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A. Yes, I am concerned about the increases in the number of active cases. The State political leaders had to consider a possible business and economic collapse and then compare that damage to the actual damage from COVID-19. This will be an argument for years to come. Currently, we are having an increase in positive COVID-19 tests in our county, and I am still nervous as to the impact over the next few weeks. We all should continue to take this issue very seriously and remain cautious as we continue to practice social distancing.

Q. I have been told we are supposed to still Shelter in Place. Is that true?

A. The order for the medically fragile and elderly was extended until June 12th in an Executive Order issued by the

Governor yesterday. The Shelter in Place Order for all others expired on April 30th. It is still recommended that people not gather in large numbers and that we all continue to practice social distancing.

Q. Do restaurants and businesses that are opening up still have guidelines to follow?

A. Safety guidelines have been set forth by the Governor's Office for restaurants and other businesses that have chosen to open. Obviously if you feel unsafe or unsure, you need to continue to stay home as much as possible and practice social distancing, and good sanitary guidelines. If everyone will individually work towards protecting themselves and others, it will go a long way in combating this virus.

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down and sashayed into the joint. There was the Watkins Man shooting pool and drinking a Nehi Belly-wash.

He grinned as she walked toward him and told him she wanted the \$1.80 he had borrowed. He laughed and said, "Why don't you go back to that Hillbilly family of yours?" Without saying a word, she walked from the Pool Room and retrieved her shotgun. Laura walked back into the Pool Room and everyone scattered except the Watkins Man. He had his back to her and turned just in time to feel the barrel of the shotgun poke into his neck. She said, "It ain't right for a man to try and cheat a woman, and I am not going to tolerate being cheated. Do you understand?" The Watkins Man handed her the \$1.80. She promptly left and went back to Trapptown. But, afterwards, every man in and around Trapptown and Phil Campbell knew not to cheat Laura Cummings.

Twenty years later my Granny also had to deal with another Watkins Man. Paul and Uncle Bud were only about 10 when a wagon pulled up in front of their home on Cummings Road. The boys ran to the front porch and watched as a great, round man got out of a car and walked toward their house. When he reached the steps, he slipped and fell, injuring his left knee. Quickly, the boys and their mother rushed to his side to help him onto the porch. He sat there while he was tended to by the young family. Papa came up from the fields on his mule at lunchtime. Granny was in the house preparing a good meal, so, the boys quickly explained that

the man had fallen and hurt his knee. Both Papa and Granny were tender-hearted, so, they invited the man to stay for lunch. This invitation quickly turned into a stay of five days. This was wearing on the family. The guest was given the boys' bedroom while they slept on the floor. Granny was waiting on him hand and foot. Papa was putting in 10-12 hours per day in the field planting his cotton. Finally, Papa invited the man to leave, which he did for a few months.

But, I guess he missed Granny's cooking. Because he showed up again in August during lay-by season. Papa was getting ready to go to meeting at Union Hill Church. The second week of August was always and still is revival at Union Hill Congregational Methodist Church. Once again, Paul and Bud were on the front porch. The man appeared to roll an ankle as he tried to step across the ditch between the yard and road. To make a long story short, Papa missed Revival services that day and his parents, Lon and Laura, came calling to see if there was a problem. They knew the story about the previous incident at their son's farm, and they also had their own experience with another salesman 20 years prior. But, even at 65 years old, Lon Cummings was an imposing man. He looked down at the man and said, "If you think you're gonna get a free meal and lodging out of this, you're mistaken. My grandkids ain't gonna sleep on the floor, and my daughter-in-law ain't gonna cook for ye. Now, get up and skeddaddle." The Watkins Man never came back to Cummings Road again.

Drug Free... continued from Page 4A

often causes people to avoid admitting they have a problem. Stigma can prevent people from seeking treatment for their destructive habits. This stigma is the reason that some parents avoid or deny their child has a drug problem and it even remains after a person loses their life due to overdose or other drug related causes.

Now consider what happens if we change how we look at others. What if you could see a person as someone's mother, or someone's child? What happens if you allowed yourself to look at another person and see their pain and their struggle rather than their shortcomings?

What if we held these people accountable for their actions but rather than passing judgement, we offered empathy? What if we adopted the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to recover their lives and what if as a community, we came together to help them receive the treatment necessary to do just that? Approaching addiction in this manner would cost the community less financially and emotionally.

Support and acceptance increase the likelihood of positive treatment outcomes and everyone benefits when those in active addiction find recovery, but no one recovers alone.

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your vicinity. I say some protection, as all masks are different, and disposable ones offer less protection if reused.

An infected person may have no idea that they have the virus, as symptoms may take up to 14 days to emerge, and some people never have symptoms. Without a mask, these infected individuals spread the virus through droplets coming from their mouth when talking, sneezing and coughing. A sneeze or cough can send the droplets several feet away. And they can remain in the air for a while before settling on surfaces. By wearing a mask, you have some protection.

Secondly, and maybe even more important, an infected person who wears a mask is far less dangerous, as their mask does not allow the droplets to disburse. Their mask holds them back. It has been shown that many people who think they are healthy actually are infected and are spreading the virus. By wearing a mask, an infected individual is minimizing the chance of infecting others. As of this writing, Union County had been adding to the official number of infected individuals daily. We don't seem to be flattening the curve.

