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road damage, and repaving the entire section of road, plus paving the short section of Lowes Mill that has never been paved, is in the \$ 90,000 range.

Q. How will the county be able to pay for this project?

A. Thank goodness for the Georgia Department of Transportation. I called them immediately after losing the road to the storm to ask for assistance and they have been working with us almost daily to solve the problem and they have agreed to fund 70 percent of the project, plus help us with the paving. We cannot thank them enough. GDOT gets a lot of bad press, but I will tell you that they have always been totally cooperative with Union County and it is always a pleasure for me to work with them in assisting the county and the region.

Q. Are there others who will be assisting the county with the Lowes Mill culvert replacement?

A. Yes, Southern Concrete Company, whose plant is affected by the road closure, is giving the county a significant discount on the concrete and will be furnishing the concrete for a portion of the road in front of their plant. We appreciate very much their cooperation.

Q. When will Lowes Mill Road be open again?

A. We hope to have it open some time next week, all except the paving. Once the weather cooperates, we will then come back and work on the paving. That will require the road be closed for an additional day or two. Once this project is completed, we should not have any future problems unless we ever have a catastrophic flooding event.

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good seed. Both the male and the female House Wrens have more than one mate. In fact, the males will build more than one nest to entice passing females to enter them.

The Cardinals are very beautiful birds. However, they are prone to exhibit strange behavior, especially the female. They will pick a fight with their reflection in a car bumper or side mirror. They waste their energy fighting the wrong enemy.

The Mocking Bird nests every year in one of my burning bushes. I call them Bully Birds. They are ornery fellows always attacking other birds. I am not sure the Mocking Bird has its own song because it is always singing the song of other birds. The Mocking Bird is just an outright thief stealing the testimony of other birds.

Blue Jays are gluttons. They come into my bird feeders like B-47 bombers. They dive-bomb other birds and

gobble up sunflower seeds faster than I can fill the feeders. They always make a grand entrance and scare off the other birds. They are boisterous and cause quite a ruckus. Every fall and spring I have six or eight pairs of Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks that visit and eat for a few days. They are absolutely beautiful, especially the male. But I know that they won't be with me long; they are just passing through. They are here a little while and then gone.

Over the course of my ministry I have met some Baptist Birds. But you know that like God's flying birds, He made each one of them and they are precious to Him. All the birds that God created are beautiful in spite of their sometimes-obnoxious behavior. People, unlike birds can change their behavior patterns through Christ. Maybe you can identify with one of God's flying birds. Consider the fowl of the air...

Ramsey ...continued from Page 4A

test in the Constitution that would determine who can and cannot run for the presidency; theoretically, even someone without religious beliefs is eligible - or, even a Muslim. Horrors!

One of the most shameful episodes in the history of the United States occurred when a group of Texas (where else) Baptist Preachers forced John F. Kennedy to kow-tow before them and promise that his Catholic religious beliefs would not determine his acts

while in office - short, as it turned out to be - before they would give their seal of approval.

These same men of God, however, showed no need to demand religious impartiality when their darling, George W. Bush, used the office of the presidency to sing the praises of fundamentalist Christianity and to apply it to every presidential act during his eight long years in office.

Ruth Elizabeth Ramsey, Blairsville

MacCloud ... continued from Page 4A

annoyed that the real news was not getting through to us. We certainly knew of the doings of all clubs, who got what awards, who was entertaining the folks at the nursing home, sports and academic news of our schools, what local government was up to, farmer market updates, police logs, church happenings - and the like.

Most of the "news" meant very little to us personally but it is a valuable community service and we accept that. However, what would interest us and what is rarely in your newspaper is news that is not always pleasant to hear.

Rather than thinking this type of reporting reflects negatively on our community, we feel it is valuable information that we deserve to know. No community anywhere is void of disturbing news. Thinking that is delusional.

People are not going to

decide whether or not to live or vacation here by what our newspaper is reporting. They are going to visit, enjoy the beauty and good people and decide for themselves.

This area may or may not suit them and a few newspaper articles that honestly describe a hideous act should be viewed as a reflection of the fact that this community does not condone such things and refuses to sweep it under the rug.

It is, we think, the responsibility of newspapers to report both the good and the bad. There will always be individuals who are dishonest or cruel or violent and putting this out there for the community to absorb allows our thinking and our views to be more realistic. I believe that is necessary for the greater good to be served. Trying to live in a fantasy world isn't healthy.

Betty MacCloud Blairsville

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I don't have to sell my house or my car. I don't have to lay off my children or fire my dog. I simply adjust my budget to live on my existing income for one more year. Where is the panic?

On the other hand, the government is still getting a salary increase but it is going to be 2 percent less than they wanted. Can you please

explain why all these drastic cuts must take place when the tax revenue remains almost the same as last year? It seems to me that if all these layoffs and cuts occur while still receiving the same amount of tax revenue there would be a surplus that could be applied to our national debt.

