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Cummings, the Market Manager at the Union County Farmers Market and Cannery, said he knows the difficulties that families have faced during the recent Great Depression, and he understands how to stretch a penny.

"You can look at the problems that the EMC has faced over the past couple of years," Cummings said. "I don't know all the details, but I do think the EMC is a good organization, but, some things need work.

"I think the people that

are on the board need to represent the people who pay for power, better known as the membership," Cummings said. "The EMC has a great core group that work there – the employees.

"I think it's real important for board members to represent the people they represent in the five counties," he said. "I think we need to do everything we can to make it as good of an organization as we can.

"We need to do everything that we can to help the people that work there and we

need to do everything that we can to help the membership," Cummings said. "The customers that pay the bills, the common, everyday people, we need to make sure those folks are truly represented.

"When you have to make hard decisions, you have to look at every angle of the situation," Cummings said. "Those decisions have to be a reflection of the people that you represent. When I make a decision, I'll be thinking about the person that has to scrape up money to pay their electric bill.

You can't put special interests above the customers' interests. The Board of Directors is the people's board."

Cummings is one of four candidates that will be on the ballot representing Union County. Danny Henson, Patrick Malone and Charles Rich also will be on the ballot.

"I'm going to have to get out and meet some people," Cummings said.

Cummings is married to Lauren Childers Cummings. They have two sons, Will and Wade.

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"It's really to focus on growth and development of the downtown," he said. "Because with 515 going through years ago it took the emphasis off the town square. Everything developed along 515. So then you have this decaying center that needed some love. And that's what the DDA does."

The DDA and the Historical Society both agree that the square and the courthouse are the centerpiece of Blairsville, and as such represent important historic property.

"The courthouse is the heart of downtown Blairsville, and there was a time when they were going to tear that down," said Harper. "It had fallen into disrepair."

Thanks to the efforts of a few concerned citizens, the courthouse is no longer in danger of demolition and now represents a kind of cultural hub in Blairsville. "Now we have concerts there every Friday and we have education for our local youth, and they're the keeper of our county's history," said Harper. "For someone who's from this area, I can trace my lineage way back just because of the records they keep."

The same kind of spirit that led to the salvation of the courthouse is what is lead-

ing Harper and others to try to bring out the downtown area's fullest potential. Because the downtown area is historic, the DDA and the Historical Society are focused on renovating it and bringing business to Downtown.

The art festival is one such effort. Putting it together took teamwork and cooperation, since both organizations relied on the other.

"This was a group effort," said Harper. "You have to have bodies on the ground and the Historical Society provides that. The vast majority of our volunteers come from the Historical Society, so we split the proceeds, and if this is healthy, our downtown will be healthy. So it kind of

makes economic sense for us to work together."

Bud Akins, president of the Union County Historical Society, has a hopeful outlook regarding the future of the area.

"Yesterday was probably a record crowd, and all the vendors that I talked to have said that they had a very successful day yesterday, so that tells me that the economy is coming back up," he said.

"The vendors in town, they wanted it downtown," he added. "Where they could be exposed to this. So we're exposing them. We want everybody to get interested with trading with these people downtown. What we're trying to do is trying to promote downtown Blairsville."

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church.

Thanks to longtime volunteer board member Vee Laffoon and her team of volunteers there will be clowns, games for kids and adults, team competitions, music, rides, and so much more.

Beginning at 4 p.m. the Kids Korner Activities, team campsites, and fun will begin. There will be clowns, kiddy train rides, and a cakewalk for kids, hat creating and decorating and other carnival games for kids of all ages. Teams will be serving up delicious food treats for donations to the fight against cancer. There will be various raffles around the "carnival of Hope" teams' campsites this year.

"A very special one of a kind necklace created by Jeweler Devan Persaud will be on display. Drawing for the winner of this raffle will be done during the evening events. Persaud Jewellery will be on site to accept your donations for this raffle," Laffoon said.

Also on tap, George Upchurch has again planned a delicious BBQ Rib Cookoff.

"Teams from around Georgia will be at the Farmers Market on May 30," George Upchurch said. "The public is invited to come taste the ribs and other tasty items. Teams will be cooking for donations and for the official judging of the ribs and sauces."

Feature activities of every Relay For Life around the world now include the traditional opening ceremony and Cancer Survivors Walk which is set to start this year at 6 p.m. Prior to that there will be a Cancer Survivors Picnic hosted by volunteer Stacy Head and a crew of dedicated volunteers registering and serving up picnic fare at 4:30 p.m. "This is the time for survivors of all ages and of all kinds of cancers to gather with their caregivers to celebrate, remember and fight back," added Head.

The other most popular activity at all of the Relay For Life events includes annual candle lighting or Luminaria ceremony, which begins at 9 p.m. All activities around the Farmers Market will stop for this special quiet time of honor and remembrance. Donations for the Luminaria bags will be accepted until 8:30 p.m. that evening. Suggested donation is \$5 per bag. Donors will also be able to decorate the bag with names.

2015 Relay For Life Schedule Carnival of Hope:

4 p.m. - Team campsites open to public with games, food, raffles, and gifts "DJ DEZ" provides music Kids Korner opens with train rides for little ones, clowns, cake walk, carnival food, hat decorating and games, games, games.

4:30 p.m. - Survivors Picnic in campsites 1-12.

4 - 8:30 p.m. - Luminaria Bag Donations open

5 p.m. - Blairsville School of Dance Cloggers, Main Stage

6 p.m. - Opening Ceremony, Main Stage, Invocation, Presentation of American Flag by North Georgia Honor Guard, National Anthem, Welcome/Announcements, Survivor Ceremony and Walk (caregivers join in), Team Parade with Banners and Batons Competition.

6:30 p.m. - Take It To the Track Time honoring Childhood Cancer Fighters, open to all children ages 18 and under (register at Kids Korner) for free pinwheel. Decorated strollers are en-

couraged to participate.

6:45 p.m. Leather and Lace Band (Main Stage)

Team members will continue walking "track" during the entire evening carrying their team baton.

8 p.m. - Team Competitions (Main Stage), Bare Legs Contest (Carlton Shaw Memorial Competition) Men's and Boys categories (prizes for Prettiest, Ugliest, and Hairiest Legs), Look Alike Contest (Dress-Up) Prizes for Most Creative, and Most Alike

9 p.m. - Luminaria Candle lighting Ceremony with special music

10 p.m. - Closing Ceremony with awards, Circle of Friendship and Challenge for 2016.

All American Cancer Society Events are tobacco free and family friendly. All children must be under the care of parents and guardians during the events as well.

Union County EMS will be on site for emergency needs as well as local law enforcement on site for safety.

Station 4 Open House on Saturday

Union County Fire Station 4 will hold its annual Open House on May 30th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Union County Fire Chief David Dyer welcomes the Ivy Log Community as well as others from within the county to come and enjoy food, fellowship and fun.

Chief Dyer said fundraising goals continue to provide volunteer firefighters with firefighting gear, radios, and the tools necessary to safely

perform the tasks related to fire and rescue operations.

Chief Dyer said future plans for Station 4 include making improvements to the station that include remodeling the kitchen area, as well as making room for sleeping quarters for firefighters.

It is only with these continued donations that the department can equipment and train volunteers to do the jobs that firefighters are called to perform.