

Opinions

Everybody has one...

Coronavirus

The current Coronavirus, COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV, is a hot topic in the news these days. It is something that the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and many other organizations have been keeping a close eye on for the last couple of months. Most people wonder what this virus is; if it's a concern; and how will it affect us.

The confirmed cases are predominantly in mainland China however, at least 27 other countries, including the United States have reported cases. According to the John Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) Coronavirus map, there were 75,751 confirmed cases of the virus as of February 20th. Of that number, 74,578 were in mainland China with 2,130 deaths, most of which are in China. The United States is reporting 15 confirmed cases; none of which are near our area.

So, what is this virus? According to the WHO, Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. COVID-19 is also transmitted from person to person.

People who have contracted COVID-19 have common signs of infection including respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread are similar to the flu precautions which everyone should be following this time of year. These include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, avoid close contact with anyone who is sick, stay home when you are sick and clean/disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Some people have asked about wearing a facemask. The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

The Department of Public Health has been sending out bul-

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Fire Dept. from Union County Fire Chief
David Dyer



Why Me?

Kris Kristofferson had reason to ask such a profound question. Belonged into it is the sense that he found a treasure that rightfully packets to someone else.

He came from a military family and became an Army officer himself, a helicopter pilot. In 1965 after achieving the rank of captain, he turned down an instructor position at West Point. He moved to Nashville and accepted a job as a janitor at Columbia Studios. His family promptly disowned him.

Kristofferson began to have some success as a songwriter, but his career took off when Johnny Cash noticed him. He was hard to overlook when he landed a helicopter in Cash's front yard! But as with many artists, success led to hard living and self-medication.

During those years, Kristofferson penned the song, "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down."

"Well I woke up Sunday morning with no way to hold my head that didn't hurt. I'd smoked my brain the night before with cigarettes and songs. On the Sunday morning sidewalk wishing lord that I was stoned, cause there's something in a Sunday that makes a body feel alone." It was a ballad of a hurting and lonely life.

But one Sunday morning was different. In 1971, while driving back from a concert with singer Connie Smith, he agreed to attend church services. Evangel Temple is where Smith, Johnny Cash, Larry Gatlin and other artists attended. Smith recalled, "He hadn't been in church for 20 years." Rev. Jimmy Snow offered the invitation to receive Christ Jesus as Savior. Kristofferson said, "I remember thinking, that'll be the day. Then I found myself walking down front to kneel down. I was weeping. It was an experience unlike anything I had gone through before."

That night, he had a new song. "Why me Lord, what did I ever do that was worth loving you or the kindness you've shown? Lord help me Jesus, I've wasted it so, help me Jesus! I know what I am, my soul's in your hand." He knew he did not deserve the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Does the Bible answer the question, "Why me?" Indirectly. It's more about God than you. "We were by nature children

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All Things New
Wayne Fowler



Commissioner's Questions

Q. Thanks for working on getting a dog park in the county. We are so excited! Do you have any further details on the Paw Park and exactly when it will be open?

A. We are hoping to have the Dog, Paw Park, open some time in April. If the weather will ever moderate some, that will certainly help out. There will be two adjacent fenced in areas, one for smaller dogs and one for the larger dogs. There will be a double gate for entrance into the park so that if your dog gets loose either as you are putting on or taking off the leash, it can not escape but remain by your side.

Q. Is there not a problem with dogs getting in a fight?

A. Rarely. One of the purposes of the park is to allow dogs to learn how to get along with other dogs. It does require an owner to use some sound common sense when introducing a new dog to the area. Usually notifying the other owners who are in the fenced in area is part of the process and as different owners and dogs come to the park, they will eventually become buds. It can be a nice socializing area for the dogs and the owners.

There is always the potential for dogs to get in a fight although if done correctly in a small park like this, it is very unlikely. It is totally the responsibility of the pet owner. So, in some cases, the owner may want to leave his dog on a leash until it becomes familiar with the other pets.

Q. Who determines a large dog and a small dog?

A. That is beyond my understanding and will be up to the volunteer groups who will come up with the rules of the park.

Q. What makes this Paw Park unique?

A. Its location is very convenient for most people so that you can park close to the park and take a short, level walk to access the fenced in area. So, if you have trouble walking any distance, this should really help.

