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porarily impacted the ability for vaccine shipments to reach our Health Department.

Q. Do I have to get my vaccine in the county in which I live?

A. No, you do not have to get your vaccine in the county in which you live. If you can locate an open appointment in a nearby county, you are eligible to get your vaccine outside Union County. We have heard of instances where our citizens have gotten their vaccines in counties as far away as Lowndes County (Valdosta).

Q. Who gathers all the vaccine data information? How does that work?

A. Georgia Code 31-12-3.1 and House Bill 1526 require any person who administers a vaccine, licensed for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration, to enter each individual vaccine into the Georgia Registry for Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS). Providers who administer vaccinations can report to GRITS by manually entering each vaccine or

interfacing through a data exchange feed. While providers are encouraged to enter vaccinations in real-time as they are given, there may be a delay in when a vaccination is given and the report to GRITS. However, "Pandemic Providers" are expected to enter vaccination records into GRITS within 24 hours of vaccine administration.

Q. What is the holdup on the vaccine situation? Why doesn't the local Health Department give vaccines every day?

A. Let me be very clear in my response to this question. Union County is ready to deliver as many vaccines as we can get our hands on. We have the infrastructure to help get the vaccines into the arms of our residents as was demonstrated during our first mass vaccine clinic. We have a pool of Union County employees, part-timers, and local volunteers to help make it physically happen. We are bound only by the availability of the vaccines themselves.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

here in the Southern states. The southernmost stand of the Yellow Birch can be found in northern Georgia. There are some on Bald Mountain and others can be found on Coosa Bald. And we found them close to the top of Skutt Gap in northern Towns County. It is a rare treat to see them this far south.

The walk up the mountain took us about 2 1/2 hours and is not for the faint of heart. We did use a number of old logging roads for easier walking, and when we gained the top, we were greeted with some beautiful views. To the west was looming the behemoth of Eagle Mountain. We walked down a lead a little way toward the north and found views of Bell Mountain and Ben Knob.

A little farther down the lead we dropped into a cove and found a plane crash from the mid 1950s. The story I had heard about the crash was that this fellow had purchased an army surplus plane from World War II. It seems that he was flying home from down south and flew through this gap in foggy weather.

While flying north through the gap, he clipped a tree and crashed. The good Lord was looking over him because the man was able to climb out of the wreckage and walk to the south back down toward the settlements. The first farm he came to he stopped and asked to borrow a phone. There were no phones, of course. But the fellow was able to get help and go home. The plane was left, and some enterprising fellow was able to salvage the engine with a sled and couple of

oxen. Someone got themselves a good engine for a sawmill.

We left the crash site and traveled the ridge line east up to the top of Sassafras Mountain. Just before the top, Milton and I found a north-facing rock face. We climbed the ice- and snow-covered boulders to stand under the rock overhang. After taking photographs, we climbed up to the top of 4,058-foot Sassafras Knob. To the east we could see Rattlesnake Knob, Lemons Gap, Shooting Creek Bald and Hightower Bald. We walked down the ridge line to Bluff Cove and decided to make our way down a rock face into Bluff Cove. I was nearly at the bottom when a rock rolled out from under my foot and I tumbled down, landing on my pride. I would recommend walking down to the gap around this rock face.

Using a 1903 map we realized there were a couple of old home sites down by the creek. So, we set our sights on these. They were found along with two pretty nice chimneys. As I sat there, my mind wondered: who was the owner of this old home? What did they talk about while sitting around the fire? What were their dreams? Could this old home site have been lived in by my ancestor? I don't know the answers to these questions. But it is fun to wonder about, and I do think that the owner wanted the same things in life that we want. A better life for our kids. I may never know where my ancestor lived. But it has to be close to some of the most beautiful mountains in the world, the Southern Nantahalas.



Walters-Taylor... continued from Page 4A

the second was similar to the first but less affecting, and the third was a group picture of 18 soldiers smiling and waving for the camera.

Many of these men, including three of the six soldiers seen raising the flag in the famous Rosenthal photo, were killed before the conclusion of the Battle for Iwo Jima in late March. On Feb. 23, the crest of 550-foot Mount Suribachi was taken, and the next day the slopes of the extinct volcano were secured. By March 3, U.S. forces controlled all three airfields on the island. More than 6,000 Americans died taking Iwo Jima, and some 17,000 were wounded.

