

# Wade...from Page 1A

receivable in the process. Next, Wade worked for a temporary employment agency that ended up hiring her full-time to do payroll for all the other temporary workers associated with the agency. "Then we moved up here, and I worked for Kelley's Home Health for about 10 years," Wade said. "After that, I worked at Young Harris College from 2000-2005. I started out in their physical plant, and then they moved me to alumni." But wait, there's more. Wade's next stop in her employment journey was working with her husband, who ran Eck Supply Company across from Young Harris College. "It was a company that was owned by a family out of Richmond, Virginia, and we sold electrical supplies," Wade said. "In 2008, with the big mess in the economy, our business died. We had electricians with 15 or 20 employees having to get rid of them down to maybe one or two. The people in construction were really hurt by that." Fortunately, the Wades had developed a solid reputation with their company, so instead of simply being laid off like so many others during the Great Recession, Eck Supply offered them the chance to move to Charlottesville, Virginia, to run a store with 17 employees. "We rented out our house to somebody and we moved up there," Wade said. "Although we missed being in Young Harris when we moved to Charlottesville, it was also a great adventure."

"Since I am a lover of history, we were able to drive to Washington, D.C. several times and walk around the city. We toured the homes of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe. We were able to drive to Gettysburg and see the battlefield, which was amazing. "We worked (in Virginia) for about a year. My mom was in her 80s and lived in Roswell, Georgia, and we were concerned about moving so far away. So, we had some people who gave us an opportunity to open another electrical supply here. "They told us they'd give us a year to build it up, and they gave us five months and closed it down (in 2013). After returning home but finding themselves suddenly without jobs, Wade's husband Tony immediately gained employment in sales with City Plumbing, "because they'd been wanting him to work for them for years." Wade, on the other hand, spent some time on unemployment, all the while keeping her eye out for whatever opportunities might come available, such as a temporary stint with local attorney Stephanie McConnell, for whom she worked for about a month. "And then I came and interviewed here, and (Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby) hired me, and I've been here ever since," Wade said. "This is my favorite job. The other jobs, some of them I liked and some of them I didn't, but this one is

more of a fun thing, because you have people contact that a lot of the time you don't have when you're sitting in an office." The recently minted City Clerk said she is thankful for her hard-working coworkers and grateful to the Young Harris City Council and Mayor Gibby for trusting her in the position. "Andrea is very enterprising," Wade said. "She has lots of ideas and is always looking to find new ways to enhance the city. And the council is doing the same thing. They've got the pavilion here and another one over at Cupid Falls - they're just constantly working on ways to improve the city." Referring to Wade as a "loyal, trusted employee," Mayor Gibby is happy the city made an investment in her those nearly eight years ago. "Nicolette is dedicated to the City of Young Harris, going above and beyond to provide high quality service," Gibby said. "We are lucky to have her on our staff." In addition to her official duties, Wade has taken it upon herself to chronicle the goings-on of the city in recent years by cutting Towns County Herald news articles to include in a historical scrapbook. Clippings include everything from City Council meetings to Christmas tree lightings. She and her husband Tony have been married 32 years. They have two sons, Bryan and Chris, and four grandchildren, Cody, Chloe, Parker and Kiley. The Wades have lived at their Young Harris address, located outside the city limits, since 1990.

# Memory Lane...from Page 1A

Fairgrounds over the years, including a recent Mustang Show that attracted thousands of attendees and 300 cars. The first person to register for the Memory Lane Classic Car Show was Charles Britt from Flowery Branch, who will be bringing his 1953 M38A1 Jeep pulling a Civil War Cannon on a 5-by-8 trailer. "We have got several that are already registered for the car show," Thomason said. "We have got a Military Jeep and other neat things, and people coming from all over to be part of this car show. "It is going to be \$10 per person for spectators. If you want to register a car, a booth is \$40, and if you don't want a booth, it is \$30, and those include two passes to get into

the show." The jointly held car show will take place at Memory Lane Classic Cars on Friday, April 30, opening at 8 a.m., and at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 1, opening at 9 a.m. There will be music, food trucks, arts and crafts, an auction, prizes and a raffle. Local philanthropists Jerry and June Smith own and operate the Memory Lane Classic Car Museum next to VIP Fieldstone Cinemas. The museum houses approximately 100 classic cars, hot rods, motorcycles and more, with galleries alternating weekly. Also on Saturday, May 1, Josh Turner will play the Music Hall starting at 7 p.m. Turner will be among the first few concerts in the Fairgrounds' 2021 lineup.

