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Q. Who is doing the work on the intersection?

A. The Union County Road Department actually volunteered to assist GDOT with ground preparation for moving the west bound turn lane closer to the store to improve visibility. GDOT will be providing the gravel and the asphalt. Hopefully the work will be done by the time you read this.

Q. Is there anything motorists can do to make this intersection less dangerous in the meantime?

A. Be patient, and don't be distracted while driving. We all need to pay closer attention to our own driving habits, and to other vehicles on the road. We also need to put our cell phones down while driving as this is a major distraction! Finally, when approaching any intersection or red light, you should use caution and slow down and observe to make sure

the other drivers are obeying the traffic movement rules.

Q. Why are taxpayer dollars being spent on Walmart's intersection? Shouldn't GDOT be paying for it?

A. I have found that when trying to get something done by GDOT or any other government agency, if you are willing to help in some way, you get assistance sooner rather than later. While this project cost us some fuel and equipment use and some employee time, it did not cost us any real out of pocket expense, since we are not having to put in the pipe, reinstall concrete curbing or pay for the gravel or asphalt paving. I felt it was more important to get this problem fixed sooner than later. GDOT always works with our county and in the scope of things, this cooperative effort was well worth the small financial cost.

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Papa fetched the gun. She said, "Papa would run from one side of the house to the other searching for the dog". Papa was running around while Granny directed him to a spot where she thought the dog could safely be shot. She said, "The story is funny now. But, back then if a man got bitten by a rabid dog it was a death sentence". Finally, Papa was able to shoot the dog. Papa said, "Your granny told me to get doors hung on that house and I did".

The annual Green Bean Festival is scheduled for this Saturday at the Farmers Market. Please remember to bring your home canned goods for our Canning Contest. Also, remember the Quilt Show to be held at the Festival. You can bring quilts you have made and display them for the public to

see. Finally, we will be having a story telling contest at the festival. I will lead the contest with a couple of my favorite stories out of the book I recently wrote about my family. If you would like to participate in any of these events please call me at (706) 781-8802.

Finally, please remember to enter farmers in our Hall of Fame festivities. Each year we accept nominations from the public into our Union County Agricultural Hall of Fame. If you know of a person which should be nominated please go to ucfarmersmarket.com and look for the entry form. Complete the form and bring to us at the Farmers Market or you can turn the form into the Union County Historical Society. Have a great week.

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stance, they have donated ad space on their movie screens for several nonprofits including the Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games and the Union County Farmers Market. They have given movie passes as donations to many organizations including St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Habitat for Humanity, the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the Derrick Whittle Memorial Golf Tournament. Additionally, they work with the local school system to give movie

passes to students with perfect attendance.

The Chamber is proud to recognize the work of members like Blairsville Cinema who have done a great job of making our hometown such a great place to live. Please join me in applauding them for this worthy recognition. Stop by and congratulate them at their location at 38 Backyard Lane in Blairsville. For movie times, call (706) 745-1000. If you would like to nominate a future Business of the Quarter, contact the Chamber at 706-745-5789.

Combs ... continued from Page 4A

thy when the evil ones rush in. That we are to live by faith in God, not what the world predicts, but what God's word tells us to do. So many times we can get caught up in our own pride, our own ways, instead of depending and trusting God in all things. If the church folks stood up for what they believe in Christ, instead of worrying about what is going on in the world, we would be better prepared to meet opposition with opportunities to reach out to those who are lost without Jesus.

Yes these are trying times for us Christians, but it's when we are in the heat of the battle that our faith is being tested. Are we as strong and committed to the cause of Christ? Do we lack confidence in God when times get tough? Is my faith in God all that it should be? Nothing of great value is done without a fight as

we see the apostle Paul as he encouraged the churches back in his time to remain faithful and strong in their faith. When our faith wavers and doubts start to creep in, then the enemy has a stronghold on us, but the word of God is our shield of faith. We don't have to be defeated. The battle has already been won at Calvary. In these latter days our focus needs to be like a watchman on the tower, looking to see what is coming our way. The enemy is very cunning and crafty, but God's word is sharper than a two edged sword. It has all the power we need to stand firm in the midst of the battle.

How are you measuring up to God's expectations these days? Standing firm with the word of God being our guide, ensures us of victory in Jesus. Amen

Frank F. Combs

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dance ever on Saturday, June 13, and also a good-sized crowd on Sunday. The Golf Classic had good numbers on May 29, and the Friday evening Ceilidh Party-on-the-Square on June 12 in downtown Blairsville was also a success. BSFHG brought several thousand people to Blairsville and the surrounding area, and local businesses reaped the benefits as well as

tax revenue for the local counties and cities.

Thank you again for your support of this community event, and we hope you will continue to assist us with this beneficial project on the second weekend of June each year.

Sincerely,
BSFHG Board of Directors and Coordinators

McVay... continued from Page 4A

by the state as No. 1 Rural Hospital. We must be very grateful to the foresight of those early medical leaders; this includes a number of members of the George Gowder Family.

