

Edward Jones: Support for community is a top priority

In today's challenging times, Edward Jones financial advisors are thinking about the health of their clients, their families and their colleagues, what's happening in their communities and the effect of Covid-19 on the markets.

Local Financial Advisors John Pirie, Oleg Malyshev and Jim Brown are taking steps to protect the health and well-being of clients, associates, families and communities. To help mitigate this crisis, they are suspending face-to-face visits with clients, holding virtual meetings and training sessions and ensuring office spaces are sanitized and disinfected.

Of course, people's financial situations also weigh on their minds. The current market sell off is certainly concerning, but it seems to be driven more by fear and panic than by economic or financial reality.

Monetary and fiscal policy are necessary, but at the end of the day, it will be the medical progress that will dictate the timeline for reducing market volatility and the ultimate rebound in stocks.

Edward Jones expects daily volatility to persist until new virus cases begin to slow, but investors should find optimism in these facts: prior to the epidemic, unemployment was near a 50-year low, with solid wage growth; there was an uptick in the housing market, which may accelerate due to declining mortgage rates; and the Federal Reserve has cut short-term interest rates

back to near 0 percent.

Furthermore, the drop in investment prices may indicate that the financial markets have already "priced in" the likelihood of a short term recession. This could mean that investors have already endured much of the stock market pain. Yet, even a short recession is of concern since it's likely to bring at least a temporary disruption to an otherwise strong labor market.

For investors wondering what to do now, John, Jim and Oleg offer these suggestions:

First, remember why you're investing. With the market decline, people will be tempted to change their investment strategies. But they need to keep in mind that most of their financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement are long-term in nature - a lot longer-term than the shelf life of the coronavirus.

If investors have established a long-term strategy that's appropriate for their needs, they should stick with it regardless of today's headlines.

However, individuals who are particularly concerned over the current results of their investment statements might want to evaluate their risk tolerance. For those who may be losing sleep over what is going on in the markets, it is possible the portfolio is positioned too aggressively for the amount of risk that feels comfortable. In that case, investors are advised to work with their financial advisor to consider adjusting the investment mix to include more fixed-income securities, which can provide some downside protection; but there is a trade-off because this might be affecting long-term growth potential.

Finally, now might actually be a good time for investors to consider actually adding to their portfolios. Right now, many stocks are at their best values in more than a decade. For those needing to rebalance a portfolio, this could

be a good time to do so.

Ultimately, investors need to realize that, while these are somewhat uncharted times, the temptation to panic should be fought. Emotions are running high right now, and while everyone's top priority should be to protect themselves, their families and their communities, it is still important not to lose sight of their financial well-being. For that, the best thing to do is look past short-term downturns and maintain the discipline to keep investing in all types of markets.

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500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial services in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the investments its financial advisors offer to the location of its branch offices, caters to individual investors. The firm's 18,000-plus financial advisors serve more than 7 million clients and care for \$1.3 trillion in assets under management.

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Clay County, NC, resident tests positive for COVID-19; currently isolated

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2020

The Clay County Health Department was notified early this morning that a Clay County resident has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual has been in isolation, and the health department will continue to monitor them throughout the rest of their isolation time. The Clay County Health Department will continue necessary contact tracing on this patient in identifying other close contacts. To protect individual privacy, no further information about this case will be released.

Clay County has been vigilant in prevention efforts, but has been preparing for the reality that we could reach this point eventually. The identification of this positive status does not detour us from our efforts, and we will continue to adapt to the guidelines as set forth by the State of North Carolina and the Federal Government as information becomes available. Our staff has planned, trained, and is fully prepared to take on any challenges that may come our way, but our resolve stands firm that we will work together for our citizens.

