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Q. Do people 65 and older still have to "Shelter in Place?"

A. According to the latest order signed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, people age 65 and older are no longer required to shelter in place, however, he continues to encourage EVERYONE to mask up.

Q. My neighbor said that we can catch the virus from our dogs. Can this be true?

A. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there is no evidence of this. The risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be very low.

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and there was about a foot or two of snow on the ground. I gazed down at the scenery below and thought this was possibly the most beautiful place I had ever seen. But, by now I was pretty sick, and as we looked up at the peak in front of us, we knew the snow would prevent us from climbing higher. We did not have crampons or snowshoes, so we turned around. Will told me I was experiencing altitude sickness, and by the time we climbed down to 9000 feet, I was feeling fine. I was fortunate to stand in a place few others get to experience, and my life is richer for hiking in the Rocky Mountains.

Early one spring, some friends and I traveled to the Okefenokee Swamp and paddled our canoes for 50 miles through the "land of trembling earth." You may find it strange, but, I found some real treasures on this trip. The gators were in rut while we were there. A bull gator will call females by roaring with a call which can be compared to a loud and long grunt. While making this call, he holds his head out of the water, and the vibrations coming from the back of the gator causes the water on top of his back to vibrate. The scene looks as if raindrops are hitting the water. I was also able to see and hear my very first Sandhill Crane. One night the moon was full and shining on the dark, tannic acid filled water. The reflection was just as beautiful as the moon in the sky.

One year, Lauren and I were able to go to both Israel and Egypt. In Israel we visited the birthplace of Christ and his tomb. We saw where he was beaten and then where he was crucified. The Sea of Galilee was a very tranquil place, and the Dead Sea was wonderful. But, we went down toward Egypt and soon found ourselves in the Negev Desert at the place where Moses found the burning bush. Climbing up Mount Horeb, we found nothing but huge rocks and scrub brush. That night as I looked up at a star-filled sky, I thought there were more stars here than I had ever viewed. That night I closed my eyes and truly felt very small. What a beautiful place!

There are many beauti-

ful places of which I could tell you. But, the most beautiful place on earth lies within our reach. Once I was hunting alone back in behind Vogel on a lead off of Slaughter Mountain. The sky was illuminated by the rising sun in a most brilliant shade of pink. So, I sat down to watch in amazement at this wondrous sight, and to add to the scene unfolding before me, a pack of coyotes began howling over toward Yellow Mountain. Then another answered from Neel's Gap, and still another was heard around Frady Mountain.

Another trip found myself along with Harold Dyer and Fred Woodward walking off the rocky lead from Bald Mountain toward Bob Branch. Just before we started down, we were looking toward Cross Branch Mountain, and all you could see sticking out of the fog were the mountain tops. It looked as though you could walk on top of the fog. The three of us soon found ourselves in a laurel slick so thick it forced us on our hands and knees. We spent the next 30 minutes crawling around that mountain, and then we popped out into a little clearing in the middle of which was the largest Yellow Birch tree I had ever seen.

Not long ago, myself, Milton Bradley, his wife Kay, their daughter Mandy and granddaughters Ava and Lola went to Bald Mountain where we met Jennings Ivestor, along with his wife Dena and daughter Carrie. We hoped to get a glimpse of the comet everyone was talking about. A thunderstorm obscured the sky toward the northwest which prevented us from viewing the comet. However, a thunderstorm around Hayesville constantly lit up the nighttime with nature's fireworks. A few weeks later we again made the trip to the Bald to watch a meteor shower. This time we observed 10-15 meteors in a couple of hours. We were also able to see a good view of the Milky Way along with Mars, Saturn and Jupiter. It dawned on me that evening that we live in the most beautiful place on earth, and many of us fail to realize it! We simply do not take enough time from our busy schedules to get out and see what is around us.

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hosting a special time of remembrance. Join us as we gather briefly on the upper ball field at Meeks Park for 911 Remembrance with a few words from Commissioner Lamar Paris and Union County EMA Director David Dyer in tribute to those that lost their lives during the 911 attacks and to those first responders who came to aid. This special day that brought our country together as one should never be forgotten.

As we safely ease back into events, the Chamber is excited to finally feature another opportunity to hear from our county commissioner speaking during the "socially distanced" Eggs & Issues with Lamar Paris on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 8 a.m. "Eggs & Issues" is fully booked, but this ever-popular event will be available to everyone via Facebook Live. We invite those not able to attend in person to join us online

as Lamar addresses topics of community interest.

