

# Opinions

Everybody has one...

## COVID-19 - What if I get sick?

Union County has seen the number of confirmed cases grow in the last few days. We know that the virus is spreading. We have discussed many times the preventive measures that people should take to slow the spread and to prevent illness. But what should people do if they have been exposed or if they have COVID-19?

The first thing is to know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. People who have been ill from this virus have reported that the symptoms can range from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and most consist of flu like symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

If someone has any of these symptoms, they must stay home and contact their doctor by phone immediately. They should not show up at the doctor's office or the emergency room without calling. If someone does not have a doctor, they may contact the health department. The doctor or the health department will provide guidance as to what to do. This may or may not involve testing. People should not call 911 or go to the emergency room unless it is a true emergency.

There are two terms that people must be familiar with if they have been exposed or if they are sick. The terms are Quarantine and Isolation. Most people believe that they are on quarantine right now due to the shelter in place order, however, shelter in place means that you shouldn't go out unless it is necessary.

Quarantine is used when a person may have been exposed to the virus. A health care provider or official may ask a person to quarantine. This means the person must remain at home for a period of fourteen days from the last known exposure or until test results come back. At their home, they must monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 which includes monitoring temperature twice per day. If they develop a fever of 100.4 Fahrenheit or higher or develop signs and symptoms, then they must contact their doctor.

Isolation is another term that many people do not understand. Isolation means that a person has a positive test result, or their symptoms strongly suggest that they are positive. In this event, a person must go home, isolate themselves from everyone, and stay there until the symptoms are gone for several days. Most people can treat themselves at home and recover.

See *Fire*, page 5A

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



## Wait for It

The Resurrection account is trustworthy in part because it reveals Jesus' disciples acting very humanly as they waited to understand what it all meant.

They argued about who would sit by Him when He began his rule. They couldn't grasp where or why He was going "to prepare a place." During His trial, they deserted and denied Him. After the Resurrection, they huddled in fear in the upper room. Thomas doubted while he waited to see for himself.

Give them this: They held out until it all became clear. Well, all except Judas. He missed the point and the big event. The remaining disciples may have been as troubled as Judas and their own sin no less worthy of personal angst. But they waited, and beheld the defining, magnificent moment of the ages. Though the One known as "God with Us" suffered and died, His tomb was empty! He walked, ate, and mingled with them. Dorothy Sayers writes, "They had misunderstood practically everything Christ had ever said to them, but no matter: the things made sense at last, and the meaning was far beyond anything they had dreamed. They had expected a walk-over, and they beheld a victory; they had expected an earthly Messiah, and they beheld the Soul of Eternity."

Jesus' Resurrection has been such a defining point in history and humanity's self-perception that academics and philosophers have been trying to disprove it ever since. They have taken up the challenge laid down by Paul, although he probably didn't intend it to be. He writes, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless" (1 Cor. 15:14, 17). Without the Resurrection, Christianity collapses. Make no mistake. The empty tomb is evidence of a literal, physical, bodily resurrection. That changes everything! A metaphorical resurrection is for a powerless religion that offers nothing to wait for.

Many still question the authenticity of the Biblical record and the uncommon events it describes. Much is written on the convincing evidence of the Resurrection, if a seeker dares look into it. Professor Sir Norman Anderson summarizes, "Even apart from the Resurrection, there are excellent and convincing reasons

See *Fowler*, page 5A

**All Things New**  
*Wayne Fowler*



## Commissioner's Questions

### Governor Kemp's Executive Order

**Q. How long does Governor Kemp's Executive Order mandating citizens Shelter in Place last?**

A. On April 8, 2020 Governor Kemp extended his Shelter in Place Order until 11:59 PM on April 30, 2020.

**Q. How does this Executive Order to Shelter in Place apply to individuals and families?**

A. The basic rule for sheltering in place is that residents and visitors to Georgia are required to shelter in place in their residence until the order expires on April 30, 2020. This means to remain in your residence and take every precaution to limit social interactions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Q. Are there exceptions to this basic Shelter in Place rule?**

A. Yes. A resident can leave their place of residence for a few valid reasons which are as follows:

1. Engaging in Essential Services. This means you can go to the grocery store, medical appointments, and the pharmacy. You can go and pick up food or have food delivered to your house and you can engage in outdoor exercise activities as long as you have at least six feet between people who do not live in your household. The key take away is that you need to stay in your house as much as possible, but we recognize there are circumstances where you will need to leave.

