

Back the Blue...from Page 1A

Bradshaw said. "There is evil in the world. We realize that there are people that hate America. We do realize that the Bible teaches us good and evil. We must always be prepared to confront the evil to protect our freedom, so we appreciate that."

He also commented on the work that the EMS has done in the community, both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When COVID came, they didn't waver, they didn't stagger, they didn't back down, they didn't call me questioning or being scared," Bradshaw said. "Let me tell you something - they do their job."

Added Bradshaw, "Years ago, when my dad was very ill before he passed away, we had to call the EMS quite often, and they were the same every time. They were Johnny-on-the-spot, very courteous. I am very proud of them, and I think we have the best EMS anywhere in the nation."

Next, Joe Burns held a reading of names of law enforcement persons present and past, and the a cappella High Country Harmonizers returned for another performance, honoring veterans with a "National Medley of Songs" before ending with "God Bless America."

GOP Chair Young said she wants the community to be involved with law enforcement and show appreciation so that deputies and police know they are wanted and needed.

"Back the Blue is one of the most important things we



The Towns GOP Back the Blue Caravan drove from Young Harris to Blairsville, then to Hiwassee to support the Shop with a Hero event on the square. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

can do as citizens, because of all the stuff going on around the world today, where they are defunding law enforcement and making a mess of it," Young said. "Law enforcement includes anybody like EMS and Fire Department, because they all work together."

"That is the key, and if you don't have that, then you aren't going to have a functioning country or community."

Following the ceremony and appreciation, attendees got in their patriotically decorated cars to start the caravan, which ran from the Young Harris GOP headquarters to Downtown Blairsville, then to the Hiwassee Town Square.

Also Saturday, Dr. Dan Eichenbaum's Eighth Annual Benghazi/Twin Towers Memorial Ride and Veterans Appreciation Day event took place, following a similar path as the Back the Blue Caravan.

Patriotic residents and veterans from across the area

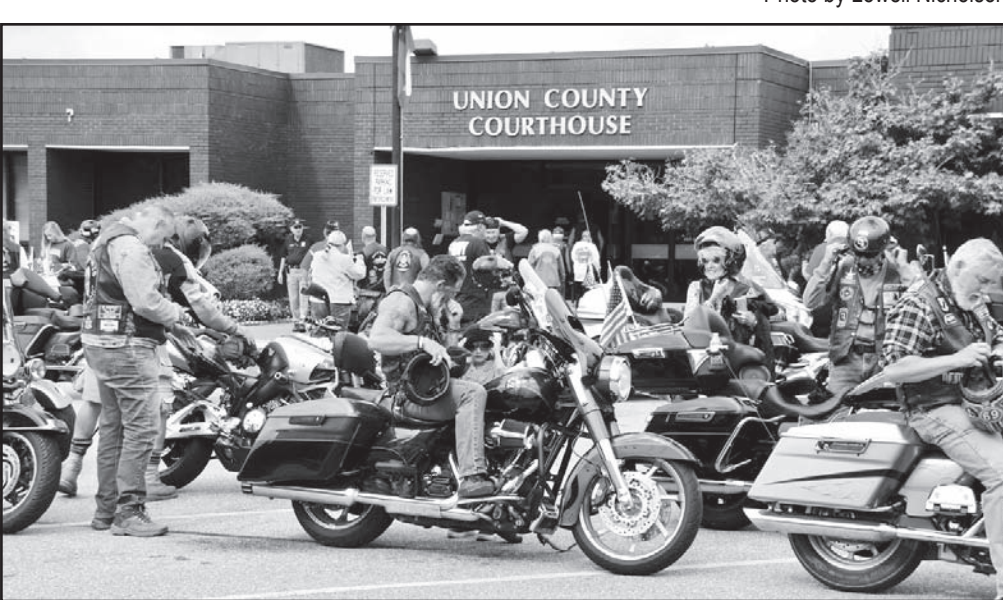
made their way from the Towns Veterans Park to the courthouses in Hayesville, North Carolina, Blairsville, and Murphy, North Carolina, with each stop featuring "prayer, a short speech by a local official, Taps, and the planting of a memorial sign."

"This ride and veterans event is to honor and remember our heroes, fellow veterans, and fellow citizens who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks at The World Trade Center in NYC on Sept. 11, 2001, and in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 11, 2012," Eichenbaum said.

2020 participants and sponsors included the Sons of Liberty Riders, American Legion Riders, Joshua's Warriors, Combat Vets Motorcycle Association, Christian Motorcycle Association, the Cherokee County (NC) Sheriff's Office, Marine Corps League, and local veterans, patriots and Christian groups.



The Eighth Annual Benghazi/Twin