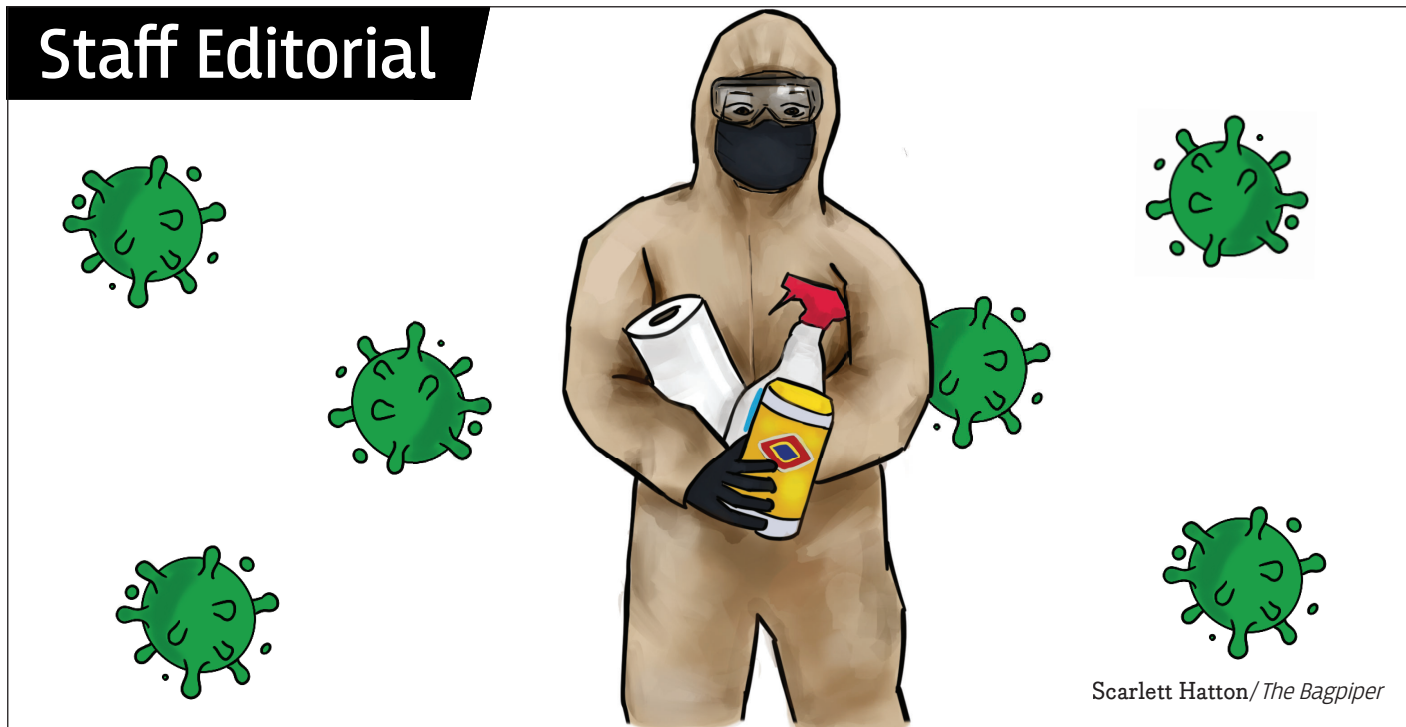


Staff Editorial



Bagpiper staff

Editor-in-Chief
Gracie Vanover
 Web Editor
JD McKay
 Social Media Editor
Abby Chovan
 Lead Photographers
Sophia Perigo
Brock Kennedy
Brooke Miller
Grace Allen
 News Editor
Chloe Love
 News Assistant Editor
Shari Rowe
 Sports Editor
Adam Hynes
 Sports Assistant Editor
Jadon Stoner
 Graphics & Art Editor
Sam Haney
 Features Editor
Annalise Bassett
 Features Assistant Editor

Brianna Waggoner
 A&E Editor
Destiny Love
 A&E Assistant Editor
Scarlett Hatton

Forum Editor
Christy Avery
 Forum Assistant Editor

Audrey Boyd
 Photographers
Nicholas Gordan, Presley Vanover, Kate Zuverink, Dakota Bramer, Cara Akin, Mary Ficker, Matthew Bolus, Olivia Anderson, Tori Ables

Reporters
Meg Edwards, Daniel Anderson, Chloe Finn, Morgan Walker, Brady Beam

Adviser
Jim Lang
 Principal
Dr. Rob Willman
 Superintendent
Dr. Brad Snyder

The purpose of the *Bagpiper* is to truthfully report the news and to engage the audience in online and print media. We strive to provide the meaning and significance behind all news, making visual connections between events and the readers. Above all, we aim to uphold the ethical standards we see in the professional field while serving all faculty, staff, students, and the community.

Social distancing is life saving

As we all know COVID-19 struck the Floyd County area in early March and since then it has grown fast. Although many of us have been respecting quarantine, some people in the community have fallen through the cracks.

When the editors of the *Bagpiper* digitally met to discuss this issue we all agreed that COVID-19 was a time for us to produce a “special” issue. With so many things changing in our society we need to acknowledge and guide each other to safety.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, six feet apart is the minimum

recommended distance people should have between themselves and others. At the six-foot distance most chances of being hit with large droplets from sneezes or coughs is minimal to none.

While many people follow this basic rule, many people also do not. Stanford researchers found that 52.4 percent of people from 18 to 31 reported not complying with the shelter-in-place order. That is a huge part of the population not complying with these state placed regulations.

While our age group may be at low risk for getting this virus we also have to be considerate of those around

us. Over 80 percent of the cases of COVID-19 are found in the elderly, which leads us to wonder; how many of those cases were caused by those ignoring the recommended regulations?

Stores are already doing their part by setting hours aside for immunocompetent and elderly people, so when are we going to do our share? If big corporations and sporting events will let themselves take financial hits, then why do we not take social hits to save lives?

Although 47.6 percent of us are doing our share it is not good enough. There are plenty of alternatives or ways to prevent even being within six feet of anyone.

Stores like Kroger have Click List or Amazon has their pantry section which delivers food or necessities to your front door.

If we band together, regardless of age, we can help decrease the number of new cases and deaths. The sooner we listen to the rules that are set the sooner quarantine and social distancing will be over.

So stay inside. If we all work together by staying away from each other it will be over sooner than we think. Now does that visit to your girlfriend’s or best friend’s house seem so important that you are willing to risk other people’s lives?