

# Opinions

# Everybody has one...

## Have a Safe Fourth of July

During this Fourth of July weekend, people will be enjoying their time with family and friends as we celebrate the Independence Day of the greatest nation on earth. People will be camping, swimming, cooking out, and other summer activities. People may also be displaying their own local fireworks shows. Each year, Union County Fire Department reminds everyone of some safety tips for enjoying the festivities and having their own fireworks show.

As we have said many times, safety is always first. Fireworks are fun and exciting, but they can also be very dangerous. The last thing that we want is to spend our holiday weekend in the emergency room or worse, in a burn center. Last year, there were over 5,000 injuries on the Fourth of July due to fireworks and 36% of those were children. People should respect the hazards and dangers of all fireworks.

Here are a few tips and considerations when using fireworks. Never allow young children to handle fireworks and older children should only use fireworks under close adult supervision. Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from flammable materials. Ignite one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after igniting. Never hold fireworks in your hand and please do not make your own fireworks.

The weather this time of the year has been extremely hot and abnormally dry. Do not utilize fireworks in areas which are in danger of igniting such as dry grass fields, piled leaves, or dry woodland areas. It is a good idea to have a water hose or gardening tools nearby just in case some of the fireworks do cause a brush fire.

Another consideration is the laws that apply to fireworks. There are too many elements of the law to be explained here. The laws and ordinances cover things such as the minimum age to purchase fireworks, the time of day/night to ignite fireworks, the location, and the distances from certain areas. It is a good practice to research the laws and to follow them. The laws and ordinances are designed for the safety and wellbeing of the people. They are also designed for the consideration of neighbors.

These are just a few things to keep in mind during the holiday weekend. Union County Fire Department wants everyone to have an enjoyable holiday but we also want them to be safe. Have a great Independence Day! Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

**Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief**

David Dyer



## Proverbs Reader

You could use a bit of wisdom today couldn't you? Take a hint from these bits from the Bible's Proverbs. If the shoe fits...

"The beginning of wisdom is: acquire wisdom" (4:7). Reminds me of Barney Fife. "Here at the Rock we have two rules. Rule number one: obey all rules!" It's wise to seek wisdom. How? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (9:10).

"Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him" (26:4). If you argue with an "information-deprived" person, others can't tell the difference between the two of you.

Know when to keep your mouth shut. "Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent" (17:28).

On seduction: "With her flattering lips she seduces him. Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter" (7:21-22). People and thoughts will tempt you with things that do not turn out well. Then there's this: "The ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths" (5:21).

How to mar beauty: "As a ring of gold in a swine's snout so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion" (11:22). On the other hand, here is true beauty: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (31:30).

Which is better, love or steak? "Better is a dish of vegetables where love is than a fattened ox served with hatred" (15:17). "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (17:17). Brothers are meant to show love in adversity, not cause it!

Manage your relationships. "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (15:1). It helps to manage your own anger. "A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute" (15:18).

This is funny: "The sluggard says, 'There is a lion in the road!'" (26:13). For some, there's always a reason they can't show up or finish the task. Successful people find ways to get stuff done.

**All Things New**

Wayne Fowler



See Fowler, page 5A

## Commissioner's Questions

**Q. In an earlier Q & A when you spoke of short-term rentals, you mentioned a hotel/motel tax paid by rental owners. Where does the revenue from this tax go?**

A. The Blairsville/Union County Chamber receives 90% of this tax, and the Union County Government receives 10%.

**Q. What does the chamber do with these funds?**

A. The chamber's mission is to positively impact our community and its members by facilitating tourism, economic, and cultural development. They support its membership which consists of approximately 718 local business owners, organizations, and individuals. The Chamber helps to generate traffic to these businesses so that they can remain profitable and be available to us year-round. The Welcome Center, run by the Chamber, receives over 375 visitors, answers approximately 400 calls, and mails out over 1,000 information packages each month. They advertise and promote local events - bringing in visitors - which translates to more sales for local businesses. The Chamber also works on initiatives such as workforce shortages and technology advancements to improve the quality of life for all Union County residents.

**Q. We read some comments in the newspaper, and we see comments online from some people who do not want any growth in our county. It seems that after they moved here, they want to "lock the gate." What is this about?**

A. All Union County residents are important, and all have a right to their opinions. To answer this question, it would seem there are some people who are strongly anti-growth. The truth of the matter is that every single person who has ever moved here has contributed to the growth. Only recently have some begun to complain. Several factors have influenced the growth rate in Union County recently such as growth in tourism and COVID-19 swarm (migration to rural areas). The biggest question we face is: How much growth is too much?

