

UCBI...from Page 1A

of our company and see this investment as a significant step toward preserving the

special culture we've built over the last 70 years. "We remain committed to all communities across our

footprint and look forward to being a contributor to business growth across the entire region."

United Community Bank has over \$18 billion in assets and 160 branches across Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Known as "The Bank That Service Built," the award-winning financial institution offers lines of business in Personal Banking, Business Banking, Commercial Banking Solutions, Small Business Administration Lending, Investing Services, Mortgage, and Wealth Management.

Services include a full range of consumer and commercial banking products, such as specialized lending, advisory services, treasury management and more. The bank has also played an integral role in administering Paycheck Protection Program funds to small businesses amid COVID-19.

Deyton

...from Page 1A

suspended if the license holder accumulates 15 points within a 24-month period.

"The data shows the most dangerous time for students riding a school bus is not when they are on the road, but when they are getting on and off the bus each day," Deyton said. "The safety of our children is our top priority, and we need everyone to understand that Georgia's School Bus Law is there to protect our kids and those who transport them to school."

Anyone with questions about Georgia's School Bus Law, or wishing to report any issues with drivers failing to stop, can contact the Union County Schools Police Department at 706-745-2322 or via email at cdeyton@ucschools.org.

Do you know who is in this photo?



This photo was submitted by a Suches resident asking for our readers' help identifying any of the young ladies pictured. It is believed that the photo was taken sometime in the 1940s, at a popular picture-taking spot at Woody Gap. If you think you can help, please write to northgeorgianews@hotmail.com.

Vaccine...from Page 1A

Commissioner Lamar Paris took to Facebook on Thursday, Feb. 18, to notify people about the shipment being delayed due to weather issues, and he reassured residents with appointments that they will have access to their vaccines.

"Please remember to bring your vaccination card," Paris said. "We are very sorry and disappointed for the inconvenience. If for some reason you cannot make (Feb. 26), please call our local Health Department at 706-745-6292. You could try this week or early next week."

Regular Health Department vaccination appointments are ongoing thanks to locally stored supplies, with the mass clinic having been interrupted due to the large supply needed to host the event, Public Health Information Officer Dave Palmer said.

And Union County is not alone in the interruption; vaccination efforts across the country have been impacted by the delay. Fortunately, COVID numbers everywhere seem to be declining, including at the local hospital.

"We still are pushing the mitigations – wearing the masks, social distancing – trying to limit the spread," Palmer said. "I think all of that is working because the number of cases have gone down, and we don't have enough vaccine in people yet for the vaccine to be limiting the spread."

Early vaccination efforts are still focused on medical workers; long-term care residents and staff; all Georgians 65 years of age and older; as well as law enforcement, fire personnel, and other first responders.

Eventually, everyone who wants a shot will be able

to get one, but with limited vaccine supplies persisting for the time being, a phased allocation remains necessary.

Even though Public Health is not actively taking new appointments for COVID-19 vaccination due to this limited availability, people trying for an appointment with the Health Department should continue checking the phdistrict2.org sign-up portal.

Alternatively, people can call 770-531-5692 to check on appointment availability, and if someone doesn't answer, keep calling back, as demand has greatly impacted the district's ability to get to all callers immediately.

For a regularly updated list of locations receiving vaccine shipments in each county, visit dph.georgia.gov and click on the link for the "Vaccine Orders List." People can also find vaccine providers at <https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/covid-vaccination-site>.

Mass vaccine provider Synergy Health of Hiwassee continues to add patients to its vaccine wait list at ngvax.com. Vaccine registrants will be notified once an appointment becomes available, so there's no need to call the office to verify.

Additionally, to take advantage of further collaborative mass vaccine efforts between the Union County Government and the Health Department, be sure to check in regularly with unioncountyga.gov to see when new appointments come online as supplies become available.

As previously reported, Union General Health System is not currently offering vaccines to the public, but once it finishes administering second doses in-house, the hospitals

have committed to helping with vaccinating eligible residents as long as vaccine access continues.

Ingles Pharmacies are also waitlisting people for vaccination at <https://www.ingles-markets.com/pharmacy/pg1/pharmacy-sub/vaccinations>.

