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A. We do surface treatment paving with our own crews. This is a combination of tar and gravel, usually four layers, and while it is not always completely smooth, it provides an excellent road topping material that will sometimes last longer than asphalt. It also has a more rustic look and cost nearly 40% less than asphalt. It is best utilized on low speed roads.

Q. How long does a paved road last before needing resurfaced or repaired?

A. There is really no set amount of time. An asphalt highway is generally projected to last 10 years, but will probably need some patching during that period of time. If it is a road that has very little traffic, it will generally last longer, while high traffic count roads do not last as long. Also the type of traffic is critical. If you have a road in a subdivision with lots of concrete and construction vehicles utilizing the road as homes are being built, you usually

see the road surface start to deteriorate much sooner. But if it is a built-out subdivision with mostly automobile traffic only, the road will last much longer, often 15 years or longer.

Q. Does the method utilized in constructing a road impact how long the pavement will last?

A. Absolutely. We require that a minimum of 6" of compacted base gravel be installed on the road surface prior to paving. Then we require 2 inches of asphalt "binder" covered with 1 and 1/2" of asphalt topping or four layers of "surface treatment." This insures that the road quality will be maintained the maximum amount of time. The secret of a good paving job is not totally the paving itself, but how well the ground under the pavement is compacted, the thickness of the gravel and the proper amount of moisture and proper drainage when the road is being built.

Continued Next Week

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count back change to a customer in our head. Now there's no need to learn that because a computer does it for us. Growing up I knew all my close friend's phone numbers by heart. Now I'd be lucky if I could tell you 3 of their numbers because I've grown accustomed to letting my cell phone remember them for me. And how many people still know how to read a map? And even worse, try to find a map for sale these days. With the introduction of GPS- both in our cars and on our phones - maps have become almost unheard of in some places. Some

say this next generation coming up may be smarter than the last, but I'm not so sure.

No matter the generation, hopefully all will attend the annual Strawberry Jubilee coming up this Saturday at the Farmer's Market from 8am-1pm. There will be plenty of produce, crafters, baked goods and fun! Until then, take some time this week to come out of the house, find a nice place to sit, and visit and enjoy the people God has brought into your life. Come. Sit. Visit. Enjoy. That's my plan for the week...what about you?

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and we took advantage of the situation by becoming friends with the sisters, adding to our other activities hours in the park's small recreation and snack shop, dancing to music on the juke box and playing with the pin ball machines. I will admit that I developed something of a crush on the younger sister, and I think she liked me, but at that age in those days such matters were not revealed or discussed.

Having female companionship also prompted us to attend the regular Saturday night square dance at the Walas-yi Inn at Neel's Gap. The chairs and tables would be pulled back and stacked against the wall in the dining room, now a back-packer outfitter store. A local band would break into tunes like "Under The Double Eagle" and "Down Yonder," and the caller would summon the dancers into a large circle, which broke up into squares. We had to learn fast to barely keep up with the mountain boys who wore taps on their heels and toes, and led their girls in the docedo, and promenade. The band took frequent breaks, retiring to the parking lot with bottles of Coca Cola, which they mixed with moonshine from Mason jars. The next set was always a bit more frisky.

The next summer we were joined by another friend, and fortunately were at Vogel the same week as the Buckhead family, who had conveniently brought along a friend of the sisters. We had a good time, but I was

still unable to articulate my feelings for the younger girl. The next year Bill and I turned 16 and found jobs at the Gainesville Coca Cola Bottling Company, which served most of northeast Georgia. My delivery truck's Friday route was through Cleveland, Helen, Hiawassee, and Blairsville, dropping off a few cases at the small roadside grocery stores along the way, and then back home via Vogel and Dahlonega. At Vogel I always felt a strong urge to strip off my Coca Cola dungarees and run dive into the lake, but I needed my \$20/week salary and thought better of it. My friends and I did manage a Greyhound bus trip to Buckhead one Saturday, the last time we ever saw the girls whose company we had enjoyed so much at Vogel.

Years later, in the 60s, my young family vacationed at Vogel several summers, and my two daughters learned to love the park and the mountains as much as I do. The older daughter, whose first hiking experience was from Neel's Gap to the top of Blood, has since hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, and the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada.

Life had brought successes and failures, good times along with ordeals and disappointments, but as I approach my 81st birthday this month, I look back fondly at those days 65, 66 years ago, and remember the happy times at Vogel State Park.
Charles Cheves

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or suggestions in getting the mess cleaned-up.

The Commissioner sent work crews to the location to grade the short roadway to the plot and to clear away the

fallen trees, limbs and debris. The crews did a great job!

Many thanks to the Commissioner and his crews!
Harold Levi

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Local Coupons & Events." There is no excuse for ever missing another great deal in Union County!

Local businesses who are interested in participating in this year's event can do so by contacting the Chamber. Participation eligibility is open to all Chamber members who have enrolled in the upgraded Buy Local program. Upgrading is a one-time \$25 enrollment fee that provides your business with a Buy Local poster, window decal, and shirt. It also entitles you to a 40% discount on additional shirts for your team and Chamber Matters e-Newsletter recognition of your business. Once enrolled, you are asked to choose one featured product or service to offer at half price or as a buy one get one free. The Chamber

handles all event logistics and publicity. Businesses who are not already a member of the Chamber should contact us to find out how you too can get involved.