There doesn't seem to be much debate among medical and scientific personnel about the most effective way to contain the virus: stay at home unless it is necessary to leave; everyone needs to wear a mask out of their home, for reasons stated above; maintain at least 6 feet spacing from others; and

wash, wash, wash your hands. If you are out and about touching things, and you return home, take off your mask and then rub your nose or eyes, you might as well have left your mask at home.

Masks also remind you not to touch your face where you can transmit the virus. The virus can be transmitted from touching a contaminated surface but is much more likely to be inhaled. Eyes are a source of entrance also. I realize there is a growing faction of our population who resent these impositions and want the freedom to return to normal. We would all like to return to normal, but that is not going to happen until this virus is contained. And the only way that can happen is to respect and act on the guidance from our scientific community.

Betty MacCloud

Combs...

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take to believe if Jesus Christ was who He said He was? The answer lies in God's Word, the Bible, for no other book has ever been inspired by the Holy Spirit except the Bible. We have to take a stand in whether we believe God's Word or believe in something else that is not true. What does the Bible say about Faith? Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Search your heart, folks. Study God's word, then make an eternal decision of what you should do with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Frank F. Combs

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

cannot afford to operate at reduced capacity. Please do what you can to continue to support these businesses where possible as they proceed with caution as we move forward together as a community.

Now, more than ever, it is so important that we find ways to support the many small businesses that make Blairsville and Union County a special place to live. We have a working list of our Chamber member businesses housed on our website that indicate these businesses' status of operations and link to their website or Facebook page. Many of these

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eat. Keeping the space around your house clear will decrease the likelihood of a snake being present.

Most of the time, people are bitten when they try to kill a snake. Non-venomous snakes are protected by state law. If you are bitten: 1) Stay calm; 2) Get competent medical help as quickly as possible; 3) Keep the affected limb level with the body; 4) Do not cut, suck or apply ice or a tourniquet to the wound. Wear closed-toe shoes when walking in areas where snakes might be present.

Be wary of poisons or repellents for snakes. Many of them don't work as advertised. Snakes can't hear or smell, so any kind of repellent that uses sound or smell isn't going to work.

If you have any questions about snakes, please contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fowler...

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already knows. Such a prayer life would require more listening than speaking.

Carmichael wrote a confession which includes these lines. "My Joy: To do Thy will, O God. My Prayer: Conform my will to Thine. My Motto: Love to live – live to love." Her life was a living confession, as she served in India continuously for 55 years without ever returning to her home in Ireland. When she died, to honor her memory her children placed on her grave a birdbath. On it they inscribed simply, "Amma."

Fire...

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Collection Site.

This is just a brief overview of testing. For more information about COVID-19 testing visit www.dph.georgia.gov or call the State of Georgia COVID-19 hotline at (844) 442-2681.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Crawford...

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Democrats called him a "racist and a demigod" for his early decision. His decision has been hailed by many for saving thousands of lives.

I beg everyone to look up President Bush's speech regarding preparedness for a pandemic. The next eight years, then-President Obama ignored the warning and did nothing.

Chris Crawford

Mitchell...

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\$285 million on "injury prevention."

Adjunct to the CDC are the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health: Agencies which frequently duplicate function and spend similar enormous amounts of money.

Since the 2009 Swine flu epidemic, America's stockpile of ventilators and masks was depleted and was never renewed or refurbished.

Inquiring minds want to know: Why not, given all the money that the CDC, the FDA and the NIH spent, were those frontline supplies not reset and reconfigured?

For a moment, let's stop and think: Is there anything that you can think of in our daily lives that would not fall under the general rubric of our "health," our "safety" or our "welfare?"

Given the time and money, is there anything that Government won't do to keep you "healthy" and "safe"; anything that Government won't do to secure and guarantee your "welfare?"

"The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground."

— Thomas Jefferson

George A. Mitchell

other businesses and take this time to carefully schedule your reopening and consider what safety precautions you plan on implementing.

Go to the Chamber website or the Commissioner's website to learn more about the recommended guidelines and safety precautions for our community members, business

owners, consumers, and health care workers.

As always, our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who have been affected by this. We are a strong community and we have no doubt we will come out of this with a renewed appreciation for the town we live in and the people who make it special.

We would also like to take this time to offer congratulations and appreciation for the graduating seniors of 2020. This has been a uniquely challenging time for these seniors, who typically would soon be celebrating their academic accomplishments with their family and friends. We want to make sure they know that we, as a town, are immensely proud of their academic achievements throughout this prolonged ordeal where they have been placed in new and challenging learning environments and have risen to the occasion. If you go into town and drive around the town square, you will see many signs celebrating each graduating senior. We encourage you to take pictures and share their success with your friends and family members. They are #2020strong and we all stand #UnionUnited!

The Governor's announcement allowing many previously closed businesses to reopen comes as a relief to many, but it should also be stressed that it is not an invitation to disregard the severity of this ordeal and that business owners need only reopen should they feel it is safe for them to do so. Follow the example of