

# GA Mtn. Fair...from Page 1A

have any fairs scheduled.”  
The fairgrounds has a two-year contract with Amusements of America, which will roll over to cover the fairs of 2021 and 2022.  
Director Danny Burch discussed the financial aspect of the fair, noting that diminished attendance this year would put the group in a bad position.  
“We all know that over the past years, it has always been a struggle for us to make money with the fair,” Burch said. “If we have a 30 percent decrease in attendance, then we are in the hole in my opinion. We are going to come away from the fair with no money left.”  
“We have got to continue on to the rest of this year and so forth. Just from a strictly business standpoint, even if you don’t believe that this virus is real, at this point I think it

behoves us to postpone this fair.”  
With the combination of the carnival not being a part of the fair and the group likely to lose money this year given the uncertainty about attendance amid the pandemic, the decision was made to postpone the Georgia Mountain Fair until 2021.  
Fairgrounds General manager Hilda Thomason said that the situation this year is “unique,” and it has the organizers of every fair and event in the country wondering what to do.  
“There’s a lot of people that don’t know what to do, and nobody knows the answer – this has never happened,” Thomason said.  
The full lineup of vendors who were scheduled to do the fair is being moved to the Fall Festival, which is scheduled

to run Oct. 9-17. To alleviate some of the loss of not having a fair, the fairgrounds is aiming to make the Fall Festival that much more festive for people to enjoy.  
“We are planning on having the Georgia Mountain Fair Parade during the Fall Festival,” Thomason said. “We are going to do the 70th Anniversary Party on the night before the Fall Festival starts, on Oct. 8.”  
“We are just very sad and disappointed that we can’t have it, but there is so much uncertainty right now, and we have to think of safety first. We just want people to understand, and maybe next year we can have the biggest fair we have ever had.”  
For more information on upcoming events, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

# Granddaddy Mimm’s...from Page 1A

which featured furniture and other items simply sitting outside the building as of the meeting date.  
“I don’t know how many of you have driven by the animal shelter thrift store and how many of you have seen what a mess that place is,” Conley told the council.  
He added that with two new businesses nearby – the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store and the aforementioned Granddaddy Mimm’s – it was imperative the Humane Society store “move a bunch of that stuff out that seems to be over there just taking up space.”  
The mayor suggested that each council member visit the store to resolve the situation and avoid additional city government measures.  
“I think some of you council members (should) help me do this and talk to the people that run that thrift store,” he said. “They moved in a bunch of stuff that I don’t know where it (came) from, and I think we need to request them to move a bunch of that stuff out.”  
He also said the thrift store had not been displaying the proper signage notifying customers of the need for social distancing, as well as other COVID-19 safety measures that were not being followed.  
“They’re not operating their business as they should be under the COVID rules,” he said July 7. “They’re supposed to have a sign on the door telling

patrons to social distance, and they don’t have that.”  
“They’re supposed to have the floor marked to where there’s 6 feet between customers, and that’s not happening, either.”  
“I think when I get down there and talk to them, they may be willing to straighten things up. I don’t know who the (manager) is at this time, but we’ll be finding out real soon.”  
When reached for comment, Store Manager Ed Philo said he was already in discussions with Mayor Conley’s office before the July 7 council meeting and that he intended to quickly resolve the matter.  
“We understand the store can get unsightly, but we make every attempt to keep things as clean as possible so the (Humane Society) organization is well represented,” Philo said. “Part of the reason it sometimes looks unsightly is due to illegal dumping. That is something we’ve talked to the mayor about, and he stated that he would help us with this in the future.”  
“At the mayor’s request, we are considering a fence or a wall to help mitigate the situation. We have not heard how much, if any, the city will be donating to help us with this, because after eight weeks of being closed down due to the COVID situation, this will definitely be costly and interfere with our mission, which is taking care of the animals in

our charge.”  
“We are hoping for a speedy resolution to this so all parties can return to business as normal.”  
Regarding potential violations of COVID-19 safety guidelines, Philo said he was unaware the store’s signage wasn’t up to par but added that the Mayor’s Office recently delivered a new sign that’s currently displayed at the main entrance.  
“We’ve always had a sign in the front door that mentions social distancing and limits how many customers are allowed inside, it just never mentioned COVID by name,” he said. “We put that (sign) up way back when all of this started in March, and that was before things got crazy. But the city just brought us another sign that we’ve placed on the front door.”  
In other business, the council approved a deferral modification for the city’s three Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loans totaling \$73,730.  
“Because of COVID, GEFA is offering us (a deferral of) our loan notes for six months,” Conley said. “All it will do is add those six months to the end of the contract; it won’t cost us one bit of interest, and it won’t affect our credit score with GEFA in any way. All we’re doing is deferring those payments to the end of our loan.”

