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citizens. So I am simply asking you to think about where to shop with this in mind.

### Q. Does Internet shopping hurt our sales tax?

A. It certainly does. While the internet provides many conveniences for gift shopping, that money will never go back into our local economy. We have so many great shops in Union County. I am certain that you can find the perfect and unique gift right here at home. Changing your buyer behavior takes an examination of where you are spending your money and a willingness to make small changes. Even small changes can mean big returns for everyone. If you need help identifying local businesses that offer what you are looking for, the Chamber of Commerce is glad to assist and so are we at the county.

### Q. I believe in the

### value of this Buy Local program. What can I do to help?

A. (From Cindy Williams of the Chamber) If you already know about buying local and what it does to the economy, then make sure you are practicing it in your spending as much as reasonably and financially possible. If you are already doing that, then great! Now, take what you know and what you are doing and tell your friends and neighbors. KEEP TELLING EVERYONE! Be a champion for our local economy and brag about how you are creating jobs and money for Blairsville and Union County. When a community works together it can flourish, even in harsh times like a recession. Let's get every household in the area to PROMISE to work harder towards spending more dollars at locally owned businesses.

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Often times when the price is cheaper, so is the quality.

To make a difference that we hope will get you thinking about this topic, the Chamber of Commerce, along with our partner, the North Georgia News, invites you to take the Buy Local Pledge that states that you are committed to shopping and purchasing local products and services whenever practical. Pledge cards can be obtained from the Chamber office. Chamber member businesses are automatically enrolled in the BEST program and are invited to stop by the Chamber for a start up kit. Finally, everyone in the community is encouraged to be on the lookout for the Chamber's Summer Edition Scavenger Hunt which begins July 1 and is a great way to explore the hidden treasures of our local community.

Won't you consider a chamber member for your shopping needs? Go to [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com) or call (706) 745-5789 for help identifying a local business that

can serve your needs. I can be reached any time at [Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com](mailto:Chair@BlairsvilleChamber.com).

P.S. Now that July 4th is here, how about a nice refreshing flavor using watermelon as the main ingredient. A recipe from Better Homes and Gardens: 3 cups seeded watermelon, ¾ cup sugar, ½ cup lightly packed fresh mint leaves, 2 cups white grape juice, 1 teaspoon finely grated lime peel, ¾ cup fresh lime juice, 32 ounces of club soda. Place watermelon in a blender and blend until smooth. Strain watermelon puree through a fine mesh sieve and discard the pulp.

In a large bowl, combine sugar and mint. Using a large wooden bowl, lightly crush mint by pressing it against the bowl. Add grape juice, lime peel, lime juice and watermelon puree, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Stir in Club Soda, serve over ice. Garnish with a watermelon wedge or mint sprig. Enjoy your 4th of July and we hope to see you at Meeks Park for the Fireworks.

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it with their blood. We must stand faithful to our spiritual heritage but we must stand firm in our spiritual health. The writer of Proverbs records that righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34). The Psalmist said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12).

What makes a nation strong? Its wealth? Weapons of war? Military might? No. A nation is strong whose dependence is in God who rules in the affairs of men!

Lastly, we need to stand fast in our spiritual hope (Hosea 13:4, 9). Christ is our only hope. Individuals or nations who sow to the wind will reap the whirlwind. In the latter part of the 30's the depres-

sion had sucked out nearly all hope from America and the dark clouds of war were already hovering over Europe and America. All hope for the future seemed bleak for this nation. But then from the pen of America's premiere songwriter came the song that lifted a broken and bruised nation, the beloved songwriter and radio singer, Kate Smith, stood before a microphone and in her beautiful, full soprano voice sang:

"God bless America, Land that I love, stand beside her and guide her

Thru the night with the light from above. From the mountains, to the Prairies, to the ocean white with foam. God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, my home sweet home."

## Relay ...continued from Page 4A

our 18 years of Relay For Life and our 30+ years of other American Cancer Society educational, service, research, and advocacy efforts here in Union County. We realize that your family and staff have been touched by cancer. We know that your support will help bring us closer to a cure and that many in our community are benefiting from the research and prevention efforts as well.

You and your staff stepped up to help us put our *best feet forward*, so to speak. This 18th Annual event was well attended and many were very complimentary about our new location and county facilities.

We hope that we can count on you to work with us on our 19th Annual event in

2013. Dates have not been set, but we will be in contact soon as we proceed to reserve the Farmer's Market for 2013.

Again, thank you for your support in the fight against cancer and helping to lessen the burden of cancer in our community.