"We have already sold over 1,300 tickets for that show, so if you want to purchase tickets, get them now and give us a call," Thomason said. This year, the Fairgrounds plans on having a consistent lineup of concerts and events in hopes of making up for all the postponements in 2020 due to COVID-19. "We have Chris Janson coming April 17, and those tickets go on sale Monday, March 1," Thomason said. "We have a lot of upcoming events, and we want people to stay tuned to what we have going on, because we have big plans this year. We want people to come out and enjoy the venue and their time with us here." For more information on the car show and other upcoming concerts and events, visit GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com or call 706-896-4191.

# Bradshaw...from Page 1A

Bradshaw said that he and neighboring Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris of Union County sent a joint email to District 2 Public Health on Jan. 23 asking for more vaccines to be sent locally for use in mass vaccination efforts being coordinated in each county. The Commissioner's Office has partnered with the local Emergency Management Agency, Recreation Department, Health Department, Synergy Health of Hiwassee, and volunteers to host clinics at Foster Park, which is the perfect venue to safely vaccinate many people at a time. As more vaccines become available beyond the currently limited supply, the abovementioned partners will continue to deliver more vaccinations to the public, which in the region skews disproportionately older and therefore more vulnerable to severe COVID. "I want to reach out and thank (Dr. Samuel Church of Synergy, his staff and family) right now publicly for all (they have) done for this community," Bradshaw said. "I also want to thank all the volunteers that have been up there helping at Foster Park. They've done a great job." Bradshaw announced that the Fire Department had finished moving into Station 2 on Georgia 66 in Young Harris. When the weather warms up, the commissioner and Fire Chief Harold Copeland look forward to getting the helipad installed as a permanent life flight landing zone. Next, Bradshaw said he and Sheriff Ken Henderson were working on the possibility of using a Towns County Detention Center detainee crew for projects like courthouse cleaning, landscaping and litter cleanup. For the latter, Bradshaw is asking the public to chip in by not littering. The county usually contracts with Colwell Detention for work crews, but COVID has put a stop to that. Moving forward, Bradshaw hopes to utilize local detainees alongside minor uses of private contractors and Road Department staff for landscaping purposes. Touching on the major courthouse addition and

renovations, Bradshaw said CPL Architects were in the process of drawing the plans, after which the process can begin to find a construction company. The commissioner was happy to report that the county was able to purchase with SPLOST funds both a new dump truck for the Road Department and a low-mileage fire truck for the Fire Department. Chief Copeland said the tremendous deal they got on the new truck at \$30,000 will leave the Fire Department with \$470,000 in SPLOST to put toward a new "brush rescue" vehicle for use in wildland and other fire scenarios and a new 2,000-gallon pumper tanker to transport water. Under old business, Bradshaw discussed Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding applied for by local EMA Director Marty Roberts totaling \$66,000 with a \$9,900 local match. If secured, the grant would be used to buy a new generator for E-911, with the two there being repurposed. "They have been working on this grant for a couple years," Bradshaw said. "We feel good about the grant and really feel like we'll probably get the grant, but you never know. Anytime we can save money, that's what we're going to do." In new business, the commissioner went over an engagement letter with accounting firm Alexander, Almand & Bangs LLP. At Sheriff Henderson's request, the firm has been contracted for \$6,500 to inventory all equipment and accounts at the Sheriff's Office. Henderson said that, following his election last year, he wanted to make sure to get an independent accounting of exactly what he was responsible for at the Sheriff's Office, including whatever cash, weapons, properties, evidence and other items may be on the premises. "I think we will be done soon with this audit, and I can report to you at the next meeting and let you know where we are," Henderson said. Bradshaw approved a grant application by Chief Copeland for the aforementioned pumper tanker, which, if secured, would be worth \$235,000 with a