# Early Voting...from Page 1A

the contest between Matt Gurtler and Andrew Clyde, while the Democratic ticket features Devin Pandy and Brooke Siskin. Whoever wins their respective party nomination on Aug. 11 will square off against the other party nominee on Nov. 3.  
Since this is a primary runoff, voters who participated in the June 9 election must vote with the same political party. People who selected nonpartisan ballots during the primary, as well as individuals who did not vote in the primary, must choose a party to vote in the runoff.

about their absentee status by visiting the Secretary of State’s Office website at sos.ga.gov, calling the local Registrar’s Office at 706-439-6016, or swinging by the office at 65 Courthouse Street.  
For the rest of the year, absentee ballots will be automatically mailed to voters who informed the Registrar’s Office they were elderly or disabled on a previous application, though all others need to apply for mail-in absentee ballots on a per-election basis.  
People wanting to fill out their absentee ballots/applications and drop them off in person to the Registrar’s Office can do so at the courthouse up to 7 p.m. on Aug. 11. There is also a drop box affixed to the exterior of the courthouse for convenience.  
An absentee ballot/application must be submitted by the voter requesting one, except for a disabled person, who may have a relative by blood or marriage return his or her absentee ballot/application. Those who receive an absentee ballot by mail but decide to vote in person will need to have their absentee ballot canceled at time of voting.  
Voters can access.mvp.sos.ga.gov ahead of the election for information on voter registration status, mail-in application and

ballot status, poll location, registration information on file with the county office, sample ballots and more.  
It should be noted that voters are not allowed to display campaign-related materials at polling places where promoted candidates appear on ballots. For example, for the Nov. 3 election, voters will not be allowed to enter polling places wearing clothing promoting Donald Trump or Joe Biden for president.

# COVID-19...from Page 1A

Florida are reaching capacity, and that is scary, because we have some of those people coming here.”  
“I worry that this will last longer than it needs to because we don’t step up and do something about it. This would have been gone if we had just dealt with it and did the social distancing to begin with.”  
“Sure, the economy would have been hurt, but it isn’t going to be any better now, especially if another lockdown comes.”  
Alexander Crowe of Fannin County said he felt many safety precautions were likely here to stay, since there has been an increase in attention to personal hygiene in public.  
“Masks are going to be the new standard,” Crowe said.

“I won’t be surprised if most stores start requiring that people wear them. Even if the governor won’t allow cities to mandate them, the businesses still will.”  
“I heard that Walmart will be requiring the mask at every location, and that means that people are going to have to get over it. Businesses can tell you that you need to wear a mask, and if you don’t follow that rule, then you won’t be able to go in there.”  
“It doesn’t need to be political. Wear the mask and do what we need to make this thing end.”  
Still others believe masks should remain optional, including Gov. Brian Kemp, who recently banned local governments from mandating masks.

Sam Weise of Union County thinks businesses ought to have control over when masks are required.  
“I don’t have a problem at all with the governor refusing to allow cities to mandate masks,” Weise said while shopping at Home Depot July 18. “I think it gives people the option and the freedom that we talk about all the time.”  
“This order doesn’t mean that people will never wear masks, because businesses will require them. This way gives more options and allows businesses to take their situation into their own hands. It doesn’t force people to do something they don’t want to do, and I think it helps avoid some of the backlash that we see from masks.”  
“I know not everyone will be happy no matter the decision, but I think this is putting that

choice into the hands of the people, which I think is the way to do it.”  
Walmart announced July 15 that it would “require all shoppers to wear a face covering starting Monday, July 20.” CVS and Walgreens began requiring facial coverings Monday as well, and Home Depot will require that customers wear masks starting July 22.

