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Department of Public Health out of Gainesville. The Union County Health Department is working hard to locate and receive as many vaccine doses as they can.

Q. Why didn't I know about this vaccination clinic? How did people find out about it?

A. The January 22nd clinic was advertised in the North Georgia News; registration was made available through the Union County Government website; and its availability was further publicized on the Union County Government Facebook page. Further explanation: Initially, the health department did not know how many vaccines they would receive. As the date of the clinic approached, more vaccines were received, and more registration slots were opened. When the Health Department received even more vaccines, more registration slots were opened, and so on. Early on, we did not know exactly how many vaccines we would have on clinic day – so it was virtually impossible to do a lot of early advertising.

Q. What advice do you have for those of us who are still waiting for an opportunity to sit for the vaccine?

A. At the time of this writing, we cannot give a specific date for another upcoming (first dose) vaccine clinic

in Union County. This is primarily due to the fact that the Health Department only has enough vaccines to cover the existing appointments already made. However, if we can get our hands on additional vaccines, we would certainly entertain the idea of holding another mass vaccination clinic.

If the Union County Health Department is able to obtain more vaccines and if a mass vaccination clinic is planned in the future, residents will find the clinic registration information on the Union County Government website located at www.unioncounty-ga.gov. It will be also be advertised on Facebook.

Again, at the time of this writing, the official COVID-19 vaccine process requires that residents go through the Department of Public Health District 2 website to schedule an appointment: www.phdistrict2.org Appointments can also be made by calling 770-531-5692. Because so many people are trying to get the vaccine, please prepare yourself for busy signals and for long holding times once connected. I feel confident that we will get a handle on this terrible illness – especially if we continue to social distance, wear masks, and receive adequate supplies of COVID-19 vaccines from the Department of Public Health.

Chavis... continued from Page 4A

and that cause was a vile one. The Confederacy was an anti-democratic, pro-slavery, centralized state devoted to white supremacy and dedicated to the principle that all men are not created equal. Celebrating those men and the legacy of the Confederacy is just another way of refusing to let go of a white supremacist past, period. It's strange that some white Southerners will tell Black people to get over slavery and segregation in one breath and then turn around and raise a Confederate flag and boast about heritage in the next. Both actions amount to one motive: upholding white supremacy. Instead of a celebration of the Confederacy we should rejoice in the defeat of that loathsome cause.

Jim Crow reigned under Dwight D. Eisenhower. What does that tell you about Mr. Eisenhower? I guess it's easy to turn a blind eye to racism under the disguise of Southern Pride... especially in a small town. I think many are simply complicit because it's not something they really have to deal with. I know that the problems in America are not just about race, but race is a major factor in a "unified" democracy. And celebrating Confederate "heroes" who looked to uphold slavery by secession from the United States, does not help. If you ask anyone here if they are racist, every single person will tell you they're not. Yet they'll celebrate Confederate History Month, fly their rebel flag, hold on to racist ideas and support a racist president. As far as I'm concerned, there is no such thing as "not" racist. Either you are anti-racist (in which

case you don't support racial ideologies, racial policies, and a racist president)... or you do. Being "colorblind" is akin to being "not-racist." Most people are quick to deny that they are racist because they fail to understand what being a racist is. I am open to teaching you.

On being normal, I consider myself "normal." I spent 23 years in the military fighting for this country and our democracy. To be honest, I didn't even vote for Obama, but I did vote to oust the narcissist because I felt like his rhetoric was a threat to my very existence... me being a Black woman and all. Maybe you don't have that problem. What I consider NOT normal is millions of republicans embracing QAnon conspiracies, refusing to support and uphold the Constitution (backed by a system of laws), believing in "opinions" disguised as news, and exhibiting cult-like behavior over one man. For years I've listened to Dan Rather, Morty Schafer, Peter Jennings. I've watched and listened to ABC, NBC, and CBS report the evening news. I've followed the Associate Press coverages, the New York Times, and the Washington Post. I've listened to Post reporters Carl Bernstein and Bod Woodward break the Watergate scandal. Now, republicans are saying everything is "fake" news. Now, everyone who doesn't support Trump or who speaks out against him (including Mr. Woodward and those who know Trump best) is a liar. Everyone is a liar... except Trump. Sorry, that's just not "normal."

Jan Chavis

Crawford... continued from Page 4A

fossil fuel production and cripple our economy.

Next, President Biden re-joined the Paris Accord that put the United States under authority of other governments. Check out the Accord; one provision is to teach "in public schools" fossil fuels are bad and how to protest. This is happening to fifth-graders.

And everyone with a daughter involved in sports should be livid that Biden has signed another executive order allowing transgender athletes to compete in girls' sports, which includes shared locker rooms. God made man and woman different for a reason. Inherently, men possess more strength than women, making it unfair, to say the least, against women and girls in sports.

Biden has also stopped the Mexican border wall construction. Not only has the wall proved to be an ineffective tool in keeping drugs, illegals – now "undocumented citizens" – and human smugglers from entering the country. Most people don't know that millions of dollars in wall materials have already been made specifically for the wall, bought and paid for, on the border, and cannot

Terry...

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This is only the beginning. Joe Biden has proven that he will do whatever it takes to undo President Trump's legacy, even if it means dismantling the great work we've done to put AMERICA FIRST. The next two to four years are going to be challenging.