John Q. Adams III Blairsville

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 infor-

mation to: blairsville_pto@ucschools.org. NT(Mar13,A1)CA

Free legal services

Free legal services are available to senior citizens and low-income clients in your area. Services are based on case type and financial eligibility. GLSP does not handle criminal cases. For an appointment, please call 800-745-5717 or 770-535-5717 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday - Thursday. NT(Mar13,Z1)CA

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cial concerns mean less stress. While one could definitely reason that happier, healthier individuals within the community are good for everyone, let's take it even a step further.

The study shows that a higher quality education has a significant impact on other aspects of the local community. These include increased housing values as many homeowners are willing to pay more to live in a community served by quality schools, lower crime rates as studies have consistently shown this inverse relationship, increased tax revenue to be used for local projects - those who make more spend more, and finally, increased civic participation and a stronger "give back" mentality.

Taking the concept one step further and one ripple wider, we can examine the impact on the larger community. A strong school system is a key component of eco-

nomic growth for an area and one that potential employers are certain to ask about in their pursuit of an ideal location. With greater hiring potential, greater likelihood of productivity and increased competitiveness, our economic growth is dependent upon the education of our youth.

Just by scratching the surface, it is easy to see how vitally important our schools and our youth are to the current and future health of this beautiful place we are so fortunate to call home. I encourage you, in your daily journeys to take a moment to consider the big picture. There's almost always more than what meets the eye. If the Chamber can be of assistance to you, please feel free to call us at 706-745-5789, email me directly at president@blairsvillechamber.com or check us out online at www.Visit-BlairsvilleGA.com.

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

drink of water he asked Patrick, "I reckon you are looking forward to getting into the woods to hunt"? Patrick looked at Eugene and said, "Yes sir. This little Scoundrel loves to hunt. I bet you can just feel that in your bones. Can't you?" Mr. Burnette looked at him and asked, "Where were you at that day"? Patrick recounted the story and told Eugene where he hid and what the two Game Wardens discussed. He also said, "Don't worry, "I'll never hunt illegally again".

Many people think this would have offended Eugene Burnette. However, he looked at the situation as a win. He had convinced Patrick to stay on the straight and narrow when it came to hunting. So, Patrick and Eugene had a good laugh and remained friends up

until Mr. Burnette's death. To this day my friend Patrick is a person who observes all game laws and influences others to follow the laws as well. So, Mr. Burnette must have made a big influence on Patrick.

Remember, the Farmers Market is taking reservations from Farmers for booth rentals until March 15th. We will begin taking reservations from 2012 Reserved Vendors on March 18th. So, if you aren't a farmer, but were a reserved vendor last year and would like to make reservation you may do so beginning on March 18th. If you have never been a reserved vendor at the Farmers Market, but you wish to reserve a booth you will get your opportunity beginning in late March. Keep watching the paper for announcements.

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chines. Next year, at least two of us will divest of these relics, along with our bundt pans and Jello molds that are pushed to the back of the cabinet. Instead, between us we'll have accumulated four walkers, at least that many portable toilets and a nice selection of shower chairs that we can compare the attributes ("Does yours swivel?").

It's the evolution of aging, at least in our society, in this era. And this is where the Farmers Market plays such an integral role in our lives. Trash and Treasures is the Friday morning opportunity to find someone who will pay us 10 cents on a dollar for our "trash". More importantly, the purchaser will give it a space in the back of their cabinet for a few more years.

This will be the third season for Trash and Treasures at the Union County Farmers Market. Because of how it has evolved, there will be some changes to policies and how they'll be administered, allowing those shopping, as well as those selling, a more defined experience.

This season we will be designating areas for those "occasional sellers" who truly have their own yard sale stuff to divest of. Then another area will be assigned for those who have made a hobby (and maybe even deck out a living) by reselling items they've purchased, either in bulk or at other yard or estate sales, including antique dealers.

A third area will be designated for crafters and artisans. Last year, there were a few crafters who found that they had much good fortune selling their items at the Market. Because the Saturday Market has more produce related vendors each year, fewer crafters have an opportunity to sell there. The Friday venue still gives them excel-

lent exposure to the public to sell their works. We think the public will also enjoy the fact that there is a mini craft show every Friday morning from April through October, as well.

What won't change is the rental for the booth space. It is still a deal at only \$10 a 10x18 covered stall. The Market promotes it for you, supplies the bathrooms and gives you ample parking. Last year, we averaged more than 1,100 shoppers each Friday from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. That's a lot more exposure to your "trash" than you can get directed to your home on your cul-de-sac, eight miles outside of town.

All stalls will still be at a first come-first serve basis, though you will have to choose a stall in your designated area in order to comply with the new policies. And as always, there are no pets allowed on the Market property.

As Spring rolls in, and you start to clean out the basement, the attic, the garage and your cabinets, start to box it up, borrow a couple folding tables and bring it on over to Trash and Treasures starting Friday, April 12th.

I'll be talking more about T&T in weeks to come. For right now, I need to make room in my closet for my raincoat. April showers are just around the corner.

Reed

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At least that would be an effort to support public education rather than bury it.

It is sad that the Georgia GOP sticks the knife in the back of public education in Georgia, and the local GOP twists it.

Ed Reed Blairsville