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A. The facility has a large storage area upstairs for Recreation Department sports equipment. There will be several Recreation Department offices upstairs and downstairs. We also have a nice new concession stand with brand new equipment to be used during the basketball games. There will be two vending machines for drinks in the beautiful lobby area, along with several tables and chairs. There are also very large and nice restrooms and two small "team rooms" that can be used at halftime or between the youth ballgames for coaches and players.

Q. Will there still be some Recreation Department basketball in the school's gyms?

A. We may still have to use the rubber floor gym, primary school gym, and the old red gym that belong to the Union County Schools for some practices during the sea-

son, but we will hopefully have all the games being played in the new gym facility.

Q. What protective steps will be in place regarding Covid-19?

A. We will have temperature checks at the doors coming in the gym to follow CDC guidelines regarding fevers, along with hand sanitizer stations at both entries into both gyms. We will also be cleaning regularly throughout the day and sanitizing the facility and equipment. The county will also be using sprayers that we also use in the courthouse, courtrooms and other county facilities to kill germs.

Q. How was the new gym facility paid for?

A. The county was able to use bond money that was set aside for the gym from the 2015 Bond and SPLOST money from the current SPLOST program.

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others were forced to throw in the towel. If the foot-traffic on our square, and the slightly longer waits at our few stoplights are any indication, tourists have come to enjoy a distanced daytrip where they can bask in the magic of the mountains. While restaurants and shops have largely been careful to distance, the additional tourism has served to buoy our local economy, and the addition of thriving take-out businesses proves locals and visitors still enjoy great food.

I love how our community has come together to support local businesses like Spry Family Dry Cleaners who were able to reopen to great local support this past week, and Stephen and Ashley Holland, new owners of Mike's Seafood saw unprecedented support with our recent post about the restaurant changing hands. Grinds and Glazes continues to renovate as we eagerly await their reopen-

ing, and Lucky's Taqueria and Cantina has been received with overwhelming enthusiasm. Let's continue to support our local businesses. Before heading to Google to shop, let's head to town; chances are they have exactly what we need! Let's be patient too; our local restaurants and merchants are adjusting to unpredictable numbers and new methods of serving you. We're all in this together.

As the leaves continue to fall and autumn gives way to the holiday season, we are looking forward to Holly Jolly Christmas here at the Chamber of Commerce where Santa will still receive children in a distanced fashion, and the Tour of Trees will still be available for all to safely walk through and enjoy. I am convinced now, more than ever, that Blairsville-Union County is a place where we drop our roots deep and thrive in any season.

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some of the ones that come to mind immediately.

Now, as far as masks are concerned, one day Dr. Fauci says masks are good! The next week, he says masks are bad! When the medical community can't even agree on one set path to follow, why should we?

The fact is that in most age groups the survival rate for COVID-19 is around 99%. In the most at-risk group, those over the age of 60, it's around 94%-95%. BTW I got those numbers from Townhall.com, but if you don't believe me, as always, Look It Up For Yourselves.

If y'all have no faith in God and are so afraid of this virus that you want to "Quarantine" forever or wear a piece of cloth over your face forever, by all means do so. That being said, don't think for one minute that y'all can bully those of us who won't fall for your and your preferred propaganda outlets' "Scare Tactics" into giving up our freedoms. I and those like me who love freedom will not bow to your wishes, EVER!

Thank You and My God Bless You ALL. Yes, even The Democrats.
Claude Rains Jr.

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weight and type and at year's end, they will provide an itemized receipt of the donations. The producer's "tax letter" will provide the weights and types of produce donated.

The Society of St. Andrew is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which means the gifts are likely tax deductible. Federal legislation protects the producer from any liability while the volunteers are on the farm gleaning the fields. Farmers are protected from all liability concerns through the Bill Emerson "Good Samaritan" Food Donation Act, passed by the US Congress in 1996. SoSA, as a nonprofit, ensures that the landowner and the recipients are 100% protected from liability. SoSA steps in at whatever point produce is declared waste and unmarketable and they work with the producer throughout the donation process.