Next is the setting of the park. It is located along the banks of beautiful Butternut Creek with large shade trees and level ground. In addition, besides the approximate 1 acre off leash area, there will be immediately adjacent to the fenced in area, a trail you can walk your pet "on leash" of about a quarter mile round trip, again along the banks of Butternut Creek.

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Q & A from Union County Commissioner
Lamar Paris



Drug Free Mountain Life

Self-Medicating with Alcohol and Other Drugs

The idea that substance abuse can be a form of self-medication was introduced in 1985.

Simply explained, self-medication occurs when people use substances as a response to mental illness. It states that alcohol and drug abuse is often a coping mechanism for people with a variety of mental health conditions, including depression.

It also suggests that people gravitate toward the substance that alleviates their symptoms most effectively. For example, if someone struggles with depression or social anxiety, they will likely find that drinking alcohol relieves the anxiety and offers an overall sense of well-being. This simple and seemingly harmless action provides freedom from the symptoms that had otherwise been unmanageable.

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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.

Letters to the Editor

Vote of No Confidence

Dear Editor,
Let's see here... from a prior non-native born president (which I was taught was unconstitutional) to a prior ex-president's spouse to a recent wanting to be president: all their words have done is incur hate toward whatever or whomever happens to be "minorities" at the time. I am not Catholic nor Muslim, native American Indian, Baptist nor a Christian. I am an American! I'm not African, Mexican, Russian (which is my actual gene pool), Martian nor a politician. I'm fourth generation native born American! This is the frame of mindset everyone needs to individually accept if we are ever going to advance as humans! All this bull excrement concerning minorities is flat-out preposterous! Goodness gracious, great balls of jumping Jupiter, people, we live in America, most of us were born in Amer-

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Revelation

Dear Editor,
As I write this, I'm standing on my First Amendment Right of Free Speech, and I am only speaking for myself. I am a Christian; I believe in God and his word, the Bible. I also believe that God gave us the ability to make our own choices. Along with choices, there are consequences. I also believe that we weren't meant to pick and choose which parts of God's word to follow.

Revelation 22:18-19, Verse 18: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy

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Conservative Solution to Climate Change

Dear Editor,
What would a conservative approach to climate change look like? It would have to be fair, help our economy, improve our health, and use a free market approach.

So, does such a plan as this exist? Yes, it does. HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Bill, is now in the House with Bipartisan sponsorship. This plan places a progressively increasing price on the production of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels and returns all the money in a monthly dividend to all American citizens. The companies that cause the damage from climate change would pay the costs in the carbon fee, and most Americans would benefit economically. It would add millions of new American jobs, grow the economy, decrease greenhouse gases by 90% by 2050, save countless thousands of American lives each year, and not cost our government one penny.

Vernon Dixon, MD

Small Farm Conference

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council's mission is to assist local citizens to enhance local economies, make their lives better, promote economic activity, and conserve natural resources.

The following is an announcement about a conference that will help small farmers improve their operations and make their farms run more efficiently.

The Georgia Small Farm Conference will be held on February 26th & 27th at the Murphy Conference Center @ West Georgia Technical College in Carrollton, Georgia.

The conference is open to any farmer or citizen who is interested in farming or conserving our natural resources with emphasis on small farmers, but any size farmer or anyone who wants to learn about farming is welcome.

There will be several public and private organizations represented at the conference with information on programs and help available from their organizations.

Chestatee/Chattahoochee Resource & Development Council (CCRD) along with Carroll County UGA Cooperative Extension Service and Carroll County Young Farmers group is sponsoring this small farm conference with funding from USDA NCS.

The event will provide opportunities for farmers both rural and urban to meet and hear representatives from local, private, state, and federal agencies that can provide help and assistance for their farming operation.

For other individuals interested in attending, the registration and hotel cost are covered by scholarship for the first 120 folks who register.

Conference Lodging for the first 120 is available at the Holiday Inn in Carrollton. Vendors who provide services and products for small (or large) farmers are encouraged to come and display their programs and wares. There is no charge for the vendor spaces.

The two-day meeting will include general educational sessions covering agricultural topics, as well as breakout sessions covering topics unique to small farming operations. The speakers will present programs and offer information on many interesting subjects pertaining to small farm operations.