**Q. County growth seems like such a big, multi-faceted topic. Can you help us better understand some of the things that we should consider?**

A. The negative aspects of growth are fairly evident. It's the

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**

Lamar Paris



See Paris, page 5A

## Habitat for Humanity

As I have mentioned, Habitat for Humanity is always looking for different ways to be involved in our community and make it a better place. Recently Habitat for Humanity partnered with Rotary Club and Downtown Blairsville to donate picnic tables to a newly created park located near City Hall on Blue Ridge Street.

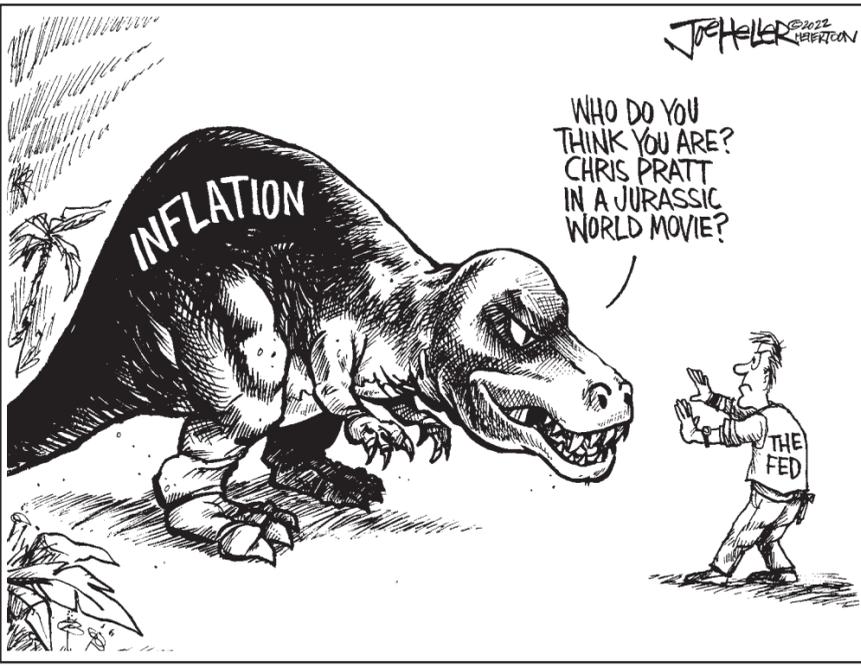
Between the three organizations we donated nine picnic tables to the City of Blairsville and its community members. We are excited to see this location be a fun and beautiful spot to take a rest from shopping, or sit and sip on some local coffee, or order takeout from your favorite restaurant. We hope this park will be a great location for friends and family to meet and enjoy the fresh air in the heart of Blairsville where all the action is at.

Before we can call this park complete, we are calling all locally acclaimed artists, and visionaries to come together on Saturday July 9th

See Habitat, page 5A

**Habitat Happenings**

Madelyn Bailey



## Guest Editorial

### We Cannot Overlook the Trash at Our Overlooks

Richard Russell Scenic Highway, in our Union County neighborhood, has many beautiful overlooks. It is something to be proud of. My personal favorite is the Hogpen Gap Overlook. It is the first overlook you come to driving up the mountains from Blairsville.

by Tamara Marshall Whiting

The view from the Hogpen Gap overlook is astounding - a view of the beautiful parallel ridges that define the look of the Appalachian Mountains, with ridge after ridge of mountains becoming bluer and softer blue into the distance. There is a map there to help you locate Brasstown Bald Mountain and other important sites.

I drove up to the Hogpen Gap Overlook the 2nd of April this year. The trees had not yet leafed out, and the ground was still brown - not yet covered by all the green plants that proliferate later in the spring, but the view from the overlook was still breathtaking.

Yes, the distant view I saw there was amazing, but when I looked closely, right in front of me, on the other side of the fence where I stood, there was a view of ugliness - a view of carelessness - of reckless disregard for the very beauty thousands of people come to this overlook to see. The sad truth is that the land on the other side of the fence and down the near mountainside was covered with trash.

For me, it is beyond belief that this terrible dichotomy exists. It makes no logical sense. Disregard for the land while gazing upon it with awe is a strange disconnection. The high regard for the distant view and the love of its beauty, while trashing the near view and disregarding its beauty, is a psychological conundrum. How can a person, while admiring the beauty of a place, at the same time do something to ruin its beauty? There is no good explanation.