Finally, all members of the community are invited to join the Buy Local campaign by taking The Pledge to purchase local products and services whenever practical. By doing so, you show your support for your friends, neighbors, and Blairsville-Union County community, and strengthen the viability of local businesses and stores in Blairsville-Union County who maintain the unique community character of our County, attract tourism, and build economic strength. Pledge cards can be obtained at the Chamber office and at various local events.

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to the hills of North Alabama. He thought people would like them as much as he did. So, he could buy them for a penny and sell them for a nickel. Paw Paw just knew he was going to make a boat load of money. He decided to buy a truck load after he unloaded his goods. I think he ended up with 1000 pounds of bananas and took them back to Alabama on the back of his old flatbed truck. It was during July and the only protection he had was a tarp. My momma told me she was just a little girl, but, she remembered that most of the bananas were rotten by the time Paw Paw got home.

Therefore, they could only sell a few and the family had to eat the rest. Mom said the family ate banana nut bread, banana pancakes, banana sandwiches, banana pudding and anything else they could make with bananas for a few days. By the time all the bananas were gone the whole family was sick of bananas. Oh, and Paw Paw lost money instead of making money on this deal and he went back to loving peaches and blackberries. It was a long time before Paw Paw would ever eat bananas again.

Mom would have loved a good bunch of strawberries at this point which leads to the announcement concerning the Farmers Market. Next week, our annual "Strawberry Jubilee" will be held at the Farmers Market on Saturday, May 25. We will open at 8 a.m. and will close at 1 p.m. If you want some good strawberries come on out to the market. Also, remember that the Trash to Treasures Sale will be held again

Ramsey ...

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That is why news emergencies find them at a loss for intelligent comment.

Ted Rall contends: "If you accept public money, you're in public service and should get paid accordingly. Which is to say, fairly - and at the lowest fair cost to taxpayers." (Incidentally, those at NPR boasted recently about moving into brand new Washington headquarters.) Ted Rall adds: "Something is off-kilter when the studios of publicly-funded shows like NPR's "All Things Considered" are centrally located and sumptuously furnished with mahogany tables and the latest high-tech gadgetry, while those of privately-owned 50,000-watt/talk radio powerhouses are situated in the slums."

As Krall reports: PBS receives 15 percent (\$445 million a year) of its funding from the government. A former NPR executive admitted: "given the political heat PBS takes over this government funding, they might be better off cutting the strings. They'd be free to stop giving lying conservatives 'equal time' to seem 'fair'."

Ted Rall, who describes himself as being left of center, suggests that the government use this money that broadcasters really don't need, instead, as a financial prop to failing newspaper; newspapers being the source for 95 percent of the public's news reports. But, only if their editors and publishers don't get paid ridiculous salaries.

Station WUGA just completed its Spring pledge drive; and the listeners were once again deprived of hearing the news on both "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered" for one whole week; the need being great for donations to pay for these two most expensive programs. Perhaps if individual stations put pressure on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to pay its "stars" a more realistic salary, listeners would not have to fork up so much.
Ruth Elizabeth Ramsey

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com	
Wednesday, May 22	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
Thursday, May 23	
8 am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cooks Country Kitchen
12 pm	Union County Rotary Club Meeting - 2nd Floor Cadence Bank
5 pm	Trivia Night & Tacos - The Union County Community Center View Grill
6 pm	Union County Lions Club - Steve's Steakhouse & Cookie Jar Restaurant
6 pm	Blairsville Cruisers Car Club General Meeting
Friday, May 24	
8 am	Trash and Treasures - Union County Farmers Market
4 pm	Memorial Day Celebration 24th - 27th The Copperhead Lodge
7 pm	Brushfire, bluegrass - Union County Historical Courthouse
7 pm	Paul Constantine Live - The Copperhead Lodge
Saturday, May 25	
8 am	Strawberry Jubilee - Union County Farmers Market
10 am	Memorial Day Parade - Downtown Blairsville
10 am	Spring Arts & Crafts Festival - Downtown Blairsville
10 am	Good Neighbors Auto Club Event - call Marcus Tuschel @ 706-835-9010
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
7 pm	Radio Deluxe - The Copperhead Lodge
Sunday, May 26	
10 am	Spring Arts & Crafts Festival - Downtown Blairsville
5 pm	12 Gauge Duo - by the pool at Copperhead Lodge & Fireworks at 9pm
Monday, May 27	
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
Tuesday, May 28	
8 am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Country Restaurant
11:30 am	VFW Monthly Meeting - Old Chamber Building
Wednesday, May 29	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Monday:		
Garden Tours	GMREC	9 am - 1 pm
Boy Scouts #101	United Methodist Ch	7 pm
Children's Story Time	Union County Library	11 am
Kiwanis Club	Steve's Steakhouse	Noon
Civil Air Patrol	Blairsville Airport	6:30 pm
Every Tuesday:		
Sweet Adelines	United Methodist Ch	6:30 pm
Every Thursday:		
Masonic Luncheon	Cooks Restaurant	11:30 am
Butternut Ladies Golf	Golf Course (Apr-Oct)	8:30 am
Rotary Club	Cadence Bank	Noon