Rose Marie Terry

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not think of a more worthy recipient. Truly, among men and women, Julia Barnett stands as a beacon of hope and life. We are grateful for her service.

Our Business of the year was selected for similar reasons. The Union County School System did what seemed humanly impossible this year. In less than one week's time they successfully transitioned from traditional, in-person learning to a virtual learning environment. Not only was every single student in Union County outfitted with the supplies necessary for on-line education, but every child from 1-18 years of age was

Fowler...

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Newton's life and lyrics reflect amazing grace as told in Jesus' story of the prodigal. "This son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found" (Luke 15:24). By faith you are found and raised to life in Christ. By faith you join the family of God and enjoy the hope of eternity. The sweet sound of that graceful unity is the right message for today.

Williams...

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weak looking canes, thin out the buds to prevent over fruiting, which can cause permanent bending of canes from the weight. Each year after harvest is completed, cut plants back so that they don't become too tall. Tall plants are more difficult to harvest for people; bears and birds probably won't have that same problem.

If you have questions about pruning blueberries, contact you County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Dixon...

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vative support, and since it is highly effective and decreases carbon emissions by 90% by 2050, it has great environmental support.

Could this be the way to begin bipartisan work in our new Congress? Let us hope so, and pray that we can find a way to work together.

Vernon Dixon, MD

Cummings...

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was almost glowing with the news of his nephew. He was a proud uncle and drove to Papa's house on Jan. 30, 1938. Beaming as he walked into the house, he picked up his nephew and started walking toward the door. Granny wanted to know where he was going. He said, "I'm going to show off my nephew to all the neighbors." Granny said, "Pick, it is spitting snow and cold as a blue blazes." She told me later, "Pick was disappointed, but, he understood."

Later the family moved to Chicago, and Uncle Pick came for a visit. After the visit, the whole family loaded up in Pick's car and made their way back to Alabama. In Alabama, there were very few traffic lights, and the few that were there hung on cables above the intersections. But, in Chicago and other big towns, the traffic lights were mounted on sign posts at the corners of intersections. Before Pick left Chicago, he had run 15 red lights, and by the time he made it to Paducah, Kentucky, he had run through four more. The young man from Trapptown, Alabama, could never master driving in Chicago. He always complained about the driving habits of those Yankee drivers. Dad was about 13 at the time, and Uncle Pick offered Dad his keys, saying, "Paul, I believe you could do better than me." But Papa took the keys instead.

A few years later, Dad and his family moved back to Alabama, whereupon Papa and his brother opened up a car dealership in Russellville. One of Uncle Pick's first customers was my Dad, Paul Cummings. He bought a 1951 sky blue Ford. Dad still remembers that car to this day. Meanwhile, Uncle Pick became very popular with the citizens of Franklin County and was elected first to the City Council of Russellville and later to the post of Probate Judge, where he served with distinction for a number of years.

When my son, Will, came along, we named him William Paul. He had the same initials, W. P., as Uncle Pick. When I told my great Uncle about this, it was as if that same light came on again. He almost glowed at the thought of another Cummings generation that would remember Walker Pickens Cummings.

The Chamber is grateful for her partnership.

Also chosen this year were Ambassador Emeritus titles bestowed on Ginny Gurley and Paula Pendleton. Both these women have cared for the community as ambassadors for as long as any one can remember. Their contribution to the growth of our hometown deserves honor and appreciation.

Finally, 7M Family Farms was honored as our Business of the Quarter for their contribution to the community during COVID-19.

Successfully hosting safe, distanced outdoor events including their Fall Festival

and Festival of Lights during the holiday season are two examples of ways that 7M has become much more than a farm-to-table, organic produce option in our community.

As they expand into baked goods, a butcher shop, and much more, they are quickly becoming a Union County anchor point for which we are truly grateful.

It is a privilege to award all of these honors. For our educators and our health care workers, we will never be able to fully express our gratitude.

Please continue to help us give thanks to these heroic men and women.

given access to meals.

The educational, emotional, and physical needs of every student were addressed in lightning speed, and not a single child in our community went hungry or without access to not just an education, but the same high caliber of education previously enjoyed in the traditional school setting.

Every single faculty member from board members to teachers to custodial staff and beyond not only demonstrated commitment to education, but they demonstrated the heart of Union-County—a commitment to every citizen. This generation of students and parents are forever in their debt.

For her faithful years of service as an ambassador for the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, Alysia Hargus, photographer, Woodman life agent, mother and wife was chosen as our Ambassador of the year. Alysia has championed area businesses and the economic growth of our community in ways unparalleled.

Dyer...

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3 – Tornado Safety and PrepareAthon!; Thursday, Feb. 4 – Lightning Safety; Friday, Feb. 5 – Flood Safety.

On Wednesday, when tornado safety is emphasized, residents, schools and businesses statewide can participate in Ready Georgia's PrepareAthon!, a statewide tornado drill. Residents should know what to do during a tornado and practice these skills.

We encourage everyone to take the time to research and prepare for these severe weather incidents. For more information about Severe Weather Preparedness Week and events occurring locally, visit our Facebook page @ucfd1 or contact Union County EMA at 706-439-6091.

Union County Fire Department ~ Our Family Protecting Your Family ~