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and most other counties will receive at least as much money from the sales tax as they collect locally, so I am not aware of any county that will be shortchanged when you look at the entire program.

Q. How much of the sales tax (TSPLOST) proceeds that are collected in Union County will go toward road projects in Union County?

A. Practically all of it. 75% of the proceeds will go toward state (GDOT) local highway projects. This includes widening US 19/129N, (Ga 11) from Blairsville to Gum Log Road and, based on possible future federal funding, eventually all the way to North Carolina. It also includes intersection improvements and resurfacing of the Gooch By-Pass. But more importantly is the additional 25% funding that will go to strictly local roads.

Q. Could you explain how the 25% funding will be distributed to counties?

A. Union County citizens should know that 25% of the region wide sales tax collections which will go directly back to counties in our region, including the Union County Road Department. This part of the fund is based on GDOT road formulas for local centerline mileage, which because of our many miles of roads, allows Union County to receive more than average return in this area.

Q. What will the 25% of the sales tax going to local road projects mean for Union County Road Dept.?

A. It will mean that our current road and bridges budget of \$850,000 could be increased by nearly \$ 2 million dollars a year for ten years (that is \$20 million)!!! This will be huge for our county road system. If you have seen all the road patching we have been forced to do over the past

several years instead of resurfacing the roads, it has been because of a lack of funds. These funds will also provide jobs as we will also utilize local contractors to do much of the work required. This will be HUGE for Union County Road Dept. because the funds can also be utilized for equipment purchase or manpower, all of which could save in property taxes going forward.

Q. Would passage of TSPLOST allow the county to accept more private roads into the county road system?

A. It certainly could. We have to be very strict in accepting new roads into our system because of the expense involved. Our Road Dept, which does an exceptional job, is operating with the same number of employees they did over ten years ago, yet we have added well over a hundred miles to our road system. We simply can not continue this pace with the current budget and properly maintain our road system.

Q. How will TSPLOST impact local highway safety?

A. First, we should realize that making our roads safer is the number one most important purpose of this sales tax. Just look at the improvement to the Pat Haralson/Pat Colwell intersections on the Murphy highway and how that has already improved safety and eased congestion on this small section of county roadway. This short section of highway also had some of the highest accident rates in the county. That is no longer the case. This project would have been impossible without federal safety dollars from GDOT, which are rapidly dwindling. Projects similar to this will be available to us in the future with the TSPLOST funding, if it passes.

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which they consumed quickly they became extremely sick. Therefore, they thought Uncle Pick had poisoned them. Aunt Minnie was the smallest of the three rather large ladies. All 3 ladies were friendly and had the most beautiful clothes. But, sometime they could be quite cantankerous. After lunch they again met Dad, Mommy and mother and sat with them on some benches in front of the courthouse under some shade trees. They talked and talked and enjoyed the afternoon. Mother said, "The ladies looked grand. They had sewn their own dresses which were as pretty as store bought dresses. Each lady was wearing a beautiful, brightly colored hat with an encircling ribbon which was hand tatted.

Dad Baker finally grew weary of the day and stood up which was a signal to Mommy that it was time to go. As he stood Minnie looked up and asked for a ride back toward Ray Mountain. Dad told her that would be fine except all they had was a log truck and the ladies would have to ride in the back. Minnie and her 2 daughters agreed. They walked to the truck and mother and her grandparents started to get in when Minnie asked, "Charlie, I

believe I can get into the truck, but, I would be much obliged if you'd help my two daughters. They have been feeling poorly lately and probably can't climb up into the bed of that truck." Dad never cracked a smile and asked "Who is going to help me?" Mother said, "I can remember laughing hysterically until Mommy Baker placed her gentle hand on my shoulder". Mom thought she was in trouble until the old truck started and began driving down the road. Mom said, "Dad Baker looked at Mommy and both of them began to laugh and they laughed so hard they began to cry".

That trip to town reminds me of the Saturday mornings at the Farmers Market. You can buy locally grown produce and you have your choice of more than 30 produce vendors. You can also buy hand-made crocheted crafts. Next week, we will have the Sweetest Corn Festival (July 14). You can try all kinds of sweet corn to determine which you like the best. July 21st will be a day in which we will be talking about canning. Then on July 28th we will have our Green Bean Festival. So, come on out and be with us at the Union County Farmers Market.

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tion that I have encountered in the ministry has not been so much from churches, but from individuals and families. Too many families place the cart before the horse. Counseling husbands-wives often becomes very difficult. Marriage sometimes becomes a one-horse race rather than a loving hand-in-hand journey. The old warhorse arises and daily battles are at the top of the agenda. I am sure that I have not been the best counselor. I have violated all the principles of counseling. Sometimes, I would get on my high horse and just blurt out to couples, "hold your horses." Then I would proceed to preach them a sermon on "stopping their horseplay" and "quit horsing around." But you know, it worked more often than it failed. Over the years of ministry I have learned some valuable lessons: (1) I have learned you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. (2) I have learned to put salt in his oats - a thirsty horse will drink (Preachers, put salt in

those sermons). (3) Husbands if you have enough horse sense to treat your wife like a thorough bred; you will never have to live with an old nag. (4) Churches who dismount dead horses will grow and avoid nauseating stinks and will be more than conquerors with Him who rides the white horse of Revelation. Families and churches need to ditch those dead horses before they start stinking.

