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pal and school purposes in the amount of \$64,960. The surviving spouse will continue to be eligible for the exemption as long as they do not remarriage.

Special Exemptions: You must apply for these exemptions Jan. 1 – Apr. 1. You may be eligible for conservation use or preferential agricultural assessment exemption if you are in good faith agricultural/forest production. This would include; producing plants, trees, fowl or animals, or the production of aquaculture, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, dairy, livestock, poultry and apiarian products.

With both programs, you enter into a 10 year covenant with Union County whereby you agree to continue your property in agricultural or for-

estry production. Agricultural preferential assessment generally provides a 25 percent advantage over fair market value. Conservation use can offer significant savings, in some cases greater than 50 percent of fair market value. Penalties apply if property is sold prior to 10-year period.

Residential Transitional Exemption: If you live in an area that is in a transition from residential to commercial use, and it is affecting the value of your property, you may apply for a residential transitional assessment covenant. This is also a 10 year covenant. For all three, apply between Jan. 2 and April 1.

For more information on exemptions, please call the Tax Assessor's office at (706) 439-6011.

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few seasons, and our marketing arm has stretched far beyond our little local market. Now, the parking lot fills with license plates from counties surrounding the greater Atlanta area, all of western North Carolina and a myriad of other states, as the tourists passing through can't help but take advantage of a Farmers Market experience. In the past few years, "agrotourism" has become the number one draw for rural tourism efforts across the nation. The rent is "dirt" cheap (couldn't help myself, farmers/gardeners). We do all the promotion for you. You do have to meet all local, state and federal requirements to participate (for some things, there aren't any regs, and others are more complicated. Contact Mickey Cummings at coosa@uga.edu with your questions.) Those selling canned products, there are new regulations, so be sure to investigate these with Mickey or the State Agricultural Department.

Here are the application details. Farmers and vendors of agriculturally related products may sign up this week, Monday – Friday, March 17th through 21 from 9 a.m. until noon. Reservations may be made in person at the Union County Canning Plant Office located behind the Farmers Market on Old Smokey Rd. Please note – these dates are open to any farmer/ vendor wishing to sell produce or Ag related products at the Farmers Market. If you have a question as to whether you meet this criterion, contact Mickey Cummings.

Returning vendors who have non-related agricultural products may register Mon-

day through Friday, March 24 through March 28 from 9 a.m. till noon at the Union County Canning Plant. This would be our returning crafts people, as an example.

Lastly, we have registration for non ag vendors that are not returning vendors, but are new to the Market. You may register Monday through Friday, March 31 through April 4 from 9 a.m. till noon at the Union County Canning Plant. All three weeks, staff will be there at registration to field your questions.

There's more, so please take note. You need a registration form. You can download a copy off of our website at UCFarmerMarket.com or you can pick up a copy from the UGA Cooperative Extension Office or at the Union County Commissioner's Office. If you are unable to make registration in person you must mail the registration form and your check to the Union County Farmers Market, 148 Old Smokey Rd., Blairsville, GA 30512. Registration forms and checks must be received in the appropriate time frames as outlined above in order to be considered. We stress that registration forms, by mail or in person will NOT be accepted early or out of time frame.

Registration fees for the season are \$209. Registration fees for Food Vendors (food cooked and prepared on premises) are \$220. If you don't want to commit to the season (and it is a commitment, greater than just the fees), you can be a "walk-up" vendor on Saturdays for \$15 and Tuesdays for \$10.

We'd like to invite you to join our family.

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nacles and "can" the experience. Sometimes people park by tragic experiences and stop living. Lastly, there is a growing number of shoppers. They are shopping for the perfect church. They want the best

and most from their relationship. Most shoppers want to be ministered to, rather than say, "I am looking for a place to minister" (II Timothy 4:7). Make sure that you are a prayer and a stayer.

Jones ...continued from Page 4A

Georgia wants to loosen the laws to allow licensed gun owners to carry weapons into churches, libraries and bars! Haven't they learned anything from the recent gun violence in Florida and elsewhere? If these licensed gun owners are such competent, upstanding citizens, why not go so far as to let them carry their weapons into courthouses and government buildings? Those are public buildings as well.

Just how long do you think it's going to take for some innocent bystander to get shot in the crossfire in some restaurant or bar when someone, say, has a few drinks in them and gets into an argument with another gun toter?

The so-called liberal, big government, gun control, abortion rights, gay marriage supporters you refer to believe that people do have a personal right to own a gun for protection or for hunting but shouldn't need to strap it to their hip to go to church or a restaurant or a movie, and certainly don't need an AK 47 for those purposes! When the 2nd Amendment was passed we had musket loaders! If you want to carry a musket loader, have at it! I feel certain our founding fathers were no more aware of the kind of weapons available today as they were of the automobile and airplane!

