

Duncan...continued from Page 4A

Our young reporter, in an attempt to make sure we didn't leave anyone out, mentioned him in the story because he was listed on the program. Our apologies for including something that we shouldn't have.

Speaking of leaving someone out of the story, senior Morgan Pruitt did an excellent job delivering the prayer for the Woody Gap Class of 2012. You can thank me for not having Morgan in the story. In an attempt to make sure the story fit on the pages, I left her prayer on the cutting room floor. I'm sorry Morgan.

Also, we're finding out that there have been some deep cuts within the school system. I think for the most part, it's important to note that there is a shortfall in the school system budget.

Painfully, we have lost some of the most familiar faces at the school system. These individuals meant a lot to a lot of young people. We

Paris...continued from Page 4A

Q. We understand that the Transportation Sales Tax vote will be during the primary election on July 31. I have not seen very much written about this and wonder when and if you will give us more details through your Q & A. Most everything we are hearing about the TSPLOST has been negative.

A. I will soon be doing a series of questions about TSPLOST to try to give you more information. It is a difficult task to be able to inform everyone about the many facets of the proposed program, but we will do our best.

Q. Are you going to be in support of the new proposed TSPLOST (Transportation Sales Tax)?

A. My job is to give you all the accurate details available on the TSPLOST and let you decide how you

will miss them, but we hope to soon see them in different capacities within our community.

On a different note, our Letters to the Editor have been swelled with community input in recent weeks about Sole Commissioners, should we or should we not have a Sole Commissioner.

I appreciate those comments, I truly do. However, to avoid a prolonged community debate in the Letters to the Editor, we're no longer accepting comments about the issue. There are other issues that need attention and I can't let the Sole Commissioner debate hog the space for Letters to the Editor.

Finally, we're trying hard to bring you the best newspaper we can bring you each week.

If we make a mistake, we'll own our mistake, admit it and make up for it. We owe this to you, our readership. I thank you for your continued support.

want to vote. I, along with 25 other mayors and commissioners throughout North-east Georgia, representing 13 counties, as well as some of our Legislators and GDOT advisors, spent many months and many meetings coming up with a highway project list that could be agreed on with all but one member of the committee. We voted for and supported this list and it would now be disingenuous of me to not vote for the list.

This is the first time in the history of Georgia that counties and cities have been able to control what projects GDOT would build in their communities without political pressures and special favors being a part of the process. This was primarily a list of projects to not benefit only one county, but the region as a whole.

Malone letter...continued from Page 4A

TSPLOST collected here. The State Economist forecasts Union County TSPLOST revenue collected over 10 years at \$45 million and we get our restricted projects at a cost of \$26 million plus local projects of \$18-20 million. \$44-46 million is way above the 60-65 percent predicted by those much less qualified than the State Economist.

Myth No. 3: The evil Transit Governance Study Commission is part of the ineptness.

Not exactly sure why transit is even mentioned in the Georgia Mountain Region since the only transit project on our region's restricted list is a few Express buses in south Forsyth County. Perhaps it's because transit is synonymous with MARTA and that generally scares folks into a "no" vote.

Myth No. 4: GDOT is incapable of managing their affairs.

Every good myth has a speck of truth and its true GDOT has suffered some mismanagement in the past few years. However the recent addition of Todd Long to GDOT's Executive Leadership team is a sure sign the department is returning to the professionalism of the past.

Mitchell letter...continued from Page 4A

concrete bunkers and barbed wire -- which are still there.

I'd have them walk around and through the alabaster rows and count the 9,600 + Crosses and Stars of David. I'd have them photograph some of the inscriptions.

I'd have them select one name to research. I'd have them personally contact that family -- not by post card, letter, telephone or text.

I'd have them study the Wall of Remembrance.

I'd have them follow the Coast Road all the way to

Myth No. 5: TSPLOST has an unfair impact on the poor, low income and fixed income citizens. There is no TSPLOST on rent or mortgage payments and motor fuel is exempt from the tax. So the basics of shelter and transportation are not impacted at all. Food is subject to the tax but not for those who are on food stamps assistance. So the impact on the poor is actually less than the impact on the middle class.

Finally near the end of the fable some truth does emerge -- government is too big, has too many programs, taxes too much and interferes too much in our lives. Amen and let's do something about that. Unfortunately transportation infrastructure is one of the core responsibilities of government along with national defense, public works and public safety and is not the place to start. There is enough waste in non-essential services to reduce government significantly. So let's start there. So in the end YOU will decide how to vote on the TSPLOST Referendum on July 31. Vote "NO" or Vote "YES" but please base your decision on facts not myths or reckless opinions.

Patrick Malone, Blairsville

Cherbourg with stops at Ste. Mere Eglise, Coutances, St-Lo, Chartres, Caen, Carentan, Bayeux.

I'd have them visit the people in those villages, still alive, who experienced the ecstasy of liberation.

