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buildings and school system facilities, including athletic facilities, acquiring miscellaneous new equipment, fixtures and furnishings for the school system, including instructional and administrative technology equipment and safety and security equipment.

The penny sales tax would also pay for acquiring school buses, vehicles and transportation and mainte-

nance equipment, acquiring textbooks and other instructional materials, including band instruments and equipment, acquiring land for school system facilities.

If approved, the school system would move forward with general obligation debt by the school system not to exceed \$13.5 million to pay for the projects and for the purpose of payment of a portion

of the interest on the debt.

The maximum rate of interest on the debt would not exceed 6 percent annually, according to the paperwork filed by the Board of Education, and the amount of principal to be paid in each year during the life of such debt would be \$2.6 million in 2014, \$2.7 million in 2015, \$2.8 million in 2016, \$2.9 million in 2017 and \$2.5 million in 2018.

Making Things Happen For Rural America Is What We Do

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, Demorest, GA

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D's mission is to "Assist local people in planning and carrying out activities that conserve natural resources, support economic development, enhance the environment, and improve the standard of living for all citizens". In keeping with our mission, we pass on information about legislation that affects all our lives. I'm sure most of you have heard about the Farm Bill that has been kicked around in Congress and you probably are thinking that it only affects farmers, but it affects all aspects of our lives. This bill will have an impact on food prices, milk prices, and most other items that are made from farm products. You should pay close attention to this bill because contrary to what a lot of people think, the food we eat does not just come from the grocery store. The editorial below is written by Allen H. Olson an agricultural attorney in Albany, GA. What Does the Farm Bill Extension Really Mean? "At one level, the farm bill extension means exactly what it says. The programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, with certain exceptions, are extended and funded for one year. The extra year is the federal fiscal year, not the calendar year, so the extension will expire this coming September 30th. That gives Congress a little less than seven months in which to enact a new five year farm bill, a daunting task given the current climate in Congress. At another level, the farm bill extension likely means that there will be less money

for farm programs in the next farm bill than there would have been had the farm bill been enacted in 2012. There are several reasons for this. First, the monies expended on direct payments and the other extended programs will reduce the amount available for farm programs under the new bill. In effect, they will be taken off the top in the budget negotiations. Second, The Senate and House Agricultural Committees must start from scratch on a farm bill. Because we are now in a new Congress, the 113th, the farm bill passed last year by the Senate and the farm bill passed by the House Agricultural Committee no longer exist. The new farm bills must now be introduced and debated at the same time as Congress is debating fiscal cliff debt reductions and raising the budget ceiling. This means that farm bill expenditures, including farm programs and food stamps, will be on the table along with Medicare, Social Security, defense spending, and many other federal programs. In this environment, further farm program cuts seem inevitable. Third, we may see a "decoupling" of farm programs and social welfare programs in the farm bill. Since the 1960's, farm bills have been passed by a coalition of farm state Congressmen and inner city Congressmen. Essentially the deal has been you vote for my farm subsidies, and I will vote for your food stamps and other nutrition programs. In the 2008 Farm Bill, farm subsidies are in Title I and nutrition programs in Title IV. This might be the year we see these titles decoupled



and enacted in separate legislation. Should this happen, one might expect less money for farm subsidies, not more. Fourth, despite the severe drought, 2012 farm income is now being reported in at historic highs. Not all areas were affected by the drought, and, in areas that were, record high crop prices and crop insurance compensated for lower yields. With the exception of milk producers and some livestock operators, farmers are generally in good economic shape and unable to generate political sympathy with cries of distress. Fifth, most Tea Party Republicans and some Democrats remain steadfastly opposed to farm subsidies. With less than 2 million people on the farm and many rural areas slowly depopulating, the strength of the farm and rural lobbies may be on the wane. There are fewer votes available to pass any farm bill, much less one with generous farm subsidies. So, will Congress pass a new farm bill? The answer is eventually, but the enactment of the one year extension of the current bill signals that it may be very different from past farm bills and one with less not more money. Farmers might be well advised not to spend the extra direct payments they will get this fall but to save them as a hedge against leaner times." Frank Riley is Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. For more information on Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council, visit our web site www.chestchattcd.org or phone our office at 706-894-1591 or email susan.ccrd@gmail.com. You can also check us out on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ccrd>.