It is advised that anyone who becomes ill with a respiratory type illness should isolate until the following criteria are met:

- 7 days have passed since the onset of symptoms; AND
- At least 72 hours without a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and respiratory symptoms are improving

Because COVID-19 is



most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, individuals should take the same measures that health care providers recommend to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses, including washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, staying home if you are sick and covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like the Clay County Health Department, CDC, and NCDHHS. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and NCDHHS' website at www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus, which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

The Clay County Health Department regularly updates our county call-in-line 828-389-8052 ext. 110 with information regarding COVID-19 as well, we encourage the public to call or see our Facebook page for up-to-date information. There is an additional local call line for the community at 828-835-4258 that is staffed from 9am-12 and 1pm-4pm.

Stephanie Johnson
MPH, MBA
Public Health Director
Clay County Department of Health and Human Services

S.A.F.E. postpones Blue Jean Ball

In light of the public health emergency posed by the Covid-19 coronavirus, Support in Abusive Emergencies will be postponing our Blue Jean Ball event that was previously scheduled for April 18th. Our primary objective is to protect the health, and safety of all. We would also like to thank our community for the outpouring support of this event, it has truly been amazing! We will reschedule, and notify everyone of the new date as soon as possible.

S.A.F.E. Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing services to victims of Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Sexual abuse in Towns, and Union counties,



and includes a domestic violence shelter, child advocacy center, and provides a 24 hour crisis hotline.

Writers' Night Out cancels upcoming April event

Writers' Night Out celebrates its 10th year serving writers and audiences in North Georgia and Western North Carolina. The event, which is free and open to the public, has a new home: The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge.

Due to the current situation, April's event will be cancelled. Hopefully we will resume soon.

Each Writers' Night Out showcases a guest author who reads their work and, new this year, will talk about some aspect of writing. Past programs

have included national prize winners in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction from the local area as well as from Atlanta, Winston-Salem, Hickory, and Asheville. Most have been well-published also.

The open mic participants have been diverse in age, background, and writing experience. All are welcomed and appreciated.

For more information on Writers' Night Out, contact Karen Paul Holmes at (404) 316-8466 or kpaulholmes@gmail.com.

Weekly Patriot Reflection



Sacrifice for the Preservation of Liberty

Just a few months prior to the death of Thomas Jefferson, with a sense of foreboding for our country, he wrote and pleaded with future Americans to sacrifice whatever it would take to preserve the charter of liberty for which he and the

other founders had given so much.

He said, "We owe every sacrifice to ourselves, to our federal brethren, and to the world at large, to pursue with temper and perseverance the great experiment which shall prove that man is capable of living and governing itself by laws self-imposed, and securing to its members the enjoyment of life, liberty, property and peace.

Should liberties so dearly won be cast aside so that we are once again controlled and limited in the liberties they established for us, and future generations?

A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www.joshuaswarriors.org.

County & City Reports

Local law enforcement provide the following information for publication. Names are spelled as they were received from the law enforcement agencies. It is important to remember that the following individuals have been charged only and are presumed innocent until such time as they are found guilty by a court or enter a guilty plea.



Union County Jail Arrest Report Mack Mason, Union County Sheriff

- 03/25/20 Michael James Caputi, age 52, Blairsville, GA Battery-family violence, interference with a 911 call
- 03/29/20 Robyn Bell Dowling, age 54, Blairsville, GA DUI/glue, aerosol, toxic vapor/less safe
- 03/25/20 Margaret Ricera Johnston, age 41, Blairsville, GA Possession of controlled substance with intent to distribute
- 03/24/20 Joseph James Nickerson, age 24, Blairsville, GA Violation of RICO Act, distribution of controlled substance (4 counts), use of communications in committing or facilitating a drug transaction (4 counts)
- 03/27/20 Charles Edwin Schaerer, age 58, Monteagle, TN Serving time
- 03/23/20 William Nelson Smith, age 63, Blairsville, GA DUI/alcohol/0.08 grams or more 21 YOA or over, tag light required

There are 28 inmates now being housed in the Union County Jail. 1 inmate housed outside county.



