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Hussion said that it is with a heavy heart that he leaves the Panther baseball program.

"I'm really proud of how far we've come in this program," Hussion said. "We've brought the program a long ways with the help of my assistants Brandon Bradburn and Cullen Robertson and others

that we've had along the last five years.

"We've been able to host Region tournaments, have winning records and putting some kids in college," Hussion said. "The team is in great shape, they're returning 20 kids off of last year's team into a little bit easier region where I think we'll be one of

the bigger schools.

"Nothing would make me happier than to see these boys do what we set out to do in this program," Hussion said. "The Diamond Club is in great shape, the field has never looked better; I feel comfortable about where the program is right now. I can assure you, it will be in good

hands next season."

Hussion's career record coaching baseball at Union is 64 wins, 51 losses, including three seasons above .500.

Hussion's teams won double digits during his five-year tenure. He led the Panthers to a 19-9 season in 2010.

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base.

"In 1935, the Ten Commandments could be found in government buildings everywhere," Dr. Gowder said. "That has changed."

Dr. Gowder told the crowd that our nation has become too dependent on government to make decisions.

"We've been deceived into thinking there is nothing we can do, that we're too little to matter," he said. "It is our

duty to do a better job of praying for our country.

"It doesn't matter who is in office, it matters that you are involved," he said.

Dr. Gowder said that now is the time for a spiritual revolution.

"We've gotten away from the spiritual nature of our country," he said. "The time is now to pray, we need to feel the burdens of our country."

The Rev. Terry Stuart of

Blairsville Church of Christ said that America is much more than a nation of conquerors.

"It seems that we have turned on each other," he said. "Lord, help us to become again a Nation whose God is Lord. May we always be a Nation under God."

Other pastors attending the ceremony and praying for our Nation, our state and Blairsville and Union County included George Cline,

Antioch Baptist, John Davis, Blairsville Church of God, Jim Aiken, Coosa Methodist, Bill Honaker, Ben Lewis, First United Methodist, Dave Wesche, All Saints Lutheran, Kevin Collins, and Ken Fuller, Blairsville Church of the Nazarene.

The Rev. Honaker, who prayed for our Armed Forces, reminded the crowd that "Freedom is not free; it comes with a price."



The Blairsville/Union County community came together last week to pray for our Nation during the annual National Day of Prayer ceremony at First Baptist. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

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it brings people out into the city where they usually do other things that include shopping at the local shops.

It wasn't all about tomato plants on Friday.

Hot dogs, soft drinks, entertainment and door prizes also were on the minds of the many that came to celebrate being a customer at UCB.

The day included the gifting of almost 30,000 tomato plants, more than 6,000

hotdogs, more than 7,000 bags of popcorn, and 10,000 ounces of Coca Cola, leaded and unleaded.

It also was a big day for the bank's Junior Board of Directors, who assisted throughout the day's events.

The thousands of tomato plants handed out on Friday could be a jolt for the local economy.

If all the plants handed out during Customer Apprecia-

tion Day produce their average annual yield of 34 tomatoes per plant, the total number of tomatoes produced would equal almost 1 million. The haul would then produce a mid-summer run at the grocery store on mayonnaise and sandwich bread to make the South's No. 1 delicacy, the "mater sandwich."

Get ready for the annual haul of "mater sandwiches" coming to a kitchen near you.



As the saying goes, 'the early bird gets the worm.' These customers didn't have to wait in line to get their quota of tomato plants. Almost 30,000 tomato plants disappeared during UCB's annual Customer Appreciation Day. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Showcase

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Extravaganza promotes local businesses and is the largest networking event of the year.

With more than 35 displays, visitors learned about top selling wares and popular services.

Vendors showed everything from home decor to financial services. Amazing Grace Catering won Best of Show, Center for Wellness won Most Educational, The Blue Ridge Community Theater won Most Creative, and Boaz Computers won Most Interactive.

Thanks to everyone that made the event a success including the Chamber of Commerce staff and the participating businesses.

Special thanks go to Corporate Sponsor United Community Bank.

For more details about local businesses, visit the Blairsville - Union County Chamber of Commerce at the Union County Community Center or online at www.visitblairvillega.com.