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Q. Does this change of Primary Election Day impact our voting office personnel?

A. It certainly does. In addition to what would be early voting, the State of Georgia sent out absentee ballot ordering forms to every current Georgia Active voter. This has never been done before.

The local Registrar's office has to sort those 4000+ forms that have been sent back in, enter the data on the computer, and forward the information to the State Election office.

The State will then mail out all the paper (absentee) ballots to voters all over the state. Anyone can order these ballots by simply filling out the forms mailed to you a couple of weeks ago.

These forms should be returned to the Voter Registrar's Election Office by mail or email.

Q. What if we did not receive one of these absentee ballot request forms?

A. Often, it is because you have a P.O. Box. The State sent the forms to home physical addresses only. If you do not have a mailbox at your home physical address, the form was more than likely returned to the Registrar's Office.

They are now having to go through close to a thousand

of these address changes to make corrections.

Q. When can we expect to receive the primary election ballots?

A. The State has announced that Absentee Ballots will begin to mail out sometime around April 21 for the requests they have already received.

If you do not get your Absentee Ballot from the State Elections office by May 1, you should probably call the Registrar's Office at 706-439-6016 to see if they received your form in the mail or by email.

Q. Will these extra duties wear out our elections people?

A. Yes, it will. If this is all not enough for the Election Registrars, early voting will begin on May 18 and will run through June 5.

This activity will be happening at the courthouse downstairs. That event will be followed by election day, where all the polls throughout the county will have to be cleaned, sterilized, and made ready for regular election day. All of this will then be repeated again for the November election.

It is up to the Board of Elections (a separate group) to make sure that all election day and all counting activities go off without a hitch.

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your hard earned tax money as it circles back into the community thru the RC&D from the Gold Dome, even though a lot of it was filtered out before it came back but we'll take what we can get.

The Counties are putting these tunnel houses at Senior Centers, local colleges, elementary, middle, and High schools and with other groups that will use the houses to teach people how to provide for themselves. Forsyth County North 400 Rotary Club has purchased and donated nine high tunnels and placed them at middle and elementary schools in the Forsyth county area and they have become very popular with teachers and students alike. These tunnels are easily installed in a couple of day and are delivered as a complete kit to the site along with our experienced crew to install the structure.

These projects provide students who don't have a garden spot at home, a controlled learning environment where they can have a garden and grow fresh food and give it to the school lunchroom who will prepare and feed it to them.

With each Seasonal High Tunnel House, Chest/Chatt RC&D also provides training to demonstrate how to operate the structure. The training is by experts on tunnel houses so the citizens who use the structure can maximize their yields with minimal cost and produce vegetables with the most nutrition for their families. The goal of this project is to show people where food comes from, how it is grown, and to encourage citizens to get back to the basics

and grow some of their food for a healthier lifestyle.

These Tunnel houses have been approved by the USDA NRCS for the EQUIP program in Georgia and Alabama, so the design and quality meets the standards set by the USDA NRCS. The Seasonal High Tunnels also require an irrigation system, since it is covered from rain and most growers use drip tape to effectively keep the plants moist and watered. I have two of the 30-by-75 plastic-covered metal houses on our farm "down on the river," where we grow vegetables and cut flowers in the controlled environment. We collect rain water from gutters on our house and barn and pipe it into two 1,000 gallon underground storage tanks, where it is then pumped up to four 300 gallon above-ground holding tanks and then fed by gravity into the drip tape in the houses. This natural watering process works very well, and the operating costs are practically zero.

There are two of our high tunnels in Union County, one at the Union Agricultural center and one at Woody Gap School, and one at the Towns County Senior Center in Hiwassee. Chest/Chatt RC&D has built and donated 42 of these structures in North Georgia over the past four or five years, and we have only just begun!

For more information on Seasonal High Tunnels or the Chest/Chatt project, contact Frank Riley, Executive Director, and Chestatee/Chat-tahoochee RC&D council at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

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pile with a shovel at least once a month this will reduce the smell. A good functioning compost pile will heat up from the activity of the microbes decomposing organic matter. The heat produced will kill off the odor causing bacteria. If you add manure to your pile there

will be some initial odor, but as the pile matures the smell will go away. A well maintained compost pile should not have a strong odor.

Once the compost has a crumbly earth look and you can no longer recognize the plant material it's ready to be added to the garden. If you add the organic material over time the compost will become ready a little at a time.

If you have questions about creating or maintaining your compost pile contact your county Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

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is fulfilled in Jesus. He said, "This is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

This coronavirus season has folks thinking about lessons learned in politics, medicine, supply chain, and the economy. But wouldn't it be amazing if it causes you to think about finding what you really desire? If it does, it wouldn't be a mere virus.