But beyond the people who do the actual littering, what about those that come to view our lovely mountains at our overlooks and don't see the trash, don't notice or even care? How can a lover of nature's beauty not be upset to see its beauty compromised with trash? Why does it continue to be a problem? I feel deeply disturbed when I see our great scenic mountains devalued and ruined by human refuse.

Two women were taking pictures of the mountains and talking together about how beautiful they were while I was at the Hogpen Gap Overlook. They appeared to be in absolute awe as they talked together and continued taking pictures. "What was I doing at the same time?" I was taking pictures of all the trash for this article. I was making my

See Whiting, page 5A

## Climate Smart Commodities

We all know that Greenhouse gasses are a hot topic in the news today. Everybody seems to get on the bandwagon to reduce greenhouse gases in the environment whether it is practical or not.

Recently I was encouraged by friends in high places to apply for a grant thru the USDA NRCS that I call the "North Georgia Partnership for Climate Smart Grown Commodities." It is a \$4,562,000 5-year project for farmers here in northeast Georgia. I am not a grant writer at all, but I will try anything and have been lucky for almost 10 years. I spent 3 weeks, day and night, struggling through the process on this one. My supporters say it is good, but time will tell if "they" who judge it like it, and we are awarded the grant. It is a national competitive grant that will only have 50 winners nationally.

The primary focus of the North Georgia Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities pilot projects will be on-farm production of climate-smart commodities produced in ten counties in northeast Georgia that are served by four Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Hall County, Stephens County, Upper Chattahoochee River, and Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Some of the products to be produced thru this grant will be, vegetables, fruit, poultry and poultry products, beef, pork, flowers, timber, and other grown-on-the-farm products that are consumed by the public. Consumers today are becoming more climate conscious and want to know where their food comes from, how it is grown, and if it is produced in a climate friendly environment.

Some consumers in north Georgia are paying up to \$29 for a chicken that is grown in an environmentally friendly way. Commodities produced with this project will be produced using verifiable and quantifiable climate-smart practices (farming, ranching, or forestry). Climate-smart forest products are also included, and our producers will be encouraged to propose and justify innovative forestry projects that generate climate-smart forestry commodities with more carbon sequestration.

The projects will focus on verifiable on-farm (or forest) Green House Gasses (GHG) emissions and carbon sequestration benefits. Competitive projects will include agricultural and forestry practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide GHG benefits and/or carbon sequestration. Practices may include but are not limited

**RC&D Executive Director**

Frank Riley



See Riley, page 5A

## Nobody Will Ever Run Over Me

My 3X Grandfather, Wyatt Cummings, fought in the War Between the States. At the time of the war he lived in North Alabama. He voted for Lincoln because he was opposed to the war and his 2X Grandfather fought with George Washington during the Revolution. When Alabama seceded from the Union, most of the people in his community tried to sit out the war. They didn't want to fight against their Southern neighbors. However, the Home Guard tried to force my ancestor and others to fight for the South. It was reported that one of Wyatt's friends was hung two times (Uncle Billy survived both of these) because he refused to fight for the South. So, Wyatt and his friends slipped through the lines into Tennessee and signed up with the North to fight the remaining years of the war on the Federal side.

Most of these battles were in middle Tennessee around the Duck River. Most of the people wounded in the war died not from their wounds, but, from disease. One of Wyatt's brothers also volunteered for service in the 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry. Absolem died on the field of battle from dysentery. During this same period of time another young man from Northern Alabama joined the Union cause and fought in the same outfit with my ancestors. His name was Tom Clark.

There was another fellow from the area of the same name. So, everyone called this fellow "Mountain Tom Clark." One of his first duties included serving as a guard to the camp. This was particularly important because many young recruits would try to slip out of camp and return back home. The danger was that these deserters would fall into the hands of the Home Guard and provide them with information about the Federal Army. One fellow was very homesick and wished to be back home with his young bride. After observing Mountain Tom for a few days, the man guessed that he would accept a bribe. Clark received a gold watch and chain in exchange for turning his head so this fellow could slip out of camp.