### Union County Relay For Life Volunteers 2012

## Farmer's Market Event Calendar 2012

Every Saturday at the market, there is a themed event. Events are 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. unless noted.

- July 7 – Red, White and Blues!
- July 14 – The Sweetest Corn Festival
- July 21 – You Can "CAN IT" Day
- July 28 – 3rd Annual Green Bean Festival 7am-7pm  
[www.GreenBeanFestival.com](http://www.GreenBeanFestival.com)
- August 4- Community Appreciation Day  
– free tomato sandwiches
- August 11 – Back to School Kids Day
- August 18 – Flower Show and Naturally Grown Sculpture Exhibit
- August 25- The Great Squash and Watermelon Extravaganza
- September 1 – College Colors Revelry  
(Kicking off the college football season)
- September 8 – Bubba's BBQ Blast
- September 15 – Our 3rd Annual Salute to Our Farmers
- September 22 – Fall Kick Off – Bake Off
- September 29 – Our Salute to Our Crafters and Artisans

## Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

### Wednesday, July 4

- 8:30am Independence Day - Vogel State Park
- 11am 4th July Lake Nottely Boat Parade – Nottley Marina
- 2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
- 7pm Independence Day Fireworks in Suches – Woody Gap School
- 9pm Fireworks Show Young Harris – Brasstown Valley Resort
- 9:30pm Independence Day Fireworks Celebration In Blairsville – Meeks Park

### Thursday, July 5

- 12pm Rotary Club of Union County – St. Francis of Assisi Church

### Friday, July 6

- 8am Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
- 5pm Blairsville Cruisers Block Party – Walmart Parking Lot
- 7pm Friday Night Concert, Nelson Thomas - Historic Union County Courthouse
- 7pm You can be the Star Karaoke – Lodge at Copperhead

### Saturday, July 7

- 7am Union County Farmer's Market
- 7pm Hot summer Nights – Goldhagen Studios

### Monday, July 9

- 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 10

- 8am Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting – Cooks Restaurant
- 3pm Union County Farmer's Market

## 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
	<b>Every Tuesday:</b>	
Mtn. Woodcarvers	Senior Center	6 pm
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
	<b>Every Thursday:</b>	
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	St. Francis of Assisi	Noon
	<b>Second Monday of each month:</b>	
Misty Mtn Quilt Guild	Hayesville	10 am-3 pm
Disabled Am Veterans	UC Annex, Rm 116	Noon (Jan-Oct)
	<b>Second Tuesday of each month:</b>	
Historical Society Bd.	Old Courthouse	9:30 am
Band Boosters	UC Middle School	7:30 pm
	(Aug through May, except Dec)	
Beta Sigma Phi	Kappa Alpha Chapter	7 pm
Eastern Star #304	Location not listed	7:30 pm
Mtn Laurel Arts/Crafts	Union County Library	10 am
Mtn. Reg. Arts/Crafts	Library - Young Harris	7 pm
NARFE	Antonieta's Rest.	Noon
Family Council	Nursing Home	6 pm
FPL Retirees	Hole in Wall Rest.	9 am
	<b>Second Wednesday of each month:</b>	
Parkinson's Sup. Grp	Cadence Bank	3 pm
UC Interagency Grp.	UC Civic Center	Noon
GA Mtn Writers Club	St. Francis of Assisi	10 am
	<b>Second Thursday of each month:</b>	
Sons Confederate Vet.	Union County Library	7 pm
Appalachian Shriners	Allegheny Lodge	6:30 pm
Knights of Columbus	Marian Hall	7:30 pm
Lions Club	Steve's Cookie Jar	6 pm
Democratic Party	UC Senior Center	6:30 pm
	<b>Second Friday of each month:</b>	
Eastern Star #471	Location not listed	7:30 pm
	<b>Second Saturday of each month:</b>	
His Victory Riders	Blairsville Restaurant	5 pm

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On Dec. 31, 2011, after only three years of the Obama administration, the national debt had grown to a staggering increase of 41 percent.

As of this writing the debt is continuing to grow at the astounding rate of \$3.95 billion per day.

When Obama started his term the national debt stood at 74.1 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP), but after only three years under his administration the national debt equaled 99.7 percent of GNP, unquestionably the highest percentage of GNP in history.

Prior to President Obama, no matter how long each served, no other sitting president ever amassed so much debt.

**Robert K. Honea**