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Q. Do you know any more about the lack of progress on construction of the Popeyes near Cook's Country Kitchen?

A. No, but I sure do wish I had some information. This site is located within the city limits of Blairsville and I am not in touch with the property owners. However, I do know this is a frustration for many people.

In addition, there is another Popeyes located near Commerce, Georgia that is at a standstill in the same stage of construction as ours. At this point the last word is that it is still planning to open in February or March. Stay tuned.

Q. Do you have any new information regarding LongHorns?

A. The latest information is that they are planning on being ready for opening around the middle of March. I did not know this, but the previous con-

struction manager had a heart attack back around Thanksgiving and passed away. We were very sorry to hear this. A new person has recently been hired and says they are still on schedule for a March opening.

Q. What is the latest on Arby's being built behind City Hall on Highway 515?

A. This is also within the city limits of Blairsville. My sources tell me that this project is looking very positive, but it is not completely finalized.

Q. Is the new pavilion located in Meeks Park ready for use by the public?

A. The paving was just completed by the Road Department and new parking and landscaping is in the process of being completed. The pavilion should be totally completed by Spring and ready for rental.

You can contact the Union County Recreation Department for rental information at 706-439-6074.

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Why do we continue to heavily subsidize corn and soy, two crops that are not profitable? Where is the free-market here? We argue over pennies for SNAP, which I have personally seen my neighbors' children being able to put food in their bellies, and yet we pour loads of money into these crops.

What does "the establishment" even mean? We have many good people that are long-serving civil servants.

Are free market and low taxes Christian ideals? I have studied Jesus' teachings in many Bible studies. And the OT: Ezekiel 16:49 "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy." Anti-gay rights is not a Christian ideal.

Our nation's founders Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were not Christians. They were Deists. Our nation was founded on religious freedom, the enlightenment ideals of John Locke, and the philosophies regarding the dignity of the individual by Rousseau and Descartes. Compromise IS the founding principle (not policy) of our nation. Sometimes compromise is a moral disgrace, like when we decided that black people were 3/5 of a person. Even so, compromise is the most wonderful attribute of our government. I did not "make our government

big." FDR and the New Deal expanded government at a time when Free-Market failed miserably. But the good news is that our government can grow and shrink depending of the needs of its people.

I am listening to Trump supporters in order to have compassion for their concerns, but it is painful for me. In a recent encounter I heard a gentleman say, "Make the liberals cry again, vote Trump 2020."

I gently said, "Yes, the liberals, and the practical-middle-of-the-road moderates, and the traditional Republicans like my parents." He was genuinely surprised. "Really?" he asked.

This man was a veteran and told me that Trump loves the military. I do not see it. He has refused wise counsel from military advisors that have given their lives to understanding strategy, he has betrayed our allies, and he has pulled our military from Syria, allowing wholesale slaughter of Kurdish people.

The man's wife said to me, "He is human and makes mistakes, and God will have to forgive him." She told me that Franklin Graham confirmed that Trump is a believer. I responded simply that the Bible says God forgives those that forgive.

Trump does not forgive. He is vindictive and petty. He is a talented name-calling bully. As for a simple, childlike faith, I do not see it.
Christine Pate

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

people which were before the Cherokee and Creek. When viewing these markings, I wonder what they mean and what were the people thinking when they made them.

Some years ago I heard about some markings in a place called Lemon Gap. I have wanted to go to this place since hearing about it. The gap is located on the North Carolina-Georgia State Line in eastern Towns County. I found that Milton Bradley and Sheldon Henderson both knew of the place, and I asked them to take myself and Tom Starrett to see these markings. Last week, we traveled into North Carolina and hiked up an old logging road toward Lemon Gap.

The hike was only about 1 1/2 miles, but, it was a 2,000-foot climb in elevation. The first mile was a gentle climb through some old fields which were once farmed. The evidence were the numerous piles of rocks that were everywhere. I can imagine the work some family went through to lift these rocks from their fields and place them in an old sled and then pile them in various locations around their old farm. We traveled through the old farm land, then began the tough part of the climb. The last 1/2 mile was mule face steep, meaning the land was so steep that you could reach out and kiss the ground without bending over. We climbed 1,500 feet in elevation over the last half mile to our destination. We walked by two waterfalls and evidence of old mines before reaching

the top.

Just before we reached the gap, we came upon a rock the size of a small kitchen table which had some strange markings on its flat side. As we examined the markings, I began to think they were some kind of map. There were many markings on the face of the rock, but, the oldest were long straight lines, one of which extended from the top to the bottom in a diagonal manner. The other lines all intersected the long line. There were other markings as well. These were people's initials, crosses, stick figures, and animal tracks and directional arrows. I haven't a clue as to what all the carvings meant. But, they are all evidence of those which came before us.