At muster the next morning the man was found to be missing and an investigation ensued. In the meantime Mountain Tom had been showing off his watch to his comrades. The problem was that other soldiers knew this watch had been owned by the fellow which had deserted. So, it didn't take long before leadership put two and two together to determine that their guard had been bribed. Before he was arrested, Mountain Tom decided to skip out. So, he left the 2nd Mounted Infantry and eventually fell in with some

**Around The Farm**

Mickey Cummings



See Cummings, page 5A

## Chamber of Commerce

It's Summertime! The days are longer, the weather is hotter, the kids are out of school, and July 4th is just around the corner. We are gearing up for one of the biggest, loudest, and best shows ever! With the lifting of COVID restrictions there will be more food vendors, more games, and we've heard that our local churches will have lots of fun activities for the kids and their families down at the Sorghum Field at Meeks Park. Come early and enjoy the food and snack vendors. Setup your cornhole boards, bring your yard games, and challenge your friends and neighbors to a friendly competition. There is plenty of FREE parking just as there has been in the past, so come early and enjoy the fun. If you parked there last year, you can park there this year, too!

One of the fundraisers we do for the Red, White & Blairsville 4th of July Fireworks is selling T-shirts and raffle tickets for the Blairsville Ultimate Adventure package. This year's

See Chamber, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**

Steve Rowe



## Ripe Watermelon

This time of year, watermelon is a treat. Everybody has a favorite way to eat watermelon. Mine is to put it in the fridge to get it nice and cold, cut it up in slices, and put a little salt on each bite as you eat it. If you don't have a fridge around a cold creek is a good alternative. But, if you accidentally pick a watermelon that's not all the way ripe, it might be a bummer once you cut it open. With the 4th of July coming I thought I would talk about how to select a ripe watermelon.

Watermelon requires a lot of heat to be able to grow. That means that watermelon grown in the mountains won't be ripe in time for the 4th of July. There are smaller varieties that don't take as long to grow. Typically, watermelon take 70-90 days to be ready to harvest. If you are planting your own watermelon it's typically easier to start them from transplants, but you can start your own seeds. Watermelon plants will need 8 feet of space on each side.

If you are picking watermelon off the vine you want to look at the curly tendril that is on the stem closest to where it meets the fruit. When you see that curly tendril dry up and turn brown the watermelon is ripe and ready to harvest.

If you are looking at watermelon that has already been picked there are a couple of tricks that you can use so that you look will a pro and WOW onlookers at the grocery store or market. You can thump a watermelon to gauge its ripeness. A ripe watermelon will have more of hollow thud sound to it. An unripe watermelon will have a higher pitched, less hollow sound to it. It's usually best to thump multiple melons with this approach to really be able to gauge the ripeness. Another approach is the check the ground spot. This is just the spot where the watermelon sat on the ground. If it has a creamy yellow or buttery white color then it is ripe. If the ground spot is plain white then it's not ripe yet.

As watermelon ripen the green color will start to dull. So, if the watermelon still has a sharp green hue, it's probably not ripe. If you are picking a striped watermelon this method is particularly useful. Another tip is to pick up two watermelons of similar size. The heavier one is riper. Be careful using this tip because if it is too heavy, then it's overripe.

A whole watermelon will stay ripe for about two weeks if its stored below 60 degrees. At run temperature it will last for about 10 days.

Seedless watermelon is very popular and make up 92% of watermelon sales in the US. Seedless watermelon is not genetically modified, rather it is how they are bred that makes them

**UGA extension Watching and Working**

Jacob Williams



See Williams, page 5A

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## Paris... continued from Page 4A

positive aspects of growth that are often overlooked. Please understand that by discussing these positive aspects, I'm not saying that we shouldn't be cautious; I'm only saying we should try to keep things in balance.

#1. Most understand that a large portion of our population base is older/retired. This means that a smaller portion are young or school aged. At first glance, this difference doesn't carry a great deal of significance, but when you step back to get a cross-section perspective of our county, you realize that we need these young people. These are our idea people. These are our technology people. The young working population provides the services we older people often demand. For this reason, the school system needs to continue to grow. As the older population grows, we need a proportionate amount of growth in our school system.

#2. Our hospital needs to grow in order to medically support the entire population. If the hospital does not grow, how are we going to provide medical care to our aging population? Do we want to drive back and forth to Gainesville or Atlanta for basic medical care because there are not enough workers to care for us?

#3. A similar point can be made for public safety. Right now, we have job openings with the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Office. These jobs require healthy young people who can meet the rigorous job demands such as pulling families out of burning houses and securing our property. For this reason, our public safety departments need to grow. We can't do this without

a healthy pool of qualified job applicants. If we aren't "growing our own," then people have to move here to meet the job demands.

