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as well as funding to help offset the cost of construction. In addition, the DDA and City of Blairsville provided input and guidance to achieve the goal of better traffic flow, improving the ability to attract new business to our historic downtown. Colwell Construction won the bid for the work on the site.

### Q. Will this change the looks and access into downtown Blairsville?

A. Yes. The plan, as designed, will increase the presence of our historic downtown and improve traffic flow. With the addition of retail shops, sidewalks, public parking and greenspace, the goal is to encourage tourists and the community to frequent downtown and support our local businesses.

### Q. Who is in charge of

### this new highway access project?

A. The Blairsville Downtown Development Authority is responsible for all aspects of the project and is working closely with the City of Blairsville to oversee the construction of additional phases.

### Answers by County Q. Is the county supportive of this project in downtown Blairsville?

A. We certainly are. The DDA and City have done a very good job so far with the downtown revitalization and we support their efforts.

### Q. Will the county be financially supporting this project?

A. We are evaluating different options but plan on supporting this project to the best extent possible.

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traditionally justified on the grounds that, in Chief Justice Rehnquist's words, "this conduct is thought to inflict greater individual and societal harm... bias-motivated crimes are more likely to provoke retaliatory crimes, inflict distinct emotional harms on their victims, and incite community unrest." Hate crime laws have greater penalties and publicly shame the perpetrator. It should be the responsibility of government to protect the civil rights of its citizens. A government can confirm its commitment to the safety and well-being of its citizens by establishing an ordinance against hate crime activity or enhancing the punishment for hate crime. Of all crimes, hate crimes are most likely to create or exacerbate tensions, which can trigger larger community-wide conflict. From <http://www.justice.gov/crs/hate-crime>

Prevalence of hate crimes

The DOJ and the FBI have gathered statistics on hate crimes reported to law enforcement since 1992 in accordance with the Hate Crime Statistics Act. The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division has annually published these statistics as part of its Uniform Crime Reporting program. According to these reports, of the over 113,000 hate crimes since 1991, 55 percent were motivated by racial bias, 17 percent by religious bias, 14 percent sexual orientation bias, 14 percent ethnicity bias, and 1 percent disability bias. In 2000, there were 9,924, in 2001, there were 12,020. Fast forward to 2012, there were 7,164, in 2013, there were 6,933. It is apparent that the 45 state and the federal laws concerning hate crimes are making a difference. Please ask your Georgia or South Carolina Representative as to why your state does not have a hate crime law.

Vickie Whitaker

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rather than a source of money. Greet them warmly, ask about their interests, and make special recommendations just for them. Human nature is to want to do business with friends first.

5. Offer Something Unique – Find what makes you special and tout that aspect of your business. Whether it be unique advertising, exceptional customer service, a dynamic storefront, or a unique spin on your business model, differentiate yourself and be memorable for something.

6. Share Your Successes – Do not be afraid to brag a little. Sharing your success builds confidence in your customers and helps build a positive image for your brand. Utilize all media outlets to spread the word.

7. Get Involved – Getting involved in a charitable organization or with a local

project is not only a great way to meet new people but more importantly, it demonstrates your commitment to the local community and the people who are part of it.

8. Learn From Others – Never miss an opportunity to learn a lesson. Study the methods of other successful business owners and listen to the feedback that your stakeholders are giving you. No one is perfect, so always be ready to adapt.

If you are a business owner interested in learning more about the benefits of membership in the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, I invite you to give us a call at (706) 745-5789 or email Linda Lawrence, our Membership Coordinator, at [Membership@BlairsvilleChamber.com](mailto:Membership@BlairsvilleChamber.com). You can also find more information online at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com).

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host our Harvest Days. Some displays will be set up to show the importance of Agriculture to the economy of Union County. The following week on Oct. 10th will be international food day at the market. We hope to provide samples of foods from Europe and the Middle East. These foods will be pre-

pared using locally grown produce. Also, let me remind each of you that the Canning Plant will be closed the first week of October. After which it will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of October. In the month of November the Canning Plant will be open a couple of days for the canning of meats and other fall

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ter, salt and pepper. Maybe I'll leave the half cylinders in tack, and roast them till soft and nutty and serve slathered in honey butter, and sprinkled with fresh parsley and toasted coconut.

