville, if we have reliable

access to internet. So, we're going to be working to make

sure that rural broadband is

road infrastructure that we're

to be willing to go under,

senator and three-term lieutenant governor, has also

committed to adding 500,000

jobs to the Georgia workforce

"I tell people we've got

do, it's going to put money in people's pockets," said Cagle. "And it's going to help ease the burden that people are facing today, particularly on health insurance.' The third ingredient,

> in his first four years as governor, some of which The unrestricted net position, the third factor in total net position, was sitting at \$6,374,100 for 2016, and was the remaining balance of

or any other position. Taken together, the three numbers give a total net position for the county of \$49,719,426, which is up \$534,225 from the county's

smaller increase than in prior years due to there being a small decrease in property taxes, increase in sales taxes and then some increases on judicial and public works expenses," said Pilgrim. "That's the county as a whole, as far as net position is concerned.'

Also highlighted in the report was an increase in revenue to the General Fund over 2015 by \$52,701, which is roughly a .3 percent increase from fiscal year 2015. From that, local options sales tax increased \$140,270, insurance premium taxes increased \$69,438 and building permit revenues were up \$56,000.

increased 10.4 percent from 2015, or \$1,323,575 for fiscal year 2016.

that general administration increased to \$366,000," said Pilgrim. "That was largely and a \$218,000 increase in capital assets, or capital outlay, property and building.'

Balance for fiscal year 2016

will be accomplished through expanded education initiatives "Building out rural broadband across the state aimed at employability, such is very critical and very as his College and Career important to me, because the

Academy Network. And as in past elections, Cagle has vowed not to play

is the way we access the worldwide marketplace," said dirty in order to win the Cagle. "Today, we're no longer gubernatorial race next year. bound by bricks and mortar "Oftentimes you see in our ability to penetrate the these nasty, dirty campaigns that want to tear somebody "We can do that else down in order to make themselves look good," said anywhere, right here in

Cagle. "And I just think that

that's a flawed strategy. You want to run on vision for what you want available and accessible to all, to accomplish for the state, along with building out the and that's exactly why I offer myself for this position. I don't need a job – I'm running because I want to make a difference, I want to make an we've got to be willing to impact in the lives of Georgia go over, and we've got to be

citizens.' According to District Cagle, a former state 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch, who accompanied Cagle on much of his tour last week, the lieutenant governor will do a series of similar tours until he has visited all the counties in Georgia.

equity not tied up in legislation

2015 net position. "That was a slightly

Expenditures also "Some of the things

that led to that increase were due to an increase about a \$160,000 in contract services which were due to purchasing

The Unassigned Fund

was \$5,331,469, or roughly 37.9 percent of expenditures. yet another indication that the county's finances are in good order. "We look at that number

often as kind of a reserve,"

said Pilgrim. "So, if you

were to take that 37.9 percent

of expenditures, of 2016 expenditures, that would be about four and a half months. So, if there were no revenues coming in, the county could operate about four and a half months with no further revenue 'Keep in mind, that's very similar to 2015 fiscal's

unassigned fund balance, which was \$5,036,128, so the unassigned fund balance did increase almost \$300,000." In total, the General Fund balance for fiscal year 2016 increased from 2015,

from \$5.8 million to just over

\$6 million, lending to the

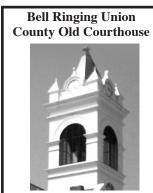
reassurance that the county's finances are in top shape. Pilgrim added that, as far as the audit was concerned. he found no problems while performing the audit nor did he find any complications or points of concern regarding the

county's finances. "We had no difficulties found in performing the audit," said Pilgrim. "I can actually say it was far from that. We had great cooperation from all offices and all elected officials in the county.

"Everyone was very cooperative in helping us perform the audit, provided us the information that we needed and was pleasant in doing so."

Allegheny Lodge #114 annual Fall Barbecue

"For all you that like it "Hawgy-Style", Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114 in Blairsville is having their annual Fall BBQ on Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th. We are cooking and selling whole butts only for \$35. We are taking pre-orders for 96 butts only, so place your order today. Contact Ivy Smith at 478-731-6050 or William White at 478-997-1011 to order your butt. Pick up will be at our Lodge just off the downtown square (behind Cabin Coffee) from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the day you designate. We will also deliver to you within the city limits if you need us to. This supports a great organization, our Children's Masonic Home of GA, 4-H, Boy Scouts and all our local charities! "Get your butts ordered today!" N(Aug23,Z3)CA



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