#4. Some of our residents seem to feel differently about this topic, but I occasionally hear people complain about the traffic and growth in our county and then say, "I wish we had a Publix or Kroger, etc., store in the county." The only way these stores come to a community is if they have a certain amount of population growth and wealth. We also have to provide a labor market (potential employees). I think many of us sometimes want it both ways.

### Q. How do we stop growth?

A. You cannot stop growth, and if you do, it cannot be done without negatively impacting those of us who already live here. Since I have been in office, my goal has always been to increase our quality of life by improving roads, public safety, public facilities, library, farmers market, horse arena, and parks, etc. The only problem is that as we make the county better for those of us already here, it is also an attraction to those looking for a great community to move to. So much of our current population moved here within the last 30 years. Who has the right to draw a line in the sand to tell others they can't move here too? Government wants to do what is best for everyone, but it can certainly be a challenge.

*Finally, while we want to keep our growth rate at a reasonable level, some growth is inevitable. We cannot legally put up a gate on Hwy 515; We cannot prevent people from other places from buying a second home in Union County.*

## Cummings... continued from Page 4A

others of his type. The people of North Alabama called these people "bush whackers." They weren't Union nor were they Southern. They preyed upon the innocent. And after the war they continued in the same manner.

Mountain Tom Clark robbed banks, trains and payrolls. He also bragged to anyone who would listen, "Nobody will ever run over Tom Clark." He and his gang soon paid a visit to a plantation owned by John Wilson. They tortured him trying to determine where he hid his money. He never provided the information, so the men shot him multiple times. The people of North Alabama suffered at the hands of this man and his gang. So, when he was arrested, a lynch mob appeared at the jail and drug him from his cell. They hung him from an oak tree in Florence, Alabama. Authorities were about to bury him in the city cemetery. One man stepped forward and related the phrase which the outlaw had bragged, that "no one will ever run over Mountain Tom Clark." So, they buried the outlaw in the middle

of Tennessee Street across from the city cemetery in Florence, Alabama. Now he is run over thousands of times a day.

After the war, Wyatt came home and got as far as a neighbor's house. At the time his wife didn't know whether he was alive or dead. Wyatt sent the neighbor's son to his home with a message. The boy went to the Cummings' home and told Gincy, Wyatt's wife, "There is a man down at our house that is offering \$25 for your milk cow." He explained to Gincy that the man felt it was not proper for him to be in her home without her husband being present. Since Gincy needed the money, she went to the neighbor's house to dicker with the man about the price of the cow. Much to her surprise she found her husband whom she had not seen in years.

Wyatt and Gincy raised my great-great-grandfather John and his siblings. They lived in multiple states, including Mississippi and Tennessee. But, John never forgot the hills of Northern Alabama and eventually settled there to raise his own family.

## Whiting... continued from Page 4A

own comments, mumbling angrily to myself about the horrible trash habit of human beings. The women didn't seem to even notice the litter.

They looked at me strangely as I climbed and descended the mountain-side taking pictures of the trash. "Watch out!" one of the women called to me, thinking my walking around was a bit precarious. "Look at all this trash!" I yelled back. "I can't believe that people trash this beautiful place!"

The ladies did not answer me. It was clear that they did not want to be engaged about the subject that I was so passionate about. They ignored me and my comments after that, and went back to their own over-the-top conversation. "Imagine having your morning coffee with this view!" one of the women said.

I have become so weary of the issue of litter and littering. I hate to see trash on the ground at beautiful overlooks, in front of waterfalls, and on the ground by the lovely trails that I hike. And sadly, for the first time recently, I found trash on The Appalachian Trail. I am good and angry about all of this, and I want others to care as much as I do.

What do most people think that come to enjoy our beautiful mountains from other states? What will they think of the state of Georgia as a whole when they see our terrible litter problem and see no effort to clean it up? What will they think of us – the people that live here? Who are we? What do we value? And why don't we care more about the state of our natural treasure: our land and its natural beauty?

I don't think I will ever really understand why people

trash amazing natural areas, or why those that don't aren't angered at the trash and try to do something about it. All I know is that I want our beautiful mountains to be clean and cared for and trash free. I believe that signs at our overlooks with high fines for littering would help end the problem. Some public education and a litter campaign would help. We really need to have some good efforts to make change.

I returned to The Hogen Gap Overlook recently. The leaves on the trees were leafed out and tall green plants thickly covered the ground on the other side of the fence and down the mountainside. The Earth itself, in its late spring fecundity, covered up most of the blight that I had seen in early April. But the parking lot had no vegetation to hide the trash that remained there.