Union County Mentor Program

Currently has 55 students active and 40 on the waiting list. We want to provide a mentor to every student who needs and wants one. Have active mentors in Primary, Elementary, Middle, High and Alternative Education Program.

Who: A mentor is simply a volunteer who can be a supportive friend with a listening ear. Anyone with a little time.

What: Reading, playing games, crafts, art or simply talking with children. Academics if mentor is comfortable with that.

Where: On school grounds, usually in the library of the school. Outside if the weather is nice.

When: During the school day or 21st Century After School Program. Once a week for 45 mins to an hour. At a time that is convenient for you and the student.

Why: Children who have mentors have been found to be less likely to use drugs and alcohol. They also have better attendance, often improve their grades, and have more self-confidence. All of

which will make them more successful in school and life. The feeling you get from helping.

How: Attend 1 hour training. Pass fingerprint and background check. Be committed and dependable. Call Katy Jones, Mentor Coordinator, for more details. 706-745-9615 Ext. 4428. NTFeb27.X2)CA

Head Start/Pre-K Registration

Registration for the 2013-2014 school year will begin on March 1, 2013. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2013 to be eligible for the program. Applications will be taken by appointment only and documentation must be provided.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call our office at 706-745-4200.

Our program also serves children with special needs and disabilities. The program does not provide transportation. NTFeb27.Z1)CA

PTO Officer elections

PTO Officer elections will be held on March 18, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Union County High School Library. The offices for election will be President, Vice President K-5, Vice President 6-12, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary.

If you or someone you know would like to be nominated for an officer position, please email the address below with the name, position and contact information. It will be forwarded to the nominating committee. Send information to: blairsville_pto@ucschools.org. NTFeb27.W1)CA

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, February 27
 2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
 11 am Chamber Ribbon Cutting for H & H Variety Sales - Victoria's Center
 12 pm Mt. Reg. Library & VA Blairsville Clinic sponsors Lunch & Learn - Community Room U.C. Library

Thursday, February 28
 8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cooks Country Kitchen
 12 pm Rotary Club of Union County - Cadence Bank, 2nd Floor
 5 pm Trivia Night & Tacos - The Union County Community Center View Grill
 6 pm Union County Lions Club - Steve's Steakhouse & Cookie Jar Restaurant
 6 pm Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting - meeting location call 706-897-2501

Friday, March 1
 2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

Saturday, March 2
 2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
 5 pm Crane Creek Vineyards presents: Spring at Holly Hill
 6 pm Karaoke - Union County Community Center

Monday, March 4
 9 am Nail Art Basics - NGTC
 12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting-Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
 6 pm Alzheimer's Support Group - Cadence Bank 2nd Floor
 6 pm Gluten-Free Living - NGTC

Tuesday, March 5
 8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Country Restaurant

Wednesday, March 6
 2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Garden Tours	Every Monday: GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Sweet Adelines	Every Tuesday: United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Masonic Luncheon	Every Thursday: Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon
Get Fit	First UMC	5:15 pm
Volunteers/Handicap	First Monday of each month: First Baptist, H Bldg.	6 pm
Allegheny Lodge	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
CERT	St. Francis of Assisi	6:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Ret.	Blairsville Restaurant	9 am
UC Amer. Red Cross	First Tuesday of each month: Red Cross Office	Noon
Blairsville City Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
Brownie Scouts	United Methodist Ch	3-5 pm
Enotah Ch. #24 RAM	Masonic Temple	7:30 pm
Gaddistown Hmakers	Woody Gap	7 pm
Business Women	Cook's Restaurant	8 am
Knights/Colum. #2563	place TBA	7:30 pm
Amateur Radio Club	Branan Lodge	7 pm
Tri-Cty Wom. Lunch	First Wednesday of each month: Monet's Rest.	Noon
Exercise class	Senior Citizens Center	10:30 am
Jaycees	First Thursday of each month: Fort Sorghum	7:30 pm
Open Road ORV	Civic Center	8 pm
UG Hospital Aux	First Friday of each month: UC Nursing Home	Noon
Feel Good Friday	Wellness Center	7 pm
"Nailed" Book Club	G-N-G Bakery	10:30am