More than 1.7 million vaccine doses have been administered to date in Georgia, including over 7,300 in Union and 3,500 in Towns. Residents can get a detailed overview of statewide vaccination efforts via the GA DPH Vaccine Distribution Dashboard at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3d8eea39f5c1443db1743a4cb8948a9c/>.

People should be aware that anti-inflammatory medicines may depress immune responses to vaccination, which is why District 2 Public Health says folks should avoid them unless needed.

"We recommend that people do not take anti-inflammatory drugs before vaccination unless it is part of their routine treatment for other conditions," Palmer said previously. "Also avoid after vaccination unless necessary for the control of fever or pain or is part of their routine treatment for other conditions."

"Acetaminophen use is preferred over anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen."

Appointments for free Public Health COVID-19 testing can be made at <https://mako.exchange/splash/GAmakotesting/>. Testing takes place Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Hall County, at the Allen Creek Soccer Complex located at 2500 Allen Creek Drive.

Paris...from Page 1A

for the 20 years I spent in the Navy, including tours in Vietnam," Hoibraten said. "And also, for the fact that it wasn't just the Seabees that built so much ... it is people like Lamar that built our community up here, and (we) can still support the people in need."

"Thank you for the opportunity to be here tonight, and thank you Lamar for signing this."

In his January meeting, Paris declared Union to be a county that supports and protects the Second Amendment. While this was welcome news for attendees, several had concerns that the resolution did not specifically declare Union County a "Second Amendment Sanctuary."

After considering all feedback, Paris decided to amend the language of the resolution to include this sought-after change, which he discussed in the Feb. 18 meeting.

"The following wording will be added to the resolution," Paris said. "Be it further resolved that Union County opposes any efforts at the state or federal level that would prohibit Union County claiming to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary or any enforcement related thereto."

As for the state of COVID-19 in Union, Paris is hopeful that the current declining trend in the numbers will continue as more people get vaccinated, though vaccine efforts have been slowed due to supply chain issues.

"We are still dealing with the COVID-19 issue just about daily in our office," Paris said. "It is pretty frustrating – us, and our Fire Chief David Dyer (who is also) EMA Director and our 911 Director all rolled into one."

"It is a struggle, but we are hanging in there with it. It is no fun but necessary. We are proud to see the county and the hospital numbers declining. We can only hope that continues without another relapse."

Union County Government, EMA, the Recreation Department and Health Department teamed up Jan. 22 to host a mass vaccination clinic for more than 1,000 residents of Union and Towns counties, with a follow-up clinic for the two-dose vaccine scheduled for Feb. 19.

Unfortunately, the clinic had to be rescheduled for Feb. 26 due to extreme winter weather around the country causing a delay in the vaccine shipment to Union County.

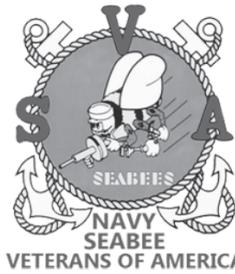
"We were set up for a mass vaccine event (Feb. 19) for the 1,050 people that received their first vaccine a month ago," Paris said. "This would have been their second, and the county was under the impression that these vaccines were being stored at the local Health Department."

"It turns out they were not stored here, and because of the extreme winter weather in all transportation quarters throughout the U.S., supplies have not been received by Public Health. They will be delivered on Tuesday (Feb. 23)."

The second dose of the Moderna vaccine is supposed to be administered at least 28 days after the first, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise that efficacy of the two-shot vaccine should not be impacted if the second dose is received within 42 days of initial vaccination.

Also in the meeting, Paris highlighted some small projects the community may have noticed around Meeks Park, including a new restroom above the Sorghum Festival Field and a new pavilion being put up in place of Pavilion 3 located by the two ballfields in the back of the park.

Navy Seabees' to host annual All Military Ball; get tickets now



The Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3 is once again sponsoring an All Military Ball. This is in recognition of the 79th birthday of the U.S. Navy Seabees, to be held at the Ridges Resort on March 6.

This Ball is shaping up to be the biggest yet with a number of folks coming from out of town to attend. We have

a full evening of fun planned to include good food, fellowship, drawings, music and dancing.

Tickets are \$50 and on sale until March 1. Checks can be mailed to the NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville GA Commander at:

Edwin M. Crenshaw, 9021 Sharons Way, Young Harris, GA 30582.