The recent publicity concerning Dr. David Gowder does not do him or his years of dedicated healthcare service to the people of our county justice. Yes, according to reports, he has made some very poor choices, but, not to some degree, haven't we all? However, we can read of any number of local folks who have also made poor choices and they are listed in an appropriate column. None of them have made the front page of the *North Georgia News* once, let alone twice. Dr. David Gowder has

saved the lives of many people, including my husband, and I think it only fair that the readers of your paper should have the privilege of knowing that his lifestyle has not been one of illegal activity. He is an outstanding physician, a dedicated Christian, and loved by his family and many others in this community.

No infraction of the law should go unnoticed or unpunished. It is not my position to judge Dr. David Gowder's present situation and I am not suggesting that it should be overlooked by those in authority. But there also comes a time of forgiveness and healing and restoration. That's the message I want to read on the front page of the *North Georgia News*.
The Rev. Victory McVay

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Salad. Ingredients: Dressing: 1/2 cup olive oil/ 2 tablespoons White Balsamic Vinegar/ 1 tbs. finely chopped basil/ 1 tbs. finely chopped mint

Salad ingredients: 1 medium sweet onion, thinly sliced and then caramelized by slowly sautéing in a pan using 1 tablespoon olive oil /1 lb. (3) firm-ripe yellow peaches, sliced /2 lb. green beans, trimmed, cut into 2-3inch pieces and cooked fork tender/ salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste. Mix salad dressing ingredients first, blending well by shaking vigorously in a canning jar. Let sit. Now toss dressing with beans, peaches and cooked beans. Let sit for a few minutes before serving, or keep refrigerated until ready to serve. Toss again just before serving. Extra kick – toss in 1 cup crumpled feta cheese and 1/2 cup chopped kalamata olives.

Here's a great side dish, served hot, using the best of the garden this time of year. Ingredients: Two ears sweet corn, cooked and cut off cob/ 2 cups green or yellow wax beans, cut in one inch pieces and cooked fork tender/ 2 cups cherry tomatoes (yellow and red combo make this dish pretty as well as tasty)/ 6 cloves garlic-peeled and smashed with back of knife blade/ 1/4 cup chopped basil/ 1/4 cup olive oil plus 2 tablespoons/ salt and pepper to taste. Preparation: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Toss cherry tomatoes with smashed garlic and two tablespoons olive oil. Place in a small casserole dish and bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Just before tomatoes come out of oven, reheat corn and beans together in microwave for 2-3 minutes on high, so they are piping hot. Now mix in serving dish, corn, beans, baked tomatoes and garlic, 1/4 cup olive oil, chopped basil and salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot. If you want to stretch this dish

as your starch side dish, toss all hot ingredients with 2 cups cooked shell or elbow macaroni, add another few tablespoons olive oil and 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese.

To see more of the Green Bean, visit Union County Farmers Market this Saturday

for our 6th annual Green Bean Festival. The Canning Plant will be hosting the Canning competition and our first Green Bean Quilt show will also be on display all day at the Canning Plant. Later in the morning, you can catch the Tall Tale Competition under the Food Pavilion, as folks tell their stories of rural life, at the mi-

crophone... with the best storyteller, Mickey Cummings, starting the competition off with a couple of his tales. And if you still want more green bean culinary treats, participate in the Green Bean Pizza eating competition that day. Now that's a pairing that's irresistible! For more details, visit www.UC-FarmerMarket.com

Fowler ...

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tion, and entrepreneurship, for these are admirable as well. You play the hand you're dealt, but you still play to win. So perhaps contentment means acknowledging that some things are either too costly to pursue or simply beyond your reach. Godly contentment is a heavenly reminder to that earthly forgetfulness that misplaces your priorities.

Billy Graham said, "The happiness which brings enduring worth to life is not the superficial happiness that is dependent on circumstances. It is the happiness and contentment that fills the soul even in the midst of the most distressing circumstances." That contentment comes with faith in Christ that says, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Heb 13:6).

Turner ...

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people I just can not approve of a behavior that is against nature and God.

Our founding fathers relied on guidance from our creator. Today, we have accepted all behaviors passively. I feel strongly that we are a doomed society unless we turn back to the principles which made this nation great. It's not just the flag, it's the fear of what is next. My son fought in Afghanistan and is now feeling the same as I. This issue reflects on every soldier who ever fought for this country. Will these people wanting to change us stand up for American principles against invasions or the preservation of our country as we know it? When we insult our soldiers, the young men and women, who leave their places of security and travel to unknown parts to defend these principles what does this message convey to the younger defenders of tomorrow.

I could write a book about this issue, but I know there are others you need to hear from as well. I pray that this issue will be dropped and not used as a distraction from the real issues at hand. Further that our soldiers will not have died in vain. I hope to express my tribute to America once more as one nation under God. Prayerfully,
Nancy Jane Turner

Musicians wanting to find musicians

Seeking young musicians in Towns, Union and Clay Counties, ages 12 - 16, who are talented at playing any kind of musical instrument. Our goal is to put together bands of different musical styles and showcase the talents of our local youth. We will be taking applications by phone Monday - Friday from 10 AM - 2 PM at 706-970-0243.

Thanks to the community for their participation and support in this effort.