SoSA will handle: Produce still in the field or orchard after the harvesters have finished at end of season? at the U-Pick farm or Agritourism business? They will send and supervise volunteer gleaners to harvest the produce by hand. Produce graded out at the packing house? They can pick up produce by the bin, dump trailer, or tractor-trailer load, and haul it away, for distribution off-site. Produce rejected at warehouse, distribution center, or grocery store? They will work quickly to offload rejected produce and transport it to nearby agencies for distribution.

Produce on a truck involved in an accident? Unless it has been harmed by a fuel spill or by chemical fire

retardants, they can usually recover and distribute this good food to hungry families. SoSA charges no fees, to those who donate food or to those who receive it. Their operating expenses are covered by donations from individuals, churches and civic organizations, and grants.

The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

Share Our Surplus is a great way to encourage healthier eating in the community, address the issues of food waste and hunger, focus on the abundance of food available to us, and support the work of the Society of St. Andrew. Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris has taken the lead in Towns and Union counties to get this food rescue and distribution program started and has hired an intern to lead and develop the program.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or would like to volunteer to help, contact Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church. Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D will support and promote the work of the Society of St. Andrew anyway we can thru our field days, events, and programs that are for the farmers in our area.

For more information on the gleaning work that The Society of St. Andrew does go to www.endhunger.org, or check ChestChatt RC&D out on Facebook Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D or our website www.chestchattred.org.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

However, I like to think it was built by the Cherokee to protect their villages from the giant bird that once terrorized the local people. This bird swooped down from the high ridges and took away unsuspecting children. Legend has it that a string of forts were built along the Blue Ridge to watch for the terrible bird. One Indian man fell asleep while on duty and the bird attacked his village. As punishment God struck the man with lightning, and that is how Standing Indian Mountain came to be named.

While on a hike with Harold Dyer, we were walking up around Low Gap toward Chattahoochee Gap. The trail follows an old road bed for

Fowler...

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So I'll rejoice, it's been a good run. Sixty pleasant years under the sun.

What an adventure it will be to fly away from the light of one sun to that of another! By faith, your destiny is another city, one that "has no need of the sun...for the glory of God has illumined it" (Rev. 21:23). Journey on, Traveler, and cast a confident gaze toward life in that Son!

Williams...

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would need a unique soil sample done. When you receive the results from the lab they will have recommendations for you based on the types of plants that you have or plan to have.

Bring soil samples into your local county Extension Office. If you have questions regarding the soil sampling or the results you can call your local Extension office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Combs...

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His only begotten Son Jesus to earth to die for all sins, so that we could be reconciled back under God's amazing grace? We cannot continue living in darkness, but this is the picture of humanity who does not have a personal relationship with Him. God wants to bless us, but the problem is that our hearts are not open to receive the blessings He has in store for us, because of our sinful nature. You can't serve two masters and play church, instead of being the church that God called us to be.

No sin is ever hidden from God. He knows all things, and until we get right with Him, all nations will experience tribulations, persecution and terrible disasters as the days, weeks and months roll on. When we have prayers that are not being answered, remember the problem is not God. The problem is our faith is weak and our sins are forever before a Holy and righteous God. What is it going to take to shake our sins off and come repent, ask forgiveness and receive Christ into our heart? It's always been a heart problem that only God can heal.

Frank F. Combs

Union County Food Pantry

The Union County Food Pantry will be giving away Turkeys on November 19 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. You must participate in Low Income Heating Assistance to sign up for a Turkey.

Call in will be from 10-26-2020 through 11-7-2020. Pick-up will be drive-thru only at the Union County Farmers Market.

Please call 706-745-6596 starting 10-26-2020. Be prepared to provide name, telephone number and the last 4 of your Social Security number so we can verify your participation in the LIHEAP program.

This is for Union County residents only.

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



November 9, 2020

In memory of
Charles Arthur Utesch
on his birthday
By Craig Utesch

Bell ringing information
at 706-745-5493

ing. Near the Tesnatee Gap on the Logan Turnpike, Little Ed hitched a ride with a man named Neel. The man was driving a nice car which was rarely seen in Union County during this time. Also in the car was the man's wife, his daughter and her Nanny. The man told Ed that he was about

to build a new road into Union County and was trying to determine which gap to bring the road through.

Later, Ed took a job with a crew building the new road, and it was built through Walasi-yi Gap. In honor of Mr. Neel, the name of the Gap was later changed to Neel's Gap.