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lion in 2015, \$2.8 million in 2016, \$2.9 million in 2017 and \$2.5 million in 2018.

Communities across the country have become more concerned about school safety.

One of the major projects would be converting analog cameras to digital cameras, Superintendent Gary Steppe said.

"We want to be able to use a portion of the ELOST money to convert the analog cameras to digital, that way

we can zoom in on instances that need it," he said. "A consultant came in right after the Newtown shooting incident, spent a day going around to each one of the schools to determine the points of vulnerability. They came up with a plan of where the areas are and projected solutions in case we need to go down the route of increasing security."

Over the past 16 years, Union County schools have

collected \$60 million in ELOST, which is about \$4 million a year, the equivalent to about three mills of property tax.

If you strip away everything, it comes out to about \$1 million to \$1.25 million a year that is needed just to keep the school going.

ELOST can't be used for personnel, typical maintenance and operations, only on material projects.

Bust...continued from Page 1A

phone," Baxter said. "As part of our interaction with the school system, we follow the buses to make sure no one drives through the stop arm. I was behind the bus, it made a stop to let children off.

"At that point, the vehicle Mr. Kornet was driving went through the stop arm," Baxter said. "I went after him. I initiated a traffic stop at Brackett's Way."

After the traffic stop, Baxter asked Kornet for his driver's license and he didn't have one. Baxter thought he would be writing Kornet a ticket for just running through a school bus stop arm.

Baxter also discovered an open container of alcohol in the vehicle in Kornet's possession.

"He had an ID card, not a driver's license," Baxter said. "I asked the passenger for his license, and he produced a Georgia ID card. When I ran them, they both came back wanted. "Mr. Kornet was wanted out of Fannin and Gilmer counties, and his passenger, Justin Shane Wilson was wanted by Bradley County, Tenn. and Gilmer County," Baxter said. "Mr. Wilson is wanted in Tennessee for manufacturing methamphetamine and transaction card fraud in Gilmer County."

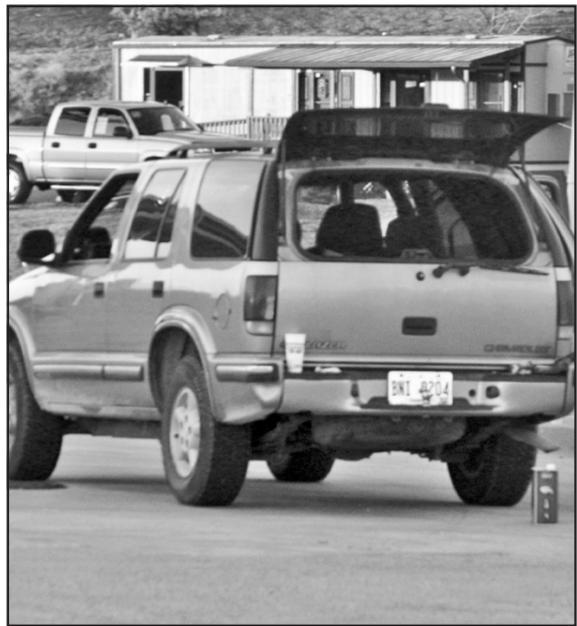
While they were waiting, Baxter said the two men asked him if he knew of a good motel. Eventually, Baxter made temporary living arrangements for the two Fannin County residents.

"I took the two men into custody," Baxter said. "They didn't even have to worry about buying their meals."

Blairsville Police Chief Johnny Carroll gave Baxter high praise for his police work.

"Bear's going to take care of the school kids," Chief Carroll said. "And it's amazing, this is the second rolling meth lab he's busted since 2009. And we don't even have a drug dog."

Baxter's first rolling



This Chevrolet Trailblazer was the second rolling meth lab busted by BPD Assistant Chief Michael Baxter since 2009. Photo/Todd Forrest

meth lab bust was in the Circle K parking lot for an expired tag.

"You never know when a simple traffic stop is going to lead to something much bigger," he said.

As Chief Carroll and Baxter went through the silver Trailblazer, they started noticing some unusual items in the rear of the vehicle.