We believe that regulations to prevent big corporations from polluting our air, water and land are necessary. (West Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana to name a few recent examples.)

We believe that God gave us a brain so that we have an opportunity to reason and make the correct choices for our own lives as well as the health of the planet. Unfortunately those who are greedy or are power mongers or both, don't live by these beliefs! We also believe that our God is a loving God to all. Unless you have had to make the decision to have an abortion, or are gay, you should not judge these people. As Martin Luther King said, "Judge people on the content of their character, not the color of their skin"... and I add to that, "the personal choices they have had to make!"

And finally, as to George Burch, his comments suggesting that "we think that God is not powerful enough to control the planet that He created" and that "we (liberals, progressives, and democrats) think God needs our help to save His planet," those statements give me a jaw-

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Program, a facebook page has been established to enhance community awareness of altruistic acts that occur locally. That can be found at www.facebook.com/kindnessin-Blairsville. You may also submit your story to the *North Georgia News* in the form of a Letter to the Editor. Whatever avenue you choose, let's collectively celebrate the kind acts of our neighbors.

Union County is a generous community and our residents are among the nicest people in the world. I hope you will join the fun in recognizing these wonderful acts of kindness and even consider paying it forward by giving a bit extra yourself. Have a great week!

Brassel...

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their way to be helpful. Many tag office workers elsewhere seem to enjoy making your life miserable. Thanks again to the staff at the Union County Tag Office.

Doug Brassel, Blairsville

Cummings ...continued from Page 4A

There was an elderly man in the congregation by the name of Paw Henry Shel-nutt. This man was one of the poorest men in the community. However, he was thankful for his blessings.

He began to cry as Miss Lula danced. Soon after she sat down Paw Henry stood up to testify. He told us that we should be telling people we love them and appreciate them while we had the opportunity. He asked people to stand up and go to someone and give them a metaphorical rose. Paw Henry wished for each person in the service to go to our neighbors and tell them how much we appreciate them. Soon people all over the church were going to their neighbors and telling they love and appreciate them. Paw Henry Shelnutt and the

good people of Trapptown made a huge impact upon my life. And I will never forget that day.

I learned from my grandfather and Paw Henry Shelnutt the importance of showing kindness to people without the thought of gaining anything for the act of kindness. This article was written in support of the Random Acts of Kindness Awareness Campaign sponsored by Leadership Union.

Please remember to sign up for a space at the Farmers Market. The week of March 24 through 28 is for the 2013 vendors which were non-agriculturally related. The week of March 31 through April 4 is for new vendors. For more information please visit the UCFarmersMarket.com web page.

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Universal Service fee, plus 56 cents for Georgia Universal Access Fund, plus \$1.79 for Deregulation Administration fee, plus 26 cents for Federal Tax, plus 89 cents for State Tax, plus 67 cents for County Tax, plus \$9.99 for Advanced Security Pack; in addition to "Windstream Communications" charges of \$2.98 for Interstate Service Fee, plus \$1.13 for Federal Universal

Fee, plus 28 cents for Georgia Universal Access Fund, all of which comes to \$88.47. And that, dear friends, is how \$59.99 = \$88.77. What do you suppose would happen if you arrived at the checkout counter at the hardware store with a widget marked \$59.99 and the cashier rang up \$88.77? Would you pay the \$88.77, or would you protest?

Chuck Esposito, Suches

Stallings ...continued from Page 4A

One interesting item in the analysis is that Australians do not now nor ever have had a Constitutional right to bear arms... So why compare them to us?

Your contributor just recycled yet another item floating about on the Internet. This is certainly not news. A few moments of searching by you or your writers; I looked for about two minutes, tops.


Also, as much as I enjoy reading George Mitchell's recollections, a few years ago, in Georgia anyway, they officially started calling the colleges (at least the state ones) "universities," and the trade

schools, "technical colleges." I think he missed that one. Some schools (mostly private, I think) still call themselves "colleges;" but, to my understanding, the "trade schools" (at least the state ones) are called colleges.

The banner George saw was an attempt to get the students to think of further training of some kind, no matter what it may be... I assure him that the counselors/teachers/administrators are not guiding the students to all attend Georgia's Universities, but that is one of their many options.

Mark Stallings, Blairsville

Bell Ringing Union
County Old Courthouse



March 27
In memory of
Gertrude Wilson Shuler
by Betty Jane Shuler

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493