

Runoff...from Page 1A

position, Crittenden will be in charge of overseeing the runoff election.

Also resulting from the Nov. 6 General Election, Union County voters approved the SPLOST V ballot referendum in the 2018 General Election, meaning that the 1-cent countywide sales tax that's been in place since 1997 will continue through March 2027.

The measure passed with 7,153 YES votes to 4,167 NO votes, giving it a 63.19 percent margin of victory.

A SPLOST, or Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, is a 1-cent sales tax that is collected by counties for up to six years to fund county and city capital outlay projects such as roadwork, public safety equipment, infrastructure, etc.

The total sales tax in Union County is 7 cents on

the dollar, which includes a penny for current SPLOST IV collections.

Since the county is already collecting SPLOST

money, the sales tax rate within the county will simply stay the same at 7 percent when SPLOST IV expires and SPLOST V begins in April

2021.

SPLOST V is expected to collect \$24 million over its six-year collection period, just like SPLOST IV.

Kringle...from Page 1A

the Union County High School Chamber Choir and Woody Gap School Band of Steel both will be performing Christmas music for the merriment of all who attend.

Offering drinks, pastries and a light lunch this year will be Cabin Coffee, with a menu to include delicious cider, hot chocolate, coffee, muffins, coffee cake, cinnamon rolls, scones, cookies and mini sandwiches.

As far as what kinds of produce will be available following the close of the regular season in October, Cummings said people should come prepared to buy plenty of good fruit, including apples and citrus.

The Farmers Market has a strict policy when it comes to making sure all marketed goods are made or grown locally – either in Union County or in a county that touches Union County – but citrus isn't as readily available in this area.

“This time of year growing up, things I got for Christmas were oranges and tangerines and nuts, things like that,” said Cummings. “We allow vendors to bring in those citrus-type crops that are typical at Christmas.”

Of course, providing local vendors and area residents access to the Farmers Market for a Christmas-themed event is just one aspect of how the Farmers Market is used by the community.

The Farmers Market regular season runs from June through October, but like Kris Kringle, the market accommodates other community endeavors throughout the year, such as the Relay For Life of Union County, FFA auctions, the annual Women's Enrichment Center yard sale and more.

“Our goal at the Farmers Market is to get as much use out of that facility as we possibly can,” said Cummings. “We're

constantly trying to figure out new things that can be done to, No. 1, bring the community together, but also, No. 2, to provide a new use for that facility. As public servants, we have to be good stewards to the community.”

Anyone interested in shopping locally for gifts or simply looking for something to do to kick off the Christmas season should check out the Farmers Market this Saturday.

“We appreciate the support that this community has provided for the Farmers Market, and we'd like for people to come out and enjoy the market one more time in 2018,” said Cummings. “When we come back again in the spring, it's going to be a new year, and we really need to enjoy it.”

“One thing I've learned over the years is, you need to enjoy each and every day and not dwell on the future so much.”

Union County Historical Society presents Christmas Concert by the North Georgia Chamber Symphony



The North Georgia Chamber Symphony

The Union County Historical Society is honored to present the annual Christmas Concert by the North Georgia Chamber Symphony on Friday, November 30, at 7 PM in The Old Courthouse on the Square in Blairsville.

There is no better way to get into the spirit and enjoy the atmosphere of Christmas than hearing the Christmas concert of the North Georgia Chamber Symphony.

Our Holiday Concert fea-

tures Andrew Santander from the University of North Georgia playing Joseph Haydn's *Piano Concerto No. 11 in D Major*. We're opening with Alberto Ginastera's *Danza Final* from *Estancia* and playing Jean Sibelius's *Rakastava for Strings*, *Kettle-drums and Triangle*.

We'll play Christmas and Hanukkah music, with sing-alongs, and close with an exciting version of *We Three Kings* with violin solo performed by Concert Master

Martha Gardner.

Please join us in celebrating the Christmas season in Blairsville. As in all concerts presented by the Union County Historical Society, there is no admission charge to this program. The musicians donate their time and talents.

Voluntary contributions to the maintenance fund of the Old Courthouse on the Square are always welcomed and appreciated.

Blairsville's "Shop with a Cruiser" program taking Christmas donations ... for the kids



The Blairsville Cruisers Car Club members work all year to insure that no kid goes without at Christmas. Since 2007 the Cruisers donate annually to the Blairsville Police Department "Shop with a Cop" and to the Union County Sheriff's "Give-a-Gift" programs. We know they depend on our substantial donation for their programs and we are glad we could come through again this year. We are proud to help out our local law enforcement with donations and with our assistance at their shopping event.

In addition, our "Shop with a Cruiser" event will host 65 kids on December 13th for this annual event at Walmart. We were barely able to support this program this year due to the very wet and rainy spring and early summer which caused cancellation of several of our car events this year hindering the raising of funds. Our funds are very low this year as a result.

Our main source of funds for the kids at Christmas is our raffle car ticket sales which were slower than normal due to the weather and show cancellations. Please consider a small donation to help the Cruisers in their mission to assure no kid goes without at Christmas.

You can donate by sending a check to: Blairsville Cruisers... for the kids, P.O. Box 2502, Blairsville, GA 30514. 100% of donations to the non-profit Cruisers go to local community programs.

The Cruisers also host an event for helping local Veterans. The "Salute to Veterans Car Show and Auction" in November raised funds of which 100% went to needy veterans

and Veterans Organizations in the local area. The need is great for our wonderful veterans.

You can donate to our "for the kids" or "for the veterans" by noting which you prefer on the memo line of your check. 100% of your donation

goes to help the community in many ways.

The Cruisers want to thank our members, sponsors and donors for your support. We thank you and wish you a "Merry Christmas" and a blessed New Year.

Retired Firefighters Breakfast

The Retired Firefighters Breakfast is held the first Friday of each month, 9 a.m. at The Griddle, Blairsville, GA.