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

**MONTGOMERY CONCRETE**  
~ FOR ALL YOUR CONCRETE NEEDS ~  
Forming through Finishing, House Slabs, Driveways, Sidewalks, Stamped Colored Concrete. Top Quality Work!  
Big Jobs and Small Jobs! • Insured  
See photos on Facebook under Lee Montgomery  
**Call 706-781-1806**

**SHAWN'S HOME FURNISHINGS**  
Mattresses, Porch Rockers & More!  
“From the Front Porch to the Back Door We've Got You Covered!”  
568 Blue Ridge St. • Blairsville, GA  
FREE DELIVERY! **706-835-1209**  
Mon-Fri 9am-6pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Closed Sun

Trust Integrity Guidance  
Taylor Insurance Group  
WE DO WHAT OTHERS PROMISE  
**Tom Taylor**  
YOUR LICENSED LOCAL AGENT  
Medicare Advantage Plans  
Supplements, Life, Under 65 Health Plans, Dental  
770-298-9161 ph/text  
1-706-400-5754 Fax  
tom@tomtaylorinsurancegroup.com

**ACS GRADING & EXCAVATING**  
Grading, Dump Truck, Gravel, Dirt, Driveways, Underbrushing, Lot Clearing, Water Lines, Basements  
No Job Too Small - FREE Estimates  
Locally Owned & Operated  
**706-897-0411**

**TOTAL RECOVERY**  
PAINT & BODY  
(706) 745-9703  
391 BLUE RIDGE HWY  
ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED

**MEGA TONE MUSIC**  
BUY-SELL-TRADE-CONSIGN  
✓ VINTAGE, NEW AND USED GUITARS, AMPS, EFFECTS  
✓ GUITAR, PIANO, BANJO, BASS UKULELE, DRUM LESSONS  
✓ INSTRUMENT REPAIR  
✓ PA RENTAL  
404.310.9356 - 44B Town Square - Blairsville, GA 30512

**Southeast Geothermal & Spray Foam**  
706-745-8685  
1442 Blue Ridge Hwy.  
www.segeothermal.com  
www.sesprayfoam.com

**Auto Glass worx**  
706-897-6984  
Blairsville, Ga.  
THE TRI-STATE AREA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, NORTH GEORGIA & EASTERN TENNESSEE  
Mobile glass replacement services for windshields, door glass, back glass and sliders and vent glass.  
553 BLUE RIDGE STREET  
BLAIRSVILLE, GA 30512

**Sugar Magnolia**  
Home Decor  
Forever Flowers  
Baby Gifts  
Fashion Acces.  
Jewelry  
Acrylic Dishware  
Gifts and Interiors  
267 B Cleveland St. Blairsville  
Backside of the Nationwide Bldg.  
(706)230-9100

Michelin BFG Uniroyal  
Specializing In:  
Alignment • Computer Balancing  
Brakes • Auto Repair  
Industrial Foam Fill  
Oil Changes  
**Thomas Tire, Inc.**  
Auto & Big Truck Service  
Oscar Thomas - Owner (706) 745-0264  
76 Shoe Factory Road  
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

**Kieth Prentice**  
Prentice Heating and Air LLC  
1376A HWY 51SE  
Blairsville, Georgia 30512  
Owner Phone: 706-745-9665  
kieth@prenticeheatingandair.com Fax: 706-835-2684

**Gibson Land Service**  
Travis Gibson  
706-897-8564  
Tree Removal  
Bucket Truck  
Grading  
Views  
24 Hour Service  
Worker's Compensation Insurance

**Litton Landscaping, Inc.**  
1250 Collins Road  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
706-745-5478  
Cell 706-781-4858  
Complete Design  
Installation  
Maintenance  
“We go the extra mile”  
TUFSTUF

**Jimmy D's Custom Home Painting**  
jimmydpaints@gmail.com  
facebook.com/jimmypaints  
(706) 994-2392

**KELLEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS**  
“May you have joy in the work of the LORD”  
Remodeling • Painting  
Yard Maintenance & Much More  
Mark A. Kelley, Owner  
706-897-9485  
FREE ESTIMATES

FREE ESTIMATES  
All Materials Furnished  
Installing Insulation  
Hanging Sheetrock  
Finishing Texturing  
**RICH DRYWALL**  
Young Harris Hwy.  
Blairsville, GA  
706-745-5307

**JACKY JONES AUTOMOTIVE GROUP**  
We Make Buying Easy!  
Ford • Hayesville, NC • 888.342.2282 • Chevrolet • Murphy, NC • 888.614.8960  
Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram • Hayesville, NC • 888.384.3145 & Franklin, NC • 828.369.5003  
**JACKYJONES.NET**