We walked up into the gap and nearly froze due to the north wind and decided to drop over on the south side of the mountain. There we were protected from the wind and enjoyed lunch before doing a little more exploring. Milton took us to a huge rock face where we were shown a place where he camped. It was a good spot protected from the north wind and level enough for sleeping. And the views we had both to the north and the south were outstanding.

We could see Bald Mountain, Blood Mountain, Glassy Mountain (in Rabun County) and Big Frog Mountain (in Tennessee). It was a beautiful day, and we left there with a great admiration for those which were here before us.



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We are excited to welcome Dr. Jacob Stirton, MD, orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist, to our upcoming Monthly Mingle on January 15.

Come and learn about Dr. Stirton's cutting-edge sports medicine techniques, orthobiologics including PRP, guided personalized shoulder replacement surgery, and direct anterior approach hip replacement surgery.

He will also be joined by Susan Stalcup with North Georgia Extreme Bootcamp, who will provide advice and exercise tips that will help us all to keep our fitness goals for

Cutler...

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fulness, and generosity of this young man was more than remarkable. My neighbors were equally moved by his kindness.

Thank you for reading this message and understanding how significant it was to us. Respectfully yours,
Elaine Cutler

Huber...

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a dilemma. What will we do to stop the robberies? Since having laws against bank robbery aren't working, let's try something else. But what!

Ah hah, Diplomacy, Appeasement, Bribery. Start by calling the robberies with politically correct words, "Unauthorized Withdrawals." This would soften the rhetoric and the voters and media might understand.

Next send a satchel full of cash to the varmint every few days. After all, this would be much safer than the tellers facing a loaded pistol at the teller cage, and banks are insured by the FDIC, which is funded by the tax payers. This would satisfy the Liberals in government, the media, and the voters who put them in office and stop the robberies, wouldn't it?

To appease the Iranians, Obama/Biden sent billions of taxpayer dollars to the Mullahs in Iran. Just like the Bank Robber solution wouldn't work, Iran used our money to escalate the war against us.

Finally we have a leader with enough courage to take on enemies in the media, in congress and abroad. Thank you again to a Great President. President Trump!
Ed Huber

Fowler...

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to accept."

King and Vitale make the same point. We are all extremists of one stripe or another. The culture prefers the extremes of progressive secularism and naturalistic scientism, and concludes that faith is irrelevant.

So, to believe and act on the Bible's audacious truth claims is to earn the label "extremist."

But if that's what it takes to know and follow Jesus, I accept.

What kind of extremist are you?

Dyer...

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a generator that provides power to their home must have a properly installed transfer switch to prevent reverse flow.

Power outages can be frustrating and inconvenient. Having an electric generator can be a temporary solution but it must be used properly and safely.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Williams...

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Some of these traps are quite high tech with you being able to activate them from your phone. These are effective, but also expensive. Once you have trapped the wild hogs you must kill them. It is illegal to transport wild hogs. Please abide by hunting and firearm regulations to make sure that you are hunting in a way that is in compliance with the laws.

The Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) covers Fannin, Union, Towns, and Rabun counties. Our SWCD has a hog trap that can be used by people in the district. The purpose of the trap is to assist people in dealing with feral hog problems.

If you have questions about using the hog trap contact your county Extension Office, Ryan Talton at rtalton@ucschools.org, or me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

non-emergency situation.

Georgia Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES) Warm Line: Created by the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, the CARES Warm Line offers a listening ear for those who have succumbed to a path of substance abuse.

Call or text: 1-844-326-5400. To access the CARES Warm Line, you can call or text 1-844-326-5400. This resource is available 365 days a year from 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

Peer Telephone Support Specialists are people in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder, mental illness or both, who are specially trained to actively listen to their peers, empathize with their concerns, and empower individuals to choose their path to wellness and recovery.

Peer Telephone Support Specialists have received additional specialized training that teaches them how to talk about the day-to-day experiences of living with behavioral health challenges and focus on personal transformation and recovery possibilities.

The message of hope is emphasized, strong and clear, based on the personal

accomplishments and maintained wellness by the Peer Telephone Support Specialists. Services are free, and all information will remain confidential.

The CARES Recovery Warm Line is not a crisis line. If someone is experiencing a mental health crisis or emergency, they will be referred directly to the Georgia Crisis and Access Line.

Crisis Text Line: Text "HELLO" to 741741; The Crisis Text Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the U.S. The Crisis Text Line serves anyone, in any type of crisis, connecting them with a crisis counselor who can provide support and information.

Veterans Crisis Line: Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1 or text to 838255; The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that connects veterans 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a trained responder.

The service is available to all veterans, even if they are not registered with the VA or enrolled in VA healthcare. People who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have hearing loss can call 1-800-799-4889.