Our country experienced change over the last several months as we navigated this unusual time. While change can at times be uncomfortable, it can also bring about good. You may have noticed the chamber website, social media pages and newsletters have been under reconstruction, under the direction of our new Director of Marketing and Communications, Sarah Arnold Olver. Sarah brings to the table years of marketing experience and a talent for graphic design. She and the dedicated Chamber of Commerce staff want nothing more than to see our local economy thrive and welcome every opportunity to serve our merchants and community.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more exciting and safe opportunities ahead. Shop Safe. Shop Local.

Childs... continued from Page 4A

send to tourists and those who visit and come through our town.

There has to be a starting place so we, as a community, can all say we live in Blairsville, GA, and this is who we are as a community, and this is why. This can be our starting point for how we become that perception. And from there, we can decide on programs and budgets that foster that direction and how they need to be supported. Defining that picture requires community involvement. If we can't do it internally, then we need to outside help from qualified city planners to help us make a 25 year plus plan with five-year increments.

UC Historical Society Brick Walk

To show our appreciation for the overwhelming community support for the Union County Historical Society's Brick Walk, we are extending the current price of \$50 per brick. Please call the Historical Society at 706-745-5493 or come by the old courthouse to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Where are we going and how are we going to get there -- so that everyone knows.

Once we have a starting point, everyone's role can be defined from that point so that it all makes sense. Once we know who we want to be and why, we can determine what resources we need and then budget with a purpose. And, let's take a business perspective such as the Return on Investment. What are we gaining and how can that be translated into the value that defines our community? That value can be promoted. For example, we can certainly justify a police department, but what is their purpose besides maintaining law and order? How do you translate that value to your goals when you can offer a safe city, reduced crime, police involvement in community education and service, measurable rehabilitation programs, etc.? These are just a few examples of the kind of attractive features we can offer to growth-minded and or bedroom communities. When you look at the big picture, a purposeful reallocation of funds is a better definition of who we are and want to be.

Fowler...

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and ask for the Father's will to be done. How else will people know there is something different about you, "and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16)?

Jesus knew the realities of your life when he said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). His good news is your buttress when the testing winds blow. In those moments, your faith in Jesus will reveal a high virtue, the habit of courage.

Williams...

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will help to conserve moisture in the soil and keep your seed from being washed away. Ideally, you want to keep the top 2 inches of soil moist, but not wet for the first 3 weeks. After that just water once a week if there is no rainfall.

Start out cutting tall fescue at 2 inches as the grass matures you can raise the height to 2.5 to 3 inches. In areas of shade, it's better to let the grass grow a little taller to give it a better chance to compete with weeds.

If you have questions about a tall fescue lawn contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fire...

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This is just another reminder during the peak of hurricane season. We understand that these are uncertain and unusual times; however, we want to encourage everyone to consider hurricane preparedness because a prepared community is a benefit to everyone. For more information on hurricane preparedness visit www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~

Lively...

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percent), and Gilmer (1.77 percent).

So now the facts are presented, what can we do? Nothing. Lamar Paris is our sole commissioner, a county that has grown by 50 percent since he took office, and maybe it is time for a multiple county commission board. I would propose three for Union County. Walker County is doing this next year by creating four districts, each with a board member and one at large which will be the chairperson for a total of five; their per capita tax rate is 1.53 percent!

I didn't get to finish my facts before Commissioner Paris called the bailiff in and threatened to have me removed. So this is what you get with a sole commissioner — you can't even be heard fully by your peers. He did later apologize; however, he didn't allow me to finish my facts.

Doy Lively
33-year UC property owner

Hummel...

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Their heroic acts and bravery in action are soon forgotten. They are a "result" not a "cause." They are in great part man's decision to neglect their individual moral responsibility and replace it with a police force. Why are we not there to help them at least as much as they help us? So, when you see that patrol car at the side of the road in your neighborhood, why don't you wave as a sign of appreciation for their service? Get to know them, for they are there for you. Be there for them.

Christian Hummel

Bell Ringing Union County Old Courthouse



August 14, 2020

In memory of

Jack Stevens

By: UC Historical Society

August 26, 2020

In memory of

Dr. William T. Meeks, Sr.

on the occasion

of his birthday

By: Terry & Ginger Meeks

Bell ringing information

at 706-745-5493