**Fire Chief Harold Copeland offered several Fire Department updates in the Feb. 16 county meeting at the courthouse.**

Photo by Shawn Jarrard 5% match from the county. As for Shake Rag Road on the way up to Bell Mountain Park, the commissioner accepted a \$36,800 agreement for engineering firm Hayes, James and Associates to conduct all engineering and surveying for road improvements there. Hayes, James and Associates is replacing KCI Technologies for road engineering, as the former can begin work sooner. Once engineering plans are completed, the Road Department will start construction on the project, with minor contracting for paving and trackwork. Continuing, Bradshaw re-appointed Loretta Youngblood to Board of Elections & Registration; accepted the standard information exchange agreement with the Sheriff's Office; appointed Chad Hooper to the Fire Board; and appointed Ronnie Stroud to the Planning Commission. To a round of applause that Tuesday, the commissioner and Sheriff Henderson signed a resolution declaring Towns County a "Second Amendment Sanctuary," which the Towns County Herald covered in full detail in the Feb. 24, 2021, edition of the newspaper. Finally, on behalf of Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge, Joan Crothers invited everyone to see recent gardens improvements, including work by Dennison Brothers in the concert area, fresh painting at the Paris Pavilion and elsewhere, and a new spiral herb garden.

# Vaccinations...from Page 1A



**The COVID-19 Vaccine Team of local volunteers mobilized again last week to provide second-dose vaccines to residents at Foster Park.**

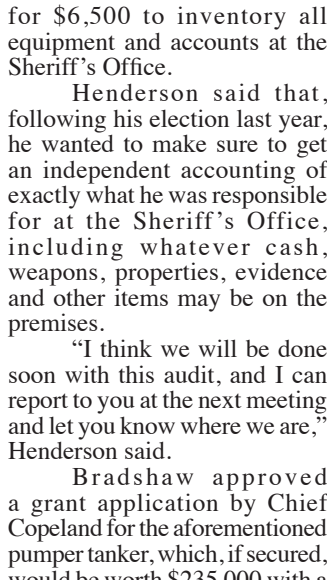
Photo by Shawn Jarrard The biggest change between the Jan. 22 and Feb. 26 clinics was a faster pace of vaccinations, undertaken in just eight hours instead of 12. Other than a few minor tweaks, the clinics were virtually the same, existing now as an efficiently reproducible effort. "We have people on call, we have lists of people that want to work, want to help, and we have the process for them," EMA Director David Dyer said. "So, the only thing that actually changes anything that we do is if we have vaccines or not." Due to ongoing supply issues, it's unclear at this time when Union County will be able to host another mass clinic, but Dyer said that, when the time comes, everyone involved can be ready at a moment's notice. In neighboring Towns County, Synergy Health of Hiwassee and its volunteer COVID-19 Vaccine Team held another clinic at the Recreation and Conference Center at Foster Park on Feb. 26. There, more than 250 mostly Towns residents received their second dose of the vaccine. "We have thousands on our list, and as we're confirming appointments, we're finding that a lot of folks have already gotten their vaccine, which is a really good sign," Church said. "We're also seeing (COVID) numbers dropping in the hospitals and outpatient setting. "It's not enough of a percentage for it to be herd immunity, but it does make some difference. Of course, people have gotten COVID as well, and they are less likely to be re-infected. So, we're definitely seeing some numbers dropping locally." Though rare, vaccine side effects may be more severe for some people following their second shot, as immune systems work to respond to the vaccine. Folks should talk with their doctors about taking over-the-counter medicines like ibuprofen, aspirin, antihistamines or acetaminophen for pain or discomfort after getting vaccinated. "It is not recommended you take these medicines before vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent side effects, because it is not known how these medications may impact how well the vaccine works," according to the CDC. Dr. Church said people should steer clear of prescription drugs like prednisone for the alleviation of COVID vaccine symptoms, as these medicines have greater anti-inflammatory properties that are more likely to interfere with healthy immune responses than over-the-counter drugs. "People who are prescribed on prednisone or steroids for any reason need to discuss with their prescriber regarding vaccine timing," Church said. Looking ahead, Church is hopeful that his team will be able to continue hosting clinics until they are no longer needed,