I'd affix a memorial medallion to their diplomas to remind them that their lives are not their own; that the living are obligated to fulfill the promise of life freely given them by strangers.

George Mitchell Blairsville

Cummings...continued from Page 4A

coon must have weighed 25 pounds. The men celebrated once again with their flasks.

It wasn't long until the dogs struck another track. Dad noticed Lon stumble a couple of times as he began walking toward the dogs. The dogs trailed their quarry across the creek and treed next to a rock (the size of a house) next to a tall bluff.

The area was rough and it took the two men a long time to walk the couple of miles up the creek bottom. Dad said he wasn't sure if Hoover and Lon were just out of shape or if the alcohol was affecting their ability to walk. But, the men had fell down a number of times before they got to the tree and big rock.

This boulder was the size of a house and it was about 50 feet high. Dad said the tree was a Hemlock and it was difficult to locate the coon. So, they all climbed up on the rock to try to see the raccoon.

Finally, the three fellows found the coon and Lon decided to shoot it. He pulled out his pistol and shot a couple of times with no success.

Lon was too inebriated to shoot out the critter. He claimed the raccoon was moving too much.

The tree was close enough to the rock so Hoover jumped to the tree from the rock and climbed up the tree to where the raccoon was at.

His idea was to use a stick to poke the coon out of the tree. Hoover stood on one limb and was holding to the limb on the other side of the tree. He was poking the coon with a long stick in his free

hand.

The raccoon was not moving any so Lon Steele decided to help Hoover. He raised his gun and began shooting. Dad said both men were laughing and Hoover was encouraging Lon to shoot the coon. Lon was so drunk he couldn't even see what he was shooting at. But, he did shoot the limb on which Hoover was standing.

The limb cracked and broke. Hoover crashed more than 50 feet to the ground. Dad was scared to death. He claimed that was the only time he saw a man get shot out of a tree. The coon got away while Hoover lay on the ground laughing.

Dad quickly and quietly gathered his dogs and left the two men still lying on the ground laughing. Later they said that was the most fun they'd ever had.

Dad refused to go hunting with anyone he didn't know again.

Now, the Farmers Market is open each Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Farmers Market also is open on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. The Trash to Treasures Yard Sale is open on Fridays from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.. Remember, yard sale items are located in the building closest to the entrance and flea market items are located in the farthest building. Finally, work is winding down on the Canning Plant. The boiler for the new facility has been ordered and we hope to be open in early August. For more details, please call me at (706) 439-6030.

Parris...continued from Page 4A

the future. That is marriage which is sacred and is Holy Ground. This marriage is not a human contract, but a Divine Covenant.

God is love, and any marriage that does not have God has only a horizontal type of love.

A Christian marriage is a triangle -- God, man and woman. Man did not originate the idea of marriage. God ordained marriage and performed that first wedding in the Garden of Eden.

Any man that does not have a relationship with God can never love his wife to the fullest. The same is true for the woman. The highest kind of love is God's love, agape love.

Christian marriage is one man, one woman for life. It is a lifelong commitment. Some couples stand at

the marriage altar and say, "I do," meaning, "until I can do better."

Sad to say it only takes some of them a few months or in some cases just a few weeks to do better.

Our world is littered with the debris of broken homes, shattered dreams, crushed children, and bitter wives and husbands.

When marriages fail, the toll on human life is beyond human calculations.

My prayer for all you newlyweds is that you will build your marriage on God's love revealed to us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leave all other relationships, cleave to each other and weave a life together. Remember you can't walk together through life going in opposite directions.

Chamber of Commerce Events
For details and future events please see our online events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

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

Thursday, June 7
 12 pm Rotary Club of Union County -- St. Francis of Assisi Church

Friday, June 8
 8 am Kilted Golf Classic-Blairsville Scottish Festival-Butternut Creek Golf Course; 8am registration, 9am Tee-Off Starts
 8 am Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
 10:30am Ribbon Cutting for The Ugly Mug Cafe' & Frontier Woodworks
 7 pm Ceilidh Dinner -- Blairsville Scottish Festival
 7 pm Friday Night Concert - Historic Union County Court House
 7 pm You can be the Star Karaoke -- Lodge at Copperhead

Saturday, June 9
 7 am Union County Farmer's Market -- 148 Old Smokey Rd.
 8 am 9th Annual Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games
 8 am Kids Fishing Rodeo - Vogel State Park

Sunday, June 10
 8 am 9th Annual Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games
 3 pm Georgia Mountain Senior Open -- Butternut Creek Golf Course

Monday, June 11
 8:30am Georgia Mountain Senior Open -- Butternut Creek Golf Course
 9 am Garden tour -- GA Mt. Research & Education Center
 11 am Summer Reading Program - Union County Public Library
 12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting
 6 pm Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament -- Lodge at Copperhead
 6 pm Nutrition Class & Weight Loss Challenge

Tuesday, June 12
 8 am Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting -- Cooks Restaurant
 11:45 am State of the Community Address -- Union County Community Center