2. Working in Critical Infrastructure. This means a business, establishment, corporation, non-profit, or organization that is defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as "essential critical infrastructure workforce. If your business will continue in-person operations, the state encourages implementation of sixteen requirements. The full definition and the requirements provided by the Governor's Office can be viewed on the Union County Website at [www.unioncountygga.gov](http://www.unioncountygga.gov) and then click on the link in the middle of the page that says Locate COVID Resources Here.

3. Engaging in Minimum Basic Operations. This means that if a business, establishment, corporation, non-profit, or organization is NOT classified as Critical Infrastructure that entity shall comply with the Social Distancing Rule, can only engage in Mini-

See *Paris*, page 5A

**Q & A from Union County Commissioner**  
*Lamar Paris*



## Drug Free Mountain Life

### Methamphetamine Facts and Risk

Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug. Stimulants are a class of drugs that can boost mood, increase feelings of well-being, increase energy, and make you more alert. It has dangerous side effects like

raising heart rate and blood pressure, and use can lead to addiction. Methamphetamine's pleasurable effects can disappear even before the drug levels fall in the blood, leading people to use more and more, sometimes not sleeping and using the drug for several days.

Methamphetamine use changes the way the brain works by changing the way neurons communicate. Neurons send messages to each other by releasing chemicals called neurotransmitters, telling us how to act and behave. These neurotransmitters attach to molecules on neurons called receptors.

There are many neurotransmitters, but dopamine is the one that reinforces cravings for

See *Drug Free*, page 5A

**The DRUG FREE MOUNTAIN LIFE campaign supports an overall safe community by providing information, education and support services to children, families, and community toward prevention of illegal substance abuse.**



## Chamber of Commerce

Regardless of all the changes and challenges our nation and community are facing, I hope everyone was able to find their own special way of spending the Easter holiday last weekend and that it was still a joyous day filled with colorful eggs and chocolate sweets, and personal celebration of the resurrection of our Savior.

While many families are able to spend this time together, many healthcare workers, medical professionals and first responders all across the nation and in our own community were not, due to their tireless and brave efforts combatting Covid-19, serving our community, and keeping our most vulnerable safe and cared for. They are on the frontlines of this battle against an invisible enemy, and we are grateful for their hard work, determination and courage. I know our community is very thankful, in particular, for our local healthcare workers, medical professionals and first responders, and we continue to pray for them and their families

See *Chamber*, page 5A

**Blairsville - Union County Chamber President**  
*Steve Rowe*



## Letters to the Editor

### Show Kindness

To the Editor,  
In today's society there seems to be a big loss of kindness towards one another, instead angry, hatred and racial issues seems to headline just about every avenue in the media, on twitter, facebook and even in many magazines across our nation evil has raised its ugly head as Satan has duped millions by his cunning and manipulating ways. Satan has been around since the beginning of time for he was created by God to be the most beautiful angel in heaven called Lucifer, but even angels have free will and Lucifer wanted to be the top angel over everything in heaven, even over God, his Creator; thus God abandon him and a third of the angels who rebelled against God to earth. This is why there is so much evil in the hearts of humanity, because they too had a free will to choose to either serve God or serve Satan. The Bible is very clear that no one can serve to masters.

See *Combs*, page 5A

### COVID-19 Mortality Rates

To the Editor,  
Many years ago, I graduated from Penn State with a degree in Electrical Engineering. My course load was heavy in physics, chemistry and advanced mathematics. My professors often emphasized that it is easy to plug numbers into a formula and come up with an answer, but you need to be careful in how you present the answer. The answer is only as good as the least reliable number you use in the calculation.

