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fall?

A. SPLOST will help in that certain funds have been identified to help with purchase of books and technology equipment, but it cannot be used for operation costs.

Q. What action can citizens take to help the library?

A. You can always make a donation to the library or contact your representatives and let them know how important the library is to you.

Q. We also heard that there have been budget cuts to Meals on Wheels that the Senior Center provides. Is this true?

A. Yes. The Senior Center receives a major part of their funding from the Federal Government and the Sequester cuts have hit them especially and disproportionately hard. The county HAS NOT cut our funding however. We did have some good news today that the freeze on signing up new people for Meals on Wheels has been lifted. But the fact remains that their budget has been cut by \$20,000 and will be cut again in January and also in July by the Federal government. This is all due to the budget sequestration cuts in 2013.

Q. What in the world is budget sequestration? I have never heard of that.

A. The budget sequestration in 2013 refers to the automatic spending cuts to United States federal government spending as an austerity fiscal policy as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011. The cuts are split evenly between the defense and non-defense categories. Some major programs like Social Security, Medicaid, federal pensions and veteran's

benefits are exempt. The problem with Sequestration cuts is it does not look at any particular program and just cuts out the waste, it cuts the same from all agencies and because of the funding calculations for Meals on Wheels, it is even worse. While you may cheer any time you hear that there is some type of budget cut from the federal government, you should also be aware there are consequences to many of those cuts. The Meals on Wheels program is one of the best government programs in existence and it is a disgrace that they have been cut the same as some other non-successful programs.

Q. What can we do to help with funding shortfalls?

A. There is always the need for donations to the Senior Center and I can promise you that we are not going to let our seniors go hungry. Often at Christmas, in the attempt to help children, we often forget about other needs in the county. Almost every time there is a cut at the federal or state level, much of that burden is passed right down to local government to make up. It is pretty frustrating when I am doing all I can to keep your property taxes low and from going up and then we get more expenses dumped on the county because of other agency cuts. The people in Washington and Atlanta get to brag that they have cut taxes, but you can bet that much of the time the county has to help make up the difference.

To help, contact Friends of the Library; or, Union County Senior Center, P.O. Box 1546, 95 Senior Center Drive, Blairsville, GA, 30514.

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all of which involve lighting up the winter season—from the burning Yule log to the lighting of luminaries, to sparkling Christmas tree lights and candles in windows. The program also investigates the possible astronomical explanations for the star that led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. You will be enchanted, looking at the celestial filled sky, while listening to the narration by NPR's Noah Adams.

The Institute for Continuing Education (ICL) meets on this lovely campus, offering adults, who can never get enough garnering of information, a large selection of classes to choose from each semester. I've taken the opportunity on several occasions to sit as a student in these classes. This January, I will have the honor of being at bat for the third time as a teacher of the curriculum offered. Classes are usually two hours in duration and three to six sessions, each. Nearly all of these educational offerings are presented for the outlandish fee of \$15.

One of my favorite places to eat lunch or dinner is the Grace Rollins Dining Hall on campus. College cafeteria food has come a long way since I attended undergraduate school. For a nickel shy of \$10, you can indulge in a buffet that is both healthy and decadent. Executive Chef Andy Ledbetter offers up traditional and international cuisine with several hot entrees, burgers off the grill, fresh baked pizza, a stunning fruit,

sandwich and salad bar, deserts, and a soft serve sundaes bar, with a plethora of beverages choices. Before the concert Tuesday night, I thoroughly enjoyed fresh spinach, sautéed in olive oil and garlic, pork ribs, a sinfully large salad, a bowl of tomato Florentine bisque, and for dessert, a crisp apple with peanut butter (while my friends all indulged in cinnamon topped hot apple pie with ice cream).

This week the students are taking their final exams. The campus will grow quiet over the holidays. Then the second week of January, the winter term revs up, and we have an opportunity to take advantage of exceptional music, theater, lectures, science presentations, NCAA basketball and baseball. You can dine in a beautiful dining hall surrounded by the heartbeat of this campus, the students and the faculty/staff, who are always most gracious and appreciative of your presence. To President Cathy Cox and the Board of Trustees of Young Harris College, I just want to say "Bravo!"

For an online YHC calendar of events, visit <http://www.yhc.edu/about/news-media/calendar>. For more information about ICL classes and a current list of the curriculum offered this winter session, visit www.ICLYHC.org. Now you know what else you can do while waiting for the Farmer's Market to open back up in June!

