

Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

www.townscountyherald.net

Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1928

75 Cents

Publication Number 635540 Volume 92 Number 18

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Wade continues to serve Young Harris as City Clerk

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Nicolette Wade has worked many different jobs in her day, everything from teacher to electrical supply sales. But when it comes to her favorite position, hands down, it's being the City Clerk for Young Harris.

Wade came on board with the city in 2013 as Deputy City Clerk doing primarily billing. She is now settled into her new position as City Clerk, a promotion she earned in December following a lengthy search to replace longtime City

Clerk Shirley Jarrard, who retired at the end of 2019.

Jarrard also served as the city's Finance Officer. After she left, the city separated the City Clerk and Finance Officer positions, with the latter role going to Lisa Hoyle, who contracted to do the city's finances last year before her official hiring as a city employee.

Alongside her new title, Wade has picked up new responsibilities, though the Georgia Certified Clerk spent all of 2020 getting used to the additional responsibilities while the city sought the right person

to fill the job. As it turned out, the right person was none other than Wade herself.

"I've always loved this job - this is the most fun job," Wade said. "I enjoy talking to the people that come in here. My customers, they'll stand here and chat. It's just great to get to know people in the community that you would never get to know if you were sitting at home or in other jobs."

Her combined duties include getting payroll ready for processing; preparing agendas and packets for City Council meetings; water/

sewer billing and payments; licensing insurance business licenses; property taxes; serving as elections superintendent; staffing the main office as the face of City Hall; reporting certain items to the state; and more.

As for her extensive work history, Wade started out as a history teacher in DeKalb County before transitioning to an Atlanta-based chicken feed company years ago. She then went to work with a scaffolding company as a receptionist, learning payroll and accounts



Nicolette Wade
Young Harris City Clerk

Memory Lane car show to benefit Anderson Music Hall

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds is partnering with Memory Lane Classic Car Museum to host the inaugural Memory Lane Classic Car Show April 30-May 1.

According to Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason, the car show will serve as the beginning of a fundraising effort to benefit Anderson Music Hall.

"The purpose of this is to get new seats in the Music Hall, and it is a huge project," Thomason said. "We need to start somewhere with raising funds to help with the project, and this is the first fundraiser, this Classic Car Show."

"We can't do it with one fundraiser, but we will reach out for more funders and do lots of fundraisers. We are a nonprofit organization, so anyone who wants to contribute or sponsor



Jerry and June Smith run Memory Lane Classic Car Museum to raise funds for local charitable giving.

the project, it is something that we would welcome."

The Music Hall has been in use since 1979, frequented by thousands of people and resulting in significant wear and tear in the last 40-plus

years, with seating in particular needing an update.

Thomason is hoping to see a large turnout for the fundraiser, as car shows have been popular events at the

See *Memory Lane*, Page 8A

Vaccinations proceed amid declining COVID numbers

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

COVID-19 vaccinations continued apace last week, with supply remaining limited but local shipments finally resuming following weather-related delays the week before.

In Union County, the Commissioner's Office, Emergency Management Agency and Health Department teamed up Friday to administer second-dose vaccines to people who attended their Jan. 22 clinic at the Sports Center.

The Feb. 26 mass vaccination had to be rescheduled from Feb. 19 due to winter weather conditions across the country disrupting shipments. Importantly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say people should be OK to go an extra week before receiving their second dose.

Right around 1,100 Union



Joan Crothers, 87, was happy to receive her second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at Foster Park High, administered by volunteer Linda Smith, RN, of Emory Heart and Vascular in Hiawassee.

and Towns county residents received second doses for full vaccination there, with people continuing to be impressed with the streamlined effort that

was conducted in partnership with many volunteers, the Fire Department and the Recreation Department.

See *Vaccinations*, Page 8A

Bradshaw welcomes guests back after break for COVID

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

January was a particularly rough month for COVID-19, with infections and hospitalizations up throughout the region. Even the Towns County Commissioner's Office suffered an outbreak.

Due to these circumstances, Bradshaw - circumventing COVID himself at the time - decided to cancel his regular monthly meeting for January.

Fortunately, everyone in this office who contracted the virus has recovered and is back at work. Coupled with falling COVID numbers, Bradshaw felt comfortable welcoming the public back to his regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

"I am so excited to be back at our county meetings," Bradshaw said. "It's so good to have all of y'all here, and I appreciate you coming out on a cold, early evening."