"Red Devil Lye, Coleman Fuel, paint thinner, just to name a few," Baxter said. "From that point, we knew what we had."

One of the men had Sudafed on his person, yet another ingredient necessary to make methamphetamine, Baxter said.

"We didn't waste any time, we called in the Appalachian Drug Task Force," Baxter said.

Drug Task Force Agent Aaron Stanley said the vehicle was definitely a rolling meth lab.

"They had all the ingredients for the manufacture of meth," he said. "We called in the hazardous materials crew at that point."

The crew arrived and began to disassemble the meth lab from the back of the vehicle, Stanley said.

"We had to wait for the team to come pick up the items," Agent Stanley said. "We probably got home about 3 a.m."

Wilson, 31, of Blue Ridge was charged with possession of a controlled substance and criminal attempt to manufacture methamphetamine.

Kornet, 30, of Blue Ridge, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and criminal attempt to manufacture methamphetamine, driving without a license, open container and failure to stop for a school bus while it was loading/unloading, Union County Jail records show.

The two men are being held without bond on the charges of possession of a controlled substance and criminal attempt to manufacture methamphetamine.

They are both being held in the Union County Jail, jail records show.

Renaissance...continued from Page 1A

State Rep. Allen Peake, (R-Macon), introduced the Georgia Renaissance Act on Jan. 28, in the General Assembly.

The act is designed to encourage downtown investments in commercial and residential property through state income tax credits and is supported by the Blairsville City Council.

"The Georgia Municipal Association developed this program because our downtowns are at a critical juncture," Mayor Conley said. "If we fail to make strategic investments or recognize their value to our economy and worldwide brand, Georgia will lose its competitive edge in global recruiting."

"Providing tax incentives for private sector invest-

ment in our downtowns just makes good business sense," Mayor Conley said.

The three tax credits would go against an individual's or a company's Georgia state income tax liability and would be earned based on specific thresholds for investment in downtown building improvements or for the purchase or renovation of downtown housing.

The earned tax credit can be sold or transferred one time to another Georgia tax payer or be carried forward for up to five years and be used in future years against any Georgia income tax liability.

According to Mayor Conley, in other states every dollar paid out returned \$3.31 within five years of project

completion; every dollar of state tax incentive leveraged \$16 more in outside investment; every \$1 million of state tax incentives resulted in the creation of 109 new jobs.

"If Georgia's experience is similar, the Downtown Renaissance Act will help create 2,200 new jobs a year according to GMA," Mayor Conley said. "This would be equivalent to a new KIA plant every year. This proposal is a revenue delay, not a revenue loss."

"It can really make a difference in Downtown Blairsville," Mayor Conley said.

Mayor Conley said the act has 65 cosponsors. House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison is supportive of the legislation.

"Rep. Allison is excited about this piece of legislation," Mayor Conley said. "He knows what this could do to downtowns in the communities he represents. It's a piece of legislation that Georgians must support."

Apply now for North Georgia Community Foundation Scholarships

The North Georgia Community Foundation is accepting applications for the scholarship funds it administers.

The deadline to apply for one of the more than 20 scholarship funds is March 1. Each scholarship has its own specific purpose and eligibility criteria, and awards vary in size depending on the amount available in each fund. The scholarships are available to high school seniors who are

graduating in 2013.

Last year more than \$175,000 in scholarship money was awarded to 150 students in the 15 counties the North Georgia Community Foundation serves.

Available scholarships can be viewed and applications can be downloaded at www.ngcf.org/scholarships. Students may apply for as many as they are eligible. Applications will be accepted through March 1 unless otherwise specified.

Founded in 1985 by Lou Fockele and other business leaders, the North Georgia Community Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the spirit and quality of life in the Northeast Georgia community by building, managing and awarding charitable grants from a pool of community funds valued in excess of \$40 million. To date, more than \$45 million in grants have been awarded. The organization also promotes training and networking among the region's nearly 300 nonprofits. For more information, please contact the foundation at www.ngcf.org or call (770) 535-7880 ext. 226. NTFFeb13.A5/SH

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