I took my garbage bag and the trash grabber out of my car and started to pick up the litter myself. Why do people think that cigarette butts are not trash? They are unsightly and they stay around for 15 years or more before they decompose. They were on the ground everywhere in the parking lot. Plastic soda bottles, rubber bands and candy wrappers also covered the area, and something new: someone had taken spray paint and graffitied the asphalt!

I took the simplest action I could take and picked up the trash myself. The next time I go, I will take a bag and a grabber, and I will do the same again. Maybe some of you can join me in the effort. It all starts with caring enough to just take one simple action. If we love our mountains, we must show it in our actions. Let's begin by picking up some trash.

## Riley... continued from Page 4A

to the following: Cover crops, Low-till or no-till, Nutrient management, Enhanced efficiency fertilizers, Manure management, Feed management to reduce enteric emissions, Buffers, wetland, and grassland management, and tree planting on working lands, Agroforestry and afforestation on working lands, Afforestation/reforestation and sustainable forest management, Planting for high carbon sequestration rate, Maintaining and improving forest soil quality, Increase on-site carbon storage through Forest Stand Management, Climate-smart pasture practices, such as prescribed grazing or legume interceding.

The purpose and compelling need for this Climate

## Fowler...

### continued from Page 4A

"He who has God and everything else," C. S. Lewis wrote, "has no more than he who has God only." You can't take it with you, right? "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and turmoil with it" (15:16).

The best proverbs offer reasons to believe. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (3:5-6).

If the shoe fits wear it, and walk on the wise, straight paths.

## Williams...

### continued from Page 4A

seedless. Some watermelon is diploid, which means they have two sets of chromosomes. Other watermelons are tetraploid, which means they have 4 sets of their chromosomes. When plant breeders cross pollinate a diploid with a tetraploid it creates a watermelon that produces a seed that are triploid. Those triploid seeds are planted to make seedless watermelon. Triploid watermelons are sterile. It's a similar concept breeding a mule, which is a cross between a horse and a donkey. These seedless watermelons might still produce a few seeds, but they won't mature and turn black.

If you have questions about watermelon contact your County Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Chamber...

### continued from Page 4A

raffle prize package is valued at \$4,700 and includes a lot of fun outdoor adventures that the whole family will love. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at United Community Bank, the Chamber office, each Saturday morning at the Farmers Market or from your favorite Chamber Ambassador. They will not last long, so get your ticket today and don't miss out on a chance for this fabulous prize package. A big shout-out to United Community Bank, they help us sell both every year.

Can I get a "Go Dawgs!?" All our Dawg fans need to mark your calendars, Rennie Curran will be here on August 11th for our next Power Lunch. Rennie has agreed to sign autographs for the kids and fans after the Power Lunch. We thank one of our newest Chamber members, Supreme Lending, for sponsoring this event and helping to bring Rennie to Blairsville.

Thanks to all our Chamber members that help make Life Better in Blairsville!

## Habitat...

### continued from Page 4A

to paint these picnic tables. We are looking for creative family friendly designs for our community to enjoy. Take to pinterest, sketchbooks, Instagram, wherever you can find inspiration, and then contact myself with your ideas. Save the date and come ready to paint these picnic tables!

On July 9th between 10 AM – 2 PM we hope to see you there ready to jazz up this new park and make it a destination location for all our local shoppers and tourists to enjoy and visit. If you are interested in participating please be sure to contact me at 706-745-7101 or via admin@townsunion-habitat.org; I will need your name, and one or two of the design ideas that you would be interested in painting onto a picnic table. Then we can be in contact to reserve a table for you.

We are so excited for this event and hope to see our community come out to watch and help out our local artists in creating excellent pieces to admire for years to come at this newly established Blairsville Park.

crop, farm size, soil type, or farm location, enabling seamless adoption and verification of climate-smart agricultural practices.

The first goal of the project is to increase opportunities for growers looking to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices to increase their farm income. Farmers must adopt their farming operations to use practices that reduce GHG to do their part to help improve the environment.

These farming Climate Smart practices will not only help the environment but will

help the farm's bottom line by producing commodities that will sell for more than traditionally produced products. In the end we hope that users will pay more for these Climate Smart grown commodities. Our branding will be "Climate Smart Grown Commodities".

For more information keep checking this column and I will tell the world if we are successful. Be Climate Smart, be practical, but most of all enjoy life to the fullest, because life is what we make it, and it is good!