Starting things off, Bradshaw asked attendees Amy Barrett to offer an invocation and Betty Phillips to lead the Pledge of Allegiance before calling the meeting to order and diving into his Commissioner's Report.

"Financially, everything's going good (even though) it's early in the year," Bradshaw said. "We still have a spending freeze in place because of COVID. We do feel like, as the vaccines roll out, COVID's going to get, we hope, a lot better. But there's so many a still better."

See *Bradshaw*, Page 8A



After recovering from COVID-19 in January, Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw was ready to tackle a full agenda in his February regular meeting.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

'Oro Arrowhead' opens to crowded theater, applause



The cast and crew of "Oro Arrowhead" dressed to the nines for the Feb. 27 Red Carpet Premiere of their locally filmed movie.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County local Bill Rahn partnered with Union County High School Theater Director Chris Adams to write and produce the movie "Oro Arrowhead," which featured a well-attended Red Carpet Premiere on Saturday, Feb. 27, at VIP Fieldstone Cinemas.

Revolving around a golden arrowhead with magical properties, the project was

filmed entirely in the area using local talent and businesses.

"We do movies all over the country," Rahn said. "A lot of the movies are distributed out of the country, but I live here. I moved here about eight years ago, and my family has been up here for visiting for about 25 years."

"I just said that we should do a movie right here, and we decided to take a couple of concepts and write the script and do it here. We used local

people and locations, so it is a very local piece.

"We did all this on a very low budget; it has turned out really well, and you'd never know it was (low budget) because of the things that we do."

Rahn takes pride in the fact that his company, Tri-Rahn Pictures, makes clean movies that families can enjoy together, with "Oro Arrowhead" featuring a few action scenes

See *ORO Arrowhead*, Page 2A

Joint 'Safety Road Check' nets multiple arrests, drug seizures

News Special
Towns County Herald

YOUNG HARRIS - A nighttime Safety Road Check conducted jointly by the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol and multiple state and local agencies Friday, Feb. 19, resulted in multiple arrests and drug seizures on Main Street.

Three DUI arrests made the roads safer for citizens, along with felony arrests for possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

Additionally, law enforcement made three misdemeanor drug arrests and issued 13 uniform traffic citations.

According to Sheriff Ken Henderson, Highway Safety Checks are a fundamental part of his office's strategy to keep



Towns County Sheriff Ken Henderson and Chief Deputy Col. Gene Moss display drugs and other items confiscated during a Feb. 19 Safety Road Check on Main Street in Young Harris.

Photo/Submitted

Towns County roads and citizens safe.

Sheriff Henderson thanks all agencies involved in the initiative and is grateful for the patience of law-abiding citizens

for any inconvenience caused by the check.

"I am happy with the results obtained during this safety

See *Road Check*, Page 8A

Hiawassee discusses new Water Department Building and more

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Hiawassee City Council and Mayor Liz Ordiales discussed upcoming projects in their regular work session on Monday, Feb. 22, including a new \$50,000 Water Department Building.

As usual, the meeting was closed to the public and streamed instead via Facebook Live, as the city continues to take COVID-19 precautions regarding gathering, and Ordiales started things off with a local COVID report.

"Since the beginning of COVID almost a year ago, we have had 972 cases and 37 deaths in (that) whole year," Ordiales said. "Those are good numbers compared to the rest of the state."

Added Ordiales, "There have been 3,623 vaccines (administered in Towns); 2,700 have had dose one and 922 (have had both doses). We are moving along nicely. I think everybody is ready to give it as they get them. I think they did a great job at the Rec Center a couple of weeks ago."

See *Hiawassee*, Page 2A



Liz Ordiales
Hiawassee Mayor

2 Sections 16 Pages
Lake Levels
Blue Ridge 1,676.11
Chatuge 1,919.42
Nottely 1,763.65

Inside	
Arrests	3A
Chamber	6A
Church	5B
Classifieds	7B
Opinion	4A
Legals	7B
Obits	6B
Sports	2B

SPORTS BASKETBALL
Boys - STATE ELITE 8
Tues. Mar. 2
5:30 and 7:30 PM

Towns County Indians Advance to Elite Eight in State Basketball Tournament
See page 2B

Crystal Matheson BBQ Benefit March 12
See page 6B