Dailey ...from Page 4A

be washed and waxed before every ride. There would not be any awkward looking stuff hanging from it. What chrome it had would be covered in dirt and grime. In other words about the only thing they would have in common with the modern motorcyclist is that they had two wheels. Well heck now we have all these trikes. They are nothing but a car with no roof. A poor excuse for something a biker would ride.

Now where would a biker sleep, most likely on the ground. Using a tarp or what ever they could find for shelter. Let's compare that to the so called biker of today. Nice rooms in the best hotels. Maybe a motor home that follows along and tows the bike

when things get tough. Nice clean beds are a must. That tent you have with you would never sleep on the ground. Let's not forget about food. While our modern rider eats at only the finest restaurants the old biker will most likely be cooking over an open camp fire. He would drink a cold beer if he had one, but that is highly unlikely. Maybe smoke a little weed. The modern rider will have wine with his steak and if he is a real tough biker he might just drink a beer. Yep things have really changed. Now all you cute bikers go out there hit the road and make sure you stop at all those nice places that say bikers welcome. They need your business.

William Dailey

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all-gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

All ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, Look now! For

glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

See, you feel better already. Read Ephesians 5:18-20 and you will feel even better.

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

2014 year. We will open the Trash to Treasures Yard Sale in early April.

The Farmers Market will open in June. However, we will have a couple of special dates for the Ramps and Native Plants Sale, an Ornamental Plants Sale and a Strawberry Sale. Also, I know the Garden Club will have their Annual Plant Sale in the spring.

The Canning Plant processed close to 17,000 jars this past year.

We are also trying to make plans for the operation of the 2014 Canning Year. But, it has been a great year for both the Farmers Market and the Canning Plant.

I would like to thank the following individuals for all of their hard work at the Farmers Market and Canning Plant; Bobby Burch, Kristy Peney, JoAnne Leone, Patrick

Fix, Bethany Brown, the folks at the Union County Road Department, Trish Spears and the folks from the Humane Society.

Also, thanks to our Commissioner, Lamar Paris, for all of his support.

Williams

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chamber for the first time or rejoin after a period of inactivity, we are ready to partner with you. It is time to join forces with more than 550 local businesses and individuals who are part of our membership. Contact the chamber at (706) 745-5789 to schedule an appointment or go to www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com and fill out the online application. Membership can start working for you today!

Mitchell

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board members who will tell parents who complain about their little darlings being treated this way to buzz off or, better yet, to go duck walk down the hall.

"Anything cracked will shatter at a touch." - Ovid, Roman poet (d. 17. A.D.)

George Mitchell

MOAA monthly meeting

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the third Monday of each month at various area restaurants. All active duty, National Guard, reserve, retired, and former military, public health service and NOAA officers and warrant officers and surviving spouses are invited to attend.

For information please contact one of the following individuals: in North Carolina, Jim Ferrell at 828-335-9203; and in Georgia, Tom Shope at 706-745-4072 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains. NT(Dec11,21)CA

Free legal services

Free legal services are available to senior citizens and low-income clients in your area. Services are based on case type and financial eligibility. GLSP does not handle criminal cases. For an appointment, please call 800-745-5717 or 770-535-5717 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday - Thursday. NT(Dec11,21)CA

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, December 11

9 am Tour of Trees through December 28 – Union County Community Center
2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm Bingo – Blairsville Civic Center

Thursday, December 12

8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting – Cooks Country Kitchen
12 pm Rotary Club of Union County Meeting – upstairs Cadence Bank
4 pm Chamber Ribbon Cutting – Knitters Knitch 64 Brackets Way, Ste. 6
6 pm Union County Lions Club Meeting – Steve's Steakhouse

Friday, December 13

3 pm Chamber Ribbon Cutting – Re/Max Town & Country Blairsville
253 Hwy 515, Ste. B
7 pm Jim Willhite Comedy Dinner – Copperhead Lodge

Saturday, December 14

4 pm 10th Annual Tree Lighting – Vogel State Park

Monday, December 16

10 am Sisters in Faith - St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting-Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6:30 pm Shape Note Singing Practice- Old Union County Courthouse

Tuesday, December 17

8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting – Blairsville Restaurant
7 pm American Legion Monthly Meeting – Haralson Memorial Civic Center

Wednesday, December 18

2 pm Friends of Union County Library Meeting – Union County Library
6 pm Bingo – Blairsville Civic Center