which will require a greater supply of vaccine from the state to accommodate everyone who wants one eventually. Vaccine eligibility will be expanding in Georgia starting March 8, and Dr. Church encourages everyone who may be interested in vaccination to sign up with Synergy at [ngvax.com](http://ngvax.com), even if they are not currently eligible. **Expanded Eligibility & Signups** Gov. Brian Kemp announced on Feb. 25 that he was expanding the list of individuals who are eligible to receive vaccination while supplies remain limited. So far, early vaccination efforts have been focused on medical workers; long-term care residents and staff; Georgians 65 years of age and older; as well as law enforcement, fire personnel, and other first responders. Starting March 8, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their caregivers; parents with children who have complex medical conditions; and Pre-K and K-12 teachers and staff for public and private schools will become eligible. "I believe it is vitally important for more Georgians to return to normal," Kemp said. "For too many parents, this is simply impossible to do while your child is home learning through a screen. "Virtual schooling is leaving too many children behind, and parents are literally at wit's end. They are also very exhausted. We must have every student back in the classroom, five days a week, statewide." For their part, area superintendents have expressed excitement over the announcement, including Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong, who said he is thankful for the upcoming opportunity. "We are currently in conversations with our local Health Department to set up dates for the vaccines," Berrong said. "My hope is that those vaccines will begin within the next two weeks." Union County Schools Superintendent John Hill said the news is welcome, as the school system has suffered "many very sick employees as a result of COVID, with long-lasting side effects." "We want to first vaccinate our medically fragile staff and our staff members with family members they care for who are medically fragile," Hill said. "Then we will move to the remainder of our staff who choose to take the vaccine. "We plan on starting vaccinations as soon as our Health Department has the vaccine available. We are very thankful the governor has chosen to take care of the people who are teaching our children." Later in March, Kemp said his office will be looking at the possibility of further expanding vaccination criteria "to include more Georgians with severe underlying health conditions who are not currently

eligible as seniors over the age of 65." "We will be finalizing that timeline and the Georgians affected in the coming days," Kemp said. Citing avoidance of confusion, Kemp added that the Department of Public Health would be abandoning the use of eligibility categories like "1A-Plus" and "1B," choosing instead to go with an ongoing list describing vaccine eligible people, such as medical workers or teachers. Additionally, Kemp said the Department of Public Health would be rolling out a new statewide registration tool in March. District 2 Public Information Officer Dave Palmer said the tool will be dedicated for use by Public Health, and more details will be released when available. "Residents can go to this site to make appointments at any Public Health-run vaccination site in Georgia," Palmer said. "We will also continue with our local online registration and Call Center for our District 2 Public Health departments." Even though Public Health is not actively taking new appointments at this time due to limited availability, people may be able to find an opening following a canceled appointment by checking [phdistrict2.org](http://phdistrict2.org). Alternatively, people can reach the District 2 Call Center at 770-531-5692 or 1-888-426-5073 to check on appointment availability. For a regularly updated list of locations receiving vaccine shipments in each county, visit [dph.georgia.gov](http://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>. For free Public Health COVID-19 testing, visit <https://make.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. **GEMA Vaccination Sites** The state also recently announced a new vaccination initiative between the Governor's Office and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. People may go to [myvaccinegeorgia.com](http://myvaccinegeorgia.com) to pre-register for a vaccine at one of four GEMA drive-thru sites. These sites are the Macon Farmers Market, the Albany Georgia Forestry Commission, the Delta Air Museum, and the Habersham County Fairgrounds, with the latter being the closest in North Georgia at 4235 Toccoa Highway Clarkesville, GA 30523. Vaccinations began Feb. 22, with sites operational Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. GEMA sites are currently only offering Pfizer vaccines.

# Road Check...from Page 1A

check that lasted approximately two hours," Henderson said, noting how remarkable it was they were able to catch so many violators in just a couple hours. The Feb. 19 check occurred immediately following a regional meeting of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, hosted by the Towns County Sheriff's Office and Young Harris College Police Department at Stephens Lodge. This meeting featured both networking and training opportunities, including a presentation by Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley on ways to improve traffic stops, specifically regarding DUIs.



**Law enforcement officers made multiple arrests in their Feb. 19 Safety Road Check with the Towns County Sheriff's Office, including for possession of marijuana and drug-related objects.**

Photo/Submitted