Garner

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Your local Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce offers a variety of helpful tips to help strengthen your business operation. If you are looking for a business mentor or need assistance in preparing for your first hire, please call the Chamber at (706) 745-5789 or go to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com. Other resources to explore include: about.com, business-knowhow.com, and irs.gov. I may be reached anytime at Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Combs

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There is always hope for America if it is willing to turn from its' evil ways and turn it's eyes on God. Our beloved forefathers died for their faith in a God that would bless America. Let's show our forefathers how proud we are of them by not walking, but running to God for the help that America needs today. A life worth living for Christ is a life blessed of God. Amen.
Frank F. Combs

Scottish Fest

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Thank you again for your continuing support in this 9th year of the BSFHG.

**Board of Directors
Blairsville Scottish Festival
& Highland Games**

Miles

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Future Medicare recipients will go on a coupon system. Medicaid funds will be cut nearly in half. Additionally there will be major cuts to programs such as Food Stamps, Head Start, children's health care, Pell Grants and student loans, money for scientific research, transportation and infrastructure, and much much more. Funding that would normally go to these programs will go instead for tax cuts, mainly for the wealthiest, the 1 percent. Lower income people would get tiny tax cuts (crumbs), but the average tax cut for millionaires would be \$150,000 a year. Mitt Romney has happily endorsed this budget plan and calls it a marvelous plan. Use your vote this November wisely.
Sandra Miles

Maloney

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from insurers who spend too much on CEO bonuses or ads. Small business owners will receive tax credits so they can afford to offer health care to their employees.

Most importantly, everyone who now has health insurance will not pay a tax because of this law. Those who can't afford to purchase insurance will be able to get government subsidies in order to do so. The only people who will pay a tax as a result of this legislation will be those who have the money to buy insurance but choose not to. These are the folks who use the emergency room for their care so that the rest of us can pay for them with our own tax dollars and higher insurance costs.

There is a lot of misinformation circulating about the Affordable Care Act. Don't take any one's word for it (including mine!). Check out www.healthcare.gov
Michelle Maloney

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com	
Wednesday, July 11	
2pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
Thursday, July 12	
12pm	Rotary Club of Union County - St. Francis of Assisi Church
5:30pm	Chamber of Commerce "2012 Business After Hours/Business of the Quarter - Curves of Blairsville
Friday, July 13	
8am	Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
7pm	Friday Night Concert, Cartecay River - Historic Union County Courthouse
7pm	You can be the Star Karaoke - Lodge at Copperhead
Saturday, July 14	
7am	Union County Farmer's Market
7pm	Hot summer Nights - Goldhagen Studios
Monday, July 16	
9am	Garden tour - GA Mt. Research & Education Center
11am	Summer Reading Program - Union County Public Library
12pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm	Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament - Lodge at Copperhead
Tuesday, July 17	
8am	Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting - Cooks Restaurant
3pm	Union County Farmer's Market
Tuesday, July 18	
2pm	Friends of Union County Library Meeting - Union County Library Community Room

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	Noon
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	St. Francis of Assisi	Noon
Third Monday of each month:		
High Country Artisan	U.C.Bank Com Room	6:30 pm
Exp Aviation Assoc #1211	Blairsville Airport	7 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Prostate Cancer Sup.	U.C. Cancer Center	5 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:		
UC Anti-Drug Coal.	Conference Room	Noon
American Legion	AuxCivic Center	7 pm
Chatuge Gun Club	Senior Center, Hia.	7 pm
UC Homemakers	Dooley Chapter	Noon
Third Wednesday of each month:		
Blairsville Garden Club	Location not listed	1 pm
Friends of the Library	Library Com Room	2 pm
Beta Sigma Phi, Iota Iota, Cadence Bank		7 pm
Third Thursday of each month:		
Jaycees	Fort Sorghum	7:30 pm
Good N'bers Auto	Meeks Park	7pm (May-Sep)
Tip-off Club	UC High School	7 pm
UC Saddle Club	Arena Clubhouse	7 pm
Commissioner's Meet.	County Courthouse	6 pm
UT Home Builders	Moschetto's	6:30 pm
Shape Note Music	Old Courthouse	6:30 pm
Kinship Care	Civic Center	Noon
MOPS	First Baptist Church	6 pm
Third Friday of each month:		
No activities listed		
Third Saturday of each month:		
Blairsville Cruisers	On the Square	4 pm (Apr-Oct)