

Bridge...from Page 1A

Log Creek Bridge is exciting news for Union County residents.

"This is great news for our community and construction has not impacted traffic," Dunn said.

The new bridge is being built parallel to the existing bridge to the west.

Traffic continues to use

the existing bridge until the new bridge is finished.

Traffic will be shifted over to use the new bridge when completed and the original bridge will be demolished.

Commissioner Paris said construction workers may have to wait until lake waters recede before the exist-

ing bridge can be completely demolished.

The existing bridge was built in 1940. The new structure, when completed, will include shoulders on both sides of the bridge and be built to current engineering standards improving safety for motorists, Paris said.

Payments...from Page 1A

that convenience. The client agrees to pay that fee. We get our money in full.

"We have people calling us and asking if they can pay with a credit card," she said. "Our answer has been no. Not being able to accept these payments, five out of 10 persons end up on probation.

"There's people out there willing to pay with a debit or credit card and we get \$333 and we don't have to wait a year's time to get those funds," Neely said.

Mayor Pro Tem Bud-

dy Moore asked if someone wanted to pay cash, what would be their options.

"You don't have to pay by debit or credit," she said. "If you want to pay cash, we accept cash. The only reason we're doing this is for those who wish to pay by debit or credit cards.

"There is no fee to set up this service," Neely said. "The City of Hiawassee uses this same system and they're in the process of getting set up."

Neely said the system

would save folks from having to drive back to Blairsville if they're from out of town to pay their traffic fines.

"Folks who have to drive 75 miles to come pay a fine will pay a fee to be able to handle it over the phone with a debit or credit card," she said. "We have a lot of folks who ask to pay with a debit or credit card."

The Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Courtware Solutions.

Cruisers...from Page 1A

out the rides and visit with fellow car enthusiasts.

Unfortunately the threat of severe weather canceled the events scheduled for the Farmers Market, but the skies cleared Saturday and approximately 40 cars made it to the Downtown Square.

"The wind was blowing and it was still a little cool so a lot of folks didn't stay long," Wayne Tanner of the Blairsville Cruisers said. "It was our first event of the year and you never know what the weather is going to be like. You just have to give it a try and see what happens."

As always, the Cruisers are putting the community and the children first.

They are holding a raffle for a chance to win a 2004 40th Anniversary Ford Mustang Convertible with

the proceeds going towards the club's charitable programs that include "Shop With A Cruiser" and "Shop with a Cop" held in December.

That's when the Blairsville Cruisers take the proceeds generated throughout the year and make sure underprivileged children in Union County have a bright Christmas.

They contribute to the Shop With a Cop and "Give A Gift" programs.

Shop With a Cop is a Blairsville Police Department program where BPD officers and Union County Sheriff's Office deputies take children shopping in December.

"Give A Gift" is a program sponsored by the Union County Sheriff's Office to provide toys and clothes to

children 12 and under.

The Cruisers also are actively involved with the Union County Food Pantry.

"Anything that helps, especially around Christmas time, we're happy to be involved," Tanner said.

Tickets for the Mustang drawing will be available at each Cruise In until October, as well as at Tanner's Wrecker Service, and most members carry tickets on them.

If you bump into a member of the Blairsville Cruisers, buy a ticket and thank them for all that they do for the children in Blairsville and Union County.

Mark your calendars for May 2 when the Cruisers will be at the Farmers Market and May 3 when they take to the Downtown Square.

Time is running out on Pre-K

Your Union County School System is seeking a Pre-K Grant for the 2014-2015 School Year.

Union County Schools is currently in the application stage of seeking approval to provide a Pre-K program for Union County 4 year olds.

This program will be in addition to the existing Pre-K/Headstart program.

A vital part of the application process is securing the interest of parents/guardians willing to send their child to the Union County Primary School to attend a newly formed Pre-K program.

If you would be interested in enrolling your 4-year-old child in this new program, please let the school system know by completing one of

the following options:

Option 1: Call the Union County Registrar at (706) 835-4321 and provide the Parents/Guardians' name, the child's name, the child's date of birth and the family's phone number.

Option 2: go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/unionpreksurvey> to fill out the online interest survey.

Access Explorers headed to Windy City



It looks like Union County High School's Access Explorers will be headed to Chicago, Ill. after all.

Thanks goes out to Union General Hospital, which made a sizeable donation as CEO Mike Gowder learned of the group's shortage of funds for their trip.

The hospital made a donation of \$1,600 to fund the final payment for the Access Explorers' trip to Chicago.

Once Gowder learned that the trip's bus expenses were more than anticipated,

he came to the aid of his alma mater.

The Explorers' teacher, Shannon Hogsed, Paraprofessional Sondra George and the Access Explorers are extremely grateful for all the contributions from the many who helped raise the more than \$13,000 for the trip, including Union General Hospital.

In addition, Hogsed reports that the Blairsville Cruisers generously donated \$500 to help fund the extra meals for the students while

on the bus, bought warm clothes, and toiletries for several students attending the Chicago trip, and were even able to donate enough money for all students to have a small amount of spending money while in Chicago.

Hogsed and her Access Explorer students are very thankful for the generous donation from the Blairsville Cruisers.

The trip will be from Thursday, April 10 to Tuesday, April 15.

Fraud alert in Union County

A letter from the "Records Transfer Services" isn't what it seems, Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris said.

These letters which have an address of 2522 W 41st Street #400, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, are arriving at Union County homes and offer the service of providing a copy of the recipient's property deed for a cost of just \$63.

The problem is, Paris said, property owners can make copies of their land documents at the Union County Courthouse for just 50 cents.

A similar scam was ongoing in Towns County last year, with letters addressed from 925B Peachtree St., NE,

#745, Atlanta, GA 30309. That group offered the same service for just \$89.

"They target the elderly," Paris said.

If you read the paperwork sent by "Records Transfer Services," it's pretty easy to decipher that something smells fishy.

On the letters, there is one disclaimer after another telling the recipient that this service is not associated with any government agency.

It also discloses that the recipient can obtain a copy of their deed or other records from the county recorder in the county where their land is.

The county recorder is Judy Odom, and the folks that

work for her office.

It's best to watch for these letters in the mail.

The letter includes Union County public information of the property owned by the letter recipient.

It breaks down and provides a detailed description of the recipient's property.

The records are obtained through public information, and "Records Transfer Services" offers to provide a property profile to the recipient that includes detailed information all for the low price of \$63.

"If you need a copy of anything on file, Judy Odom will get you one for 50 cents or thereabouts," Paris said.