This brings me to COVID-19 Mortality Rates. As an example, take today's Georgia numbers (April 9, 2020). According to the Georgia Department of Public Health, there are 412 deaths. This is an accurate number. Death certificates are recorded and reported. The number might not be 100 percent accurate because the cause of death might not always be correctly reported, but overall, the number can be considered highly accurate. The number of cases reported is 10,885, so using these numbers, the mortality rate could be reported as 3.79 percent.

However, if you are going to report that number, you are obligated to tell your audience that the number of cases is based on 10,885 positive test results for the period of approximately 41,000 total Georgians tested, as reported by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. That's out of a population of over 10 million. The real number of people in Georgia with the virus is unknown. In order to get a handle on the real number of cases in Georgia, you would need to test a large random sample. We aren't doing that. In most cases, people are tested only if they show severe symptoms. So, my calculated 3.79 percent is not an

See *Burton*, page 5A

## Letters to the Editor

### Our Restaurants and COVID-19

To the Editor,  
My wife and I decided recently to go out and support one of the area restaurants we frequent. We know it is difficult for them, and what little we could do is only in patronage. We called in our order with no problem. When we arrived, we were astonished that the person waiting at the outside table had no gloves or mask. When we asked her why not, she answered, "We decided not to wear masks." When an older lady came out - presumably one of the owners - we asked her why nobody was taking precautions as stated by the CDC and every other health and governmental agency. Her answer was that God is watching over us and we have decided not to wear them! Even though my wife and I are people of deep faith, this response startled us to no end; the ignorance of fundamental Christianity is not faith, just like those who tempt venomous vipers, saying, "The Lord shall protect me."

We are flabbergasted at the lack of concern for something so dangerous that could be taken care of in a short time through the faith of common sense bestowed upon us by our Lord. Maybe people think they look stupid wearing masks and gloves, but they'll look stupider with a ventilator hanging out of their mouth for sure.

Also, having somewhat of a marketing background, it would seem to me that restaurant owners would want to display that every precaution is being taken. That would give the confidence that the owners really do care.

At this particular location, their statement that their faith in God was why they decided not to take any visible precautions hopefully does not carry over into their food preparation areas. I do wish them well and hope that the Lord's Face shines upon them and is gracious and merciful to them. However, we will not be venturing out any further to any restaurants in this area until we know that the owners take proper precautions and not chalk this thing up to some kind of conspiracy.

Unfortunately, the restaurants in this area just lost \$60 a week from us. With things as they are and restaurants trying to stay afloat until some kind of "all clear" comes about, I am simply amazed at the shortsightedness of some owners in this area. And to think that this situation may be around for a while.

Do owners of businesses in this area have to see this thing up close and personal before the warnings are heeded? The stories from friends in New York that I grew up with are something between surreal and "The Walking Dead." We are blessed to still have a chance at some kind

See *Soltys*, page 5A

## Shirley's Memories II

The memories of her pre-teenage years are centered around her family. Her mother's sister, Lucille, was married to a big man by the name of Olan Simms. Some may think this man a coward. But, I really don't think he was. Maybe he was just in love? Late in the war, Olan was drafted and was sent to boot camp. He graduated and came home before his first assignment. He missed his young wife something terrible and was very homesick. The whole time he was home he was miserable because of the knowledge he would soon leave his wife to go overseas. He was almost beside himself with worry about leaving his wife and home. So, he and his brothers-in-law set upon a plan.

They went to the home of Dad Baker. The young men cut a hole in the floor of the house and dug out the floor underneath. Living quarters were built and furnished for the young man. He had water, a chair, bed and everything he needed to survive. Above the floor, a rug and rocking chair covered the trap door. The Army came looking for the young man, but he was never found. Olan spent the remainder of the war living under the floor of the old house in Churmtown. After the war, Uncle Olan became a successful contractor in the area around North Alabama.