Blairsville Police Department Arrests and Incident Report Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter

- 03/26/20 Marla Frances Norris, age 43, Morrow, GA Failure to appear, probation violation (misd)
- 03/24/20 Suspicious activity, 2 escorts
- 03/25/20 2 escorts, accident
- 03/26/20 Escort, dispute, arrest-serve warrant, suspicious activity, criminal trespass warning
- 03/28/20 Recovered property, 2 alarms, suspicious activity
- 03/30/20 3 escorts, suspicious activity, assist other agency



Union County Fire Department Incidents Union County Fire Chief David Dyer

- 03/23/20 Medical Call-Station 10-Blairsville; 2 Medical Calls-Station 5-Suches
- 03/24/20 3 Medical Calls-Station 10-Blairsville; Medical Call-Station 8-Gumlog
- 03/25/20 Structure Fire-Station 12-Choestoe; 2 Medical Calls-Station 10-Blairsville; Medical Call-Station 8-Gumlog; Medical Call-Station 9-Coosa
- 03/26/20 Medical Call-Station 3-Owltown; Medical Call-Station 10-Blairsville; Medical Call-Station 5-Suches; Medical Call-Station 6-Pat Colwell
- 03/27/20 Medical Call-Station 10-Blairsville; Medical Call-Station 7-Dooly; CO Alarm-Station 12-Choestoe; Structure Fire-Station 3-Choestoe; Brush Fire-Station 7-Dooly; Residential Fire Alarm-Station 4-Ivylog
- 03/28/20 Medical Call-Station 2-Jones Creek; Medical Call-Station 1-Blairsville; Brush Fire-Station 8-Gumlog; Medical Call-Station 4-Ivylog
- 03/29/20 3 Medical Calls-Station 4-Ivylog; 2 Medical Calls-Station 10-Blairsville; Medical Call-Station 9-Coosa; Medical Call-Station 2-Jones Creek

NGTC extends Online Instruction; Graduation Postponed

Clarkesville, GA—North Georgia Technical College announces that exclusive online instruction will be extended until April 13 and that the college's originally scheduled graduation will be postponed to a later date to be determined.

All face-to-face classes continue to be suspended and activities for students and guests are postponed.

Spring break, scheduled for the week of April 6, will now be an online instruction week for the college. Also, the end of the term, originally scheduled for April 30 has been extended one week to May 7 for programs needing additional time to complete requirements. Students with questions regarding their par-

ticular class timeline and situation are encouraged to email and discuss with their individual instructors. Students are asked to check their student email daily.

Summer term, which is scheduled to begin May 20, remains on schedule for now.

Only essential employees will continue to report to campus, and faculty and staff continue to telecommute.

The health and safety of the students, faculty, and staff are always the college's primary concern. The college's COVID-19 response team continues to monitor the situation and will communicate changes as soon as possible. Updates will be announced on the college Facebook page or at northgatech.edu.

Diana Lappin wins the Peacock Viking River Cruise Raffle

On Sunday, March 15, 2020, excitement was running high during intermission of the Peacock's final performance of the hilarious Out of Order. The winning ticket was about to be drawn for the 8-day Viking River Cruise, and tickets were sold right up to a few minutes before the drawing. As audience members looked on, balls in the raffle cage were tumbled and a first ball was drawn by kids from the audience. That ball was put aside as the winner, but 2 more balls were drawn and winners were announced for 2 tickets each for 3 events of the winners choosing from the Peacock's 2020 season.

Finally, the moment came to announce the winner of the cruise... Diana Lappin!

Congratulations, Diana! The Peacock wishes you a wonderful cruise and thanks you for your participation in the raffle.

This fundraiser could not have happened without the generous partnership of Viking River Cruises. They have also graciously granted extension of the cruise when restrictions



Diana Lappin

are lifted on travel.

The Peacock also thanks ALL of the folks who supported it with the purchase of raffle tickets for this great fundraiser. Funds will be used for operation and programming.

Come out and support your amazing community as set... Peacock Performing Arts Center, 301 Church Street, Hayesville, NC; www.peacock.nc.org; 828-389-2787.

The Peacock Performing Arts Center is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Union County Recreation Department Annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 4th has been canceled.