I fix my spaghetti squash very similar to this. I basically cut the speared skinned globe in half, brush the interior pulp with olive oil, and lay it face down on a parchment lined baking sheet and roast till the skin is soft to the touch. I then scoop out the seeds, and run a fork up and down to shred into spaghetti. Last week I made a Sicilian style sauce to toss with my veggie spaghetti. I sautéed some crushed garlic and sweet onion till translucent. I then added a large chopped roma tomato and cooked it down. Next I added a can of sardines (packed in olive oil), two tablespoons of capers, and two tablespoons of fresh chopped fronds of the fennel bulb. I simmered it for a few minutes then tossed it with the "spags" and served with freshly grated Locatelli Reggiano cheese.

After today's Tuesday market, there are only 10 more Union County Farmers Market shopping days to this 2015 local harvest. Now's the time to go for the gusto. You see these foreign objects sitting in front of the vendors and you aren't sure what to do with them. You can Google them and find easy recipes using only the ingredients in your cabinet. It doesn't have to get complicated or take a great deal of your time. It takes a desire to go outside your kitchen comfort zone. I guarantee you it will be worth the effort.

Have you had a veg-

## Fowler

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dedicated Christians, and John, an Anglican priest, believed his mission included the Indians.

It's worth noting that the Wesleys and George Whitefield had become known as "Methodists" and were among the early founders of the evangelical movement. In 1738, Whitefield followed his friends to Savannah and served the church previously led by John Wesley. In 1740, this new Georgian was instrumental in the "Great Awakening," a spiritual renewal among the colonies that soon spread to England.

Today's challenge for Christians in Georgia is no different than in colonial days. Even if some of their efforts were flawed, the early Georgians did recognize Jesus' commission to "go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Mat 28:19-20). That work is not yet finished, and Georgia is still a mission field as the world comes to us.

## Brigman ...

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and see if he'd have better luck. As most women will predict, yes, the car engine turned over without a problem and the key turned and slipped right out of the ignition as commanded. OK, so now I am really embarrassed. Don't forget, there are other cars behind me awaiting their orders and it is during the lunchtime rush hour.

Pulling the car over into a parking space as the gentleman suggested, he and another employee lifted my hood, and brought out a container of water to pour into my radiator after it cooled down. My lunch order was brought out to me and it was kindly suggested I sit there, and allow my car to become cooler before cranking it again, while I relaxed eating my lunch. Well, in summary, I had a good lunch, my car cranked right up and I returned home without further incident.

By the way, I discovered the gentleman that rescued me was Mr. Daniel Liberatore, Operating Manager of Chick-fil-A. Thank you Mr. Liberatore for helping and assisting me with my car troubles. I was devastated to hold up the organized rhythm of you serving your customers and was relieved you handled it with such kindness and respectful understanding. Seeing first hand that you can handle the unexpected with quick and positive action really puts the stamp of approval on your desiring to serve your customers and this community. Blairsville has surely gained not only a wonderful quality restaurant, but also even more friendly, reputable and neighborly people with it! Bless you and Thank you... so glad you are a part of us.

Rhonda Kay Brigman

**NORTH GEORGIA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS SELL CALL 706-745-6343 FOR INFORMATION**

# UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	<b>Every Monday:</b> GMREC (May-Oct)	9 am - 1 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
A Course in Miracles	UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101	2 pm
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
	<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	
Tri State Bus. Women	Blairsville Restaurant	8 am
Tuesday Strippers Quilts	Mtn. Presbyterian Ch	9:30-2:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Smoky Mtn. Melodies	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Hi Country Harmonizers	Branan Lodge	6:30 pm
Spiritual Living Group	UC Comm Cntr., Rm 101	6:30 pm
	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	So. Bank & Trust	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
	<b>First Monday of each month:</b>	
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
Volunteers/Handicap	First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Allegheny Masonic Lodge #114, off the square		6:30 pm
	<b>First Tuesday of each month:</b>	
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
	<b>First Wednesday of each month:</b>	
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	Monet's Rest.	Noon
	<b>First Thursday of each month:</b>	
Awake America	City Hall	11:59 am
NAMI Fam. Support	New Hope Counseling	12-1:30 pm
Blairsville Sorghum Fest.	Fort Sorghum	6:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
	<b>First Friday of each month:</b>	
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10 am
UG Hospital Aux	UC Nursing Home	Noon
Cruisers Block Party	Farmer's Market	5 pm (Apr-Oct)
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm
	<b>First Saturday of each month:</b>	
Cruise-In	On the Square	4 pm (Apr-Oct)