Other memories were of her mother as well. Delphia, like many other women during and after the war, went to work. Her first job was in a textile mill in Haleyville. Her next job was much closer to home. Vertie Bass came from Russellville to work as principal at Enterprise School, and he hired Maw maw Adams as the cook for the cafeteria. Over the years, Vertie came to be almost like a part of the Baker family. He hunted and fished with Rufus, Mack and their father. But, he always said that his favorite Baker was Delphia because she made the best homemade rolls. He insisted that she make these rolls every day. Momma said old Vertie must have gained 20-30 pounds as the years went by because he ate Maw maw's rolls every day.

Mom remembers going to visit her relatives in Louisiana. Uncle Ambrose Adams and Uncle Charlie both lived in that state. Mom was excited to get to visit a place she'd never been before. She said it was a spooky place. Dark, gloomy swamps were everywhere. As the family pulled into the yard at her Uncle's place, the police pulled in right behind them. They were part of a search party that was looking for a missing person, and they found the fellow in a swamp right behind her kin folks' house. The man had been murdered by an outlaw. Mama never want-

See *Cummings*, page 5A

**Around The Farm**  
*Mickey Cummings*



## Still Here

This week I want to talk about the crisis that we are in. I am sure that everyone knows about Governor Kemp's order to shelter in place. In this time of crisis, many organizations have had to reorder the way that they operate. The same has been true for myself with UGA Extension. The main message that I want to be heard is that we am still here. Extension is continuing to operate in these strange times, but the way that we are operating is changing. I want to talk about some of those changes, and what I'm doing to continue to serve the people of Towns and Union counties.

For the duration of the shelter in place order UGA has ordered Extension employees to work from home. This means that your method of contacting me may need to change. I am still reachable by email. Email is going to be the best method of contacting me. My phone notifies me when I have a new email, so I check it regularly, throughout the day. My email is Jacob.Williams@uga.edu. You can also contact me through Facebook. If you send a Facebook message to the Union County Extension or Towns County Extension Facebook page, I'll see that and get in contact with you. You are also welcome to call the office number and leave a message. It will take me a little bit longer to get back in touch with you because we are only stopping by the office a couple of times a week to check messages and mail.

Extension provides testing services for soil, water, hay, radon, and a number of other things. We are continuing to provide those services, but we have had to change the way that we receive samples. Please bring samples by the Union County Extension Office in the Union County Civic Center. We have a table in front of the office door with supplies and a cardboard box to put your test into. You may leave payment for the test in the drop box in the door. We are working on installing a drop box outside the building so that you don't have to enter to drop off samples. We will come by a couple of times a week to mail off samples. If you have specific questions about testing, send me an email, and I'll help you figure out what you need.

I am still here to answer questions that are agriculture or natural resource based. You can send me emails with pictures. I am trying to cut back on the number of site visits that I do, and only leaving those for emergencies or if you are commercially involved in agriculture. If you have a question that is difficult to answer by email, send me an email, and then I'll give you

See *Williams*, page 5A

**Watching and Working**  
*Jacob Williams*



## North Georgia News

Published since 1909 • Legal Organ of Union County

**Kenneth West**  
Publisher/Owner

**Shawn Jarrard**  
Editor

Website: [www.nganews.com](http://www.nganews.com)

Email: [northgeorgianews@hotmail.com](mailto:northgeorgianews@hotmail.com)

Mailing: P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

**Derek Richards**  
Advertising Director

**Todd Forrest**  
Sports Editor

**Lowell Nicholson**  
Photographer

Publication No: 001505

Advertising, News deadlines Friday at 4 p.m. • Mail Service for all subscriptions except 30512, 30514 & 30572 - One Year \$40. In county, carrier delivered subscription is \$3. All subscriptions must be paid in advance. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is published weekly by NGN/TCH, Inc., 266 Cleveland Street, Blairsville, Georgia, 30512. Entered as Second Class Matter as of Dec. 10, 1988, at the Post Office in Blairsville. NORTH GEORGIA NEWS is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Phone: 706-745-6343 Fax: 706-745-1830 \* P.O. Box 2029, Blairsville, Georgia 30514