

COVID Trends...from Page 1A

concentrate on staying safe as the virus continues its community spread.

“People should be concerned and take precautions to avoid COVID infection,” he said. “This includes wearing a face covering when around other people, social distancing, washing your hands often, cleaning high-touch surfaces, and staying home if you are sick.”

Because the virus is a new kind of coronavirus, it is difficult for scientists to determine if the virus acts on a seasonal basis or lives primarily year-round, which is why it’s too early to say whether the virus will die down before reappearing in a second wave; continue unabated; or do something else, Palmer said.

Risk for severe illness increases with age, with the greatest risk being among those aged 85 or older, according to

the CDC, which also reports that 8 in 10 COVID-19-related deaths occur in people over 65 years of age. Also at risk are people with chronic health conditions.

“COVID-19 is a virus that can cause serious illness in some people,” Palmer said. “In the majority of people, it only causes mild illness. This is why it is important to follow all of the precautions that experts recommend.”

Added Palmer, “Those who are healthy must help protect those who have compromised immune systems, so following precautions is a must.”

Because so much is still unknown about COVID-19, many people seem to be holding onto an incorrect notion that catching the virus is the equivalent of a death sentence or will definitely cause lifelong side effects.

But as Palmer points out, while the virus is deadly for some, most people generally do not suffer major complications after catching the disease.

“It seems that people who are in good health, except in rare cases, have mild symptoms,” Palmer said. “It is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle – eating healthy, exercising and getting the appropriate amount of rest can help you recover if you get COVID-19.”

For people wondering how this virus compares to another virus that kills tens of thousands of people in the US every year, namely influenza, Palmer says people should not get them confused, as there are important distinctions between the two.

“Influenza viruses and coronaviruses are different in their composition, so they are different viruses,” Palmer said. “They do have similarities such

as causing respiratory illness, ease of spread, and have many of the same symptoms: fever, chills, muscle aches/headaches and breathing difficulty.

“However, COVID-19 has been found to cause additional symptoms such as blood clots, COVID toes and loss of taste and smell.”

Added Palmer, “As with any new disease, there is still much to learn. People should read and learn about the disease from trusted sources like CDC, Department of Health and Human Services and World Health Organization.”

People with COVID symptoms or possible exposures should contact their doctor or local Health Department about getting tested.

Area residents can get tested for free on Fridays at the Towns County Health Department, which has partnered with the Union County Health Department to conduct contact tracing.

To stay updated on COVID-19 in Georgia, visit [DPH.Georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report](https://www.dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report).

Staying Safe...from Page 1A

time.

“Right now, the most important thing to politicians, not just Trump, is getting re-elected. After that, we might start seeing some results. I don’t think it is bad leadership, but it is how this government works. Election years are usually crazy and have a lot of conflicts, but this is beyond normal.

“We thought 2016 was bad, and this year is blowing it out of the water. I think that the government does have COVID in mind and there are some working on it, but it does not have all the attention or even

half for that matter.”

And despite recent debates on masks and other precautions, Dianne Brassell of Murphy, North Carolina, said she was thankful to live in an area where she feels the virus is being taken seriously and where a large group of people are remaining active in keeping the communities safe.

“I am proud of this area overall,” Brassell said at Save-A-Lot last Wednesday. “I’m not from here, but I do shop here regularly, and I think this area has been great about masks and being safe.

“The masks debate will never be over because there will always be people that go against it and don’t want to wear one. I see a majority of people wearing them, especially older folks that may be more concerned about catching the virus.

“I just wish that the younger folks would do the same. You’d be surprised how much the masks will help someone. It is selfish to not wear one and consider the health of others.”

Runoff...from Page 1A

Representative in the 117th Congress for Georgia’s 9th Congressional District.

All told, 28.26 percent of registered Union County voters participated in the Aug. 11 runoff elections, the results of which were supposed to be made official Friday.

Early in-person voting for the November election will take place at the Union County Courthouse during the three weeks prior to Election Day, which is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Registered voters who will be at least 18 years of age by Election Day are eligible to vote during early voting, with Oct. 5 being the registration

deadline for voters looking to participate in the Nov. 3 election.

On Election Day, voters should report to one of the 11 pre-assigned Union County voting precincts: Ivy Log, Dooly, Gum Log, Blairsville, Pat Colwell, Trackrock, Coosa, Jones Creek, Owl Town, Choestoe and Suches.

According to the Secretary of State’s Office, Aug. 14 was the last day “for an Independent or a Political Body Candidate to file their Nomination Petition to have his/her name placed on the General Election Ballot.”

Additionally, Sept. 8 is the deadline “to file the notice

of intention to be a write-in candidate and have notice published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-133.”

Since this was a primary runoff, voters had to choose a political party to vote, but there will be just one ballot for the upcoming General Election in November.

All local elections are carefully carried out in cooperation between the Union County Registrar’s Office and the Union County Board of Elections, along with myriad poll workers, all of whom work together to make local elections possible.

Unofficial Union County Nonpartisan General Election Runoff

Primary Election Ballot • August 11, 2020 • Votes By Precinct*

Candidate	Blairsville	Coosa	Choestoe	Jones Creek	Owittown	Ivy Log	Suches	Trackrock	Dooly	Gumlog	Pat Colwell	Advance and Absentee Voting included in Precinct Totals	TOTALS	Percentage
REP - US House Dist 9														
Andrew Clyde	60	98	67	84	76	83	61	32	77	58	98	472	585	1851 40.10%
Matt Gurtler	88	113	111	139	88	139	51	68	107	100	125	748	888	2765 59.90%
DEM - US House Dist 9														
Devin Pandey	5	7	7	4	4	3	0	3	3	4	6	47	383	476 68.79%
Brooke Siskin	4	2	3	4	4	3	1	2	3	1	2	38	149	216 31.21%

Grand Opening of the new Union County Republican Party Campaign Headquarters in Blairsville, GA



President Dena Gooch with Senator Steve Gooch, Representative Matt Gurtler plus onlookers.

Great Georgia Pollinator Census Count 2020

GREAT GEORGIA

Pollinator Census

It is time for the second annual statewide pollinator count. This is an important initiative sponsored by the University of Georgia and is open to everyone to participate.

One of the local ‘count sites’ is Hamilton Gardens just outside of Hiawassee.

On August 21, 2020 at 2 p.m. Becky Griffin, UGA State Pollinator Coordinator,

will provide a brief overview of the project, teach us what to count, how to conduct your count, and how to record your results. The count only takes fifteen minutes of staring at a single bloom! And there are many flowers to choose from in the gardens. Bring your stool or pillow, a sun hat, come and bee counted as a protector of pollinators. Bring your kids and grandkids, it is a fun time for all.

Hamilton Gardens is open air with lots of space for distancing and you are encouraged to wear a mask.

See you at the Gardens. If you need more information, call 706 970-0011.

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