Topics will include soil, honeybees and pollinators, small ruminants, vegetable pests, farm marketing, crop scheduling, nuisance animals, irrigation, and how to get aid from

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RC&D Executive Director
Frank Riley



Around The Farm
Mickey Cummings



Uncle Mack

My mother's two uncles, Mack and Rufus Baker, were two men that everyone loved and respected. I looked up to each one because they were tough and yet kind. They paid extra attention to young boys. Each man spent a great amount of time in the woods. Each of them enjoyed hunting. As young men, they especially enjoyed coon hunting the hills and hollows of Newberg Mountain. Before my Dad ever dated my mother, he was coon hunting with Mack and Rufus. In an article a week or two ago, I introduced you to my Dad's two Black and Tan Coon Hounds, Lou and Sam.

When the two dogs were about 6 months old, my father asked Mack and Rufus if he could go hunting with them. The two men pulled up in the yard and waited with my grandparents as my Daddy fetched his dogs. The trio of men and the young boy walked across the cotton and corn fields to the "James Place." The dogs struck a coon and began the trailing just after dark.

The raccoon led the dogs up and down Turkey Creek and under bluffs for about an hour. Finally, the old coon went up a Black Gum Tree standing on the banks of Turkey Creek. Uncle Rufus tied the old dogs and told my Dad to let Sam and Lou continue tree barking. Uncle Mack waded out into the middle of Turkey Creek and began to try and squall the coon out of the tree. Basically, Uncle Mack would make a sound that resembled a fighting coon. This squalling sound will entice a raccoon to walk down a tree and jump into the middle of a pack of dogs. This was no exception; the sound worked, and the old coon began to make its way down the tree. The coon got to within 10 feet of the ground where the dogs and Uncle Mack could see the coon. Uncle Mack made one more of the squalling sounds, and the old coon jumped from the tree into the creek.

But, before the coon hit the water, Uncle Mack's false teeth flew from his mouth and hit the water. The sound of the splashing convinced the dogs that the coon was in the water. So, Sam dove into the water right where the false teeth had landed. Almost immediately, the coon landed on the dog's back. So, there was Uncle Mack bending over looking for his teeth, and the dog was swimming in circles all while howling because the coon was biting his ear. Just when you thought matters couldn't get worse, Lou, the other dog, joined the fight. Uncle Mack was hollering, "Get the dogs!" Sam was howling because the coon was still biting his ear. Lou finally had a good hold on the coon, and she was trying to

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Wells and Flooding

A lot of people around here use well water. Drinking water from a fresh mountain well can be very refreshing. While it may seem like well water is a pure source it's important to know that there are some ways that it can be contaminated. One of those is by flooding. We have had a lot of rainfall already this year. Let's talk about how a flood could impact your well.

After a flood event the first thing to do is inspect your well. Check the well head to see if large debris has struck it that could loosen or displace well materials. It's also possible that sediment has been deposited in the well if the well is not properly sealed. Shallow wells (less than 50 feet) and wells more than 10 years old are more susceptible to contamination from surface water that contains bacteria and other contaminants.

The second item to inspect on your well is the electrical system. Make sure that the electrical system is OFF, either at the breaker or that it is unplugged. Check for moisture in the pump's electrical box and have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician if the electrical system was flooded.

The third and final thing to check is the well pump. Sediment and flood water can damage the valves and gears of the pump. Contact a licensed water well contractor or certified pump installer for assistance in cleaning and repairing the pump. If the pump is not properly cleaned and lubricated it can burn out.

Surface water from floods can carry bacteria that contaminate your well. Before using the water after a flood event remove the flood water from the well. To do this, determine the depth of the water in your well. Measure the distance from ground level to water level. Subtract this number from the well depth to have the depth of water. Multiply the depth of water by the storage capacity per foot or your well. If you don't know this value contact the company that installed your well or your local Extension Office. Now you have the volume of water in your well. Run an outside faucet to discard two to three times the volume of water in your well. If your pump can't maintain the flow long enough to discharge all the water, let the well recharge and begin pumping again until you have discharged the recommended amount of water.

After you have discharged the well, follow the protocol outlined in the UGA Extension Circular 858-4 for shock chlorination. Shock chlorination will only be effective if the source of contamination has been removed. Flush the well again in the same manner described earlier using

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Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



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