Cummings... continued from Page 2C

the moon. I had an Uncle to ask me if I was "petered out" because I looked tired after a long day in the tomato patch.

Uncle Freeman used to spit a "smidgen" or small amount of tobacco juice on his bait to help catch fish. Papa and Granny used to put "coal oil" or kerosene in their lamps to lighten up a room before electricity came into use. Granny used to tell us that the folks over in the community of Dime were "narrer-minded." I was once told that I liked to "pester" other people.

When asked how he felt, my great-great-grandfather John Cummings would reply, "Tolerable, son. Just tolerable." However, when he felt really well he would say, "Tolerably well, son." When I was in trouble for something, my mother would tell me, "You'd better own up to it," which meant I'd better confess to my wrong doing. My Maw maw Adams used to tell me to, "Pay no mind to him," referring to a bully in the family when he was trying to boss us other younger cousins.

Papa used to talk about a girl he knew while growing up. This girl liked to show off and flirt with the boys. The girl would "sashay" down the halls like she was the Queen of England. If he thought of something good to try, he would tell

you about his "idy." He once told me about a girl that was "as pretty as a speckled pup." He also talked about "sweet talking" a pretty girl when trying to steal a kiss during their "sparkin" or "courtin" days.

Former U.S. Senator and Georgia Govenor, Zell Miller, wrote a book called "Purt Nigh Gone." In this book, he used some terms that we no longer use in our day. According to him, many of the words we discussed earlier are holdovers from the time of Chaucer. The book tells us that when the Irish and English settled in these mountains, they were isolated, and because of the mountains, they remained isolated for more than two centuries.

Therefore, their speech remained the same for many years. Many people have made fun of the way in which mountain people talk. I think we should be proud of the way we talk.

Therefore, the next time one of my Northern friends makes fun of the way I talk, I will just tell them that Chaucer talked the way I do. If you are interested in the history of the mountain dialect, I would recommend you to the reading of "The Mountains Within Me" and "Purt Nigh Gone," both of which were authored by Zell Miller.

Hummel...

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Anyone with the slightest knowledge of government can see that a divided government is the last thing we need right now. A Republican House, Senate and president have the best opportunity to get us through this period, because unification of ideas and rapid implementation are critical to successfully handling the current situation, which will take time to resolve. If there has ever been a time for unification, it is now.

I hope that all parties concerned, especially special interest groups, understand that this is not the time for bickering over matters that are trivial compared to our current responsibility to each other in our battle with COVID-19.

Christian Hummel

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tion, the secretary of Health and Human Services, Joe Biden and numerous epidemic doctors and scientists.

Trump tells us we are doing very well. Not true. As of April 15, the United States had far more coronavirus cases than any other country in the world with 609,685 total cases. Spain was in second with 177,633 cases, and Italy was third with 162,488 cases. To that point, there had been 26,059 deaths in the United States.

Trump is giving out active misinformation on TV. We desperately need reality, even if it is horrible. We need great leadership and aggressive action to help combat this unbelievable disease. Governors like Cuomo, Newsom, DeWine and many others are showing us how competent leaders can make wise decisions during a national crisis.

Lucy Williams

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as we receive the 'all clear,' but we must encourage everyone to be patient, so we do not have to start over. Every time we have a spike, we have to start that 14-day clock over. We will continue to work with our local businesses to help answer questions and provide resources regarding unemployment, the PPP loans, and what other loans and grants may be available through the SBA until the Governor sounds the all clear.

We have attempted to contact all of our members and if you did not receive a call please contact Mandie at Mandie@blairsvillechamber.com. We are continually updating our list of businesses and their current status and hours of operations on our website so if you are looking for a great take-out dinner or a few supplies be sure to go to our website at visitblairsvillega.com and support our local businesses. We also sent an email containing this information to everyone on our contact list so if you did not receive your email please contact Mandie or Kyle

to be added and don't miss out on your weekly newsletter and other updated information. We understand that everyone is expected to practice the CDC guidelines and to practice social distancing and it looks like everyone may need to get used to wearing a mask if we want to reopen sooner rather than later.

The point of this rambling column is to encourage everyone to abide by the guidelines for just a while longer so we can begin getting back to normal soon.

As of writing this column, there are eight cases each in both Union and Towns County and several, not all, were caused by someone not doing what they were told or were exposed to someone who did not. We hear all of our business owners and we agree we need to reopen, so please practice the guidelines and encourage others to do the same, so that in my next column, I can be explaining the Commissioner's and Governor's steps to reopen the County and State.

God Bless and be Safe!