So why do we raise a flag in victory or when we conquer? It seems since the beginning of recorded history that a country, city, etc., has used the flag to herald some iteration of precedence of power. On April 14, 1865, as part of a celebration of the Union victory, Maj. Gen. Robert Anderson (1805-71) raised the national flag in triumph over the battered remains of the fort – as ordered by President Abraham Lincoln earlier that spring. The flag-raising over the Reichstag is an iconic World War II event that took

place during the Battle of Berlin on May 2, 1945. The nature of the flag has power that may announce dominance, subordination and social solidarity. There is something very pleasing about the ritualistic process of displaying a flag, sometimes of pride, sometimes of patriotism, sometimes of the manifestation of power and might, or sometimes, conversely, with the flying of the white flag, or an upside-down flag, in times of distress or submission.

A universality of all nations, despite differences in politics, language, custom or craft, is the similar use of flags. They serve to unite, inspire, communicate and evoke emotion. What do you feel when you see the American flag waving in the breeze? What do you feel when you see an American flag draped across the casket of a veteran? The same symbol, used in a different way, invokes a totally different feeling.

It's just a flag you might say. I submit to you, a mighty one, nevertheless. Until we meet again, I bid you "at ease."

***Sources: Wikipedia; Professor Robert Shanafelt, Ph.D., "The Nature of Flag Power" (2009), *Politics and the Life Sciences*.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

always alone will be well worth your time.

Keeping calendars up to date in this ever-changing COVID environment has proved challenging. We are excited to let you know that you can join Sarah and me for the most current Community Calendar live every Friday morning at 8:45 on Facebook at @visitblairsvillega. This is a new way we'll be keeping you up to date on our local businesses' deals, community events, and more.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming Shop Local Family Egg Hunt which will take you to area businesses where you can collect eggs with a prize for the kids and a discount for

mom and dad. Participants who collect eggs from all the businesses on the list will bring their completed list to event sponsor, Karyn Woody at Harry Norman Realtors to be entered to win a huge Grand-Prize Easter Basket filled with local Blairsville-Union County goodies. Shopping local has never been sweeter!

It seems I close every week with the same sentiment: living in Blairsville-Union County is truly the best, and for that, I'm grateful.

Fowler...

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That's the story of the esteemed professor who found beauty in creation and truth in its Creator. Do likewise, and you will have something inspiring to share with your friends!

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" (Psa. 8:3-4).

Williams...

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this temperature. Once the plant has germinated, you will need a way to provide light for it. A south facing window won't provide enough light, and will need to be supplemented. Supplement with a fluorescent or LEDs. Leave the bulbs on for 16 hours a day. You can plug the light into a timer to help keep track.

If you have questions about when to plant or starting your own plants you can contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Dyer...

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are also only vaccinating persons who qualify as the 1A-plus phase. As more vaccine becomes available and other phases open up, we will continue to assist in the administration of the vaccine.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Sparks...

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enroll immediately; and that parents give feedback to measure the impact of the program.

The legislation also takes the COVID disruptions into consideration by giving a one-time exemption to the rule that students must first spend at least one year in public school.

As a mother of a child with special needs and a constituent, I'm incredibly proud that my state senator cares about helping children reach their full potential. For too long, many children with special needs fell through the cracks because our society didn't yet understand what these young people could accomplish. Now we know they can lead rich, rewarding lives if they have access to educational resources that meet them where they are.

That knowledge requires action. The Georgia General Assembly can do that by passing Sen. Gooch's Special Needs Scholarship legislation.

Nikki Sparks

Chavis...

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they need to stay engaged in the fight against hatred, racism and injustice; that if they were to ever let their guard down, to ever not be involved in democracy, those rebel flag waving, white supremacist nationalists who want to hold on to the old guard power structure will have their way.

Trump was impeached (the first time) for abuse of power and obstruction of justice, in which he was overwhelmingly guilty. The evidence was indisputable. (Again, look things up. Facts don't lie... people do.)

Trump did try to pressure the president of Ukraine in an attempt to help his career, just like he abused his power by trying to pressure election officials in Georgia.

On obstruction of justice, Trump did block several witnesses from speaking to investigators. It's not that "nothing was found," as you say. It's that Senate Republicans voted to acquit him, regardless of the evidence. Just like they did recently. Does that mean he's not guilty? No. It means there are people in Congress who failed to do the right thing because most of them (and others) traded their country and their duty to uphold the constitution for a red hat!

I'm not really into "news." I'm into facts – tangible ones – stemming from political and historical research.

My favorite quote: "You can give a person knowledge, but you can't make them think. Some people want to remain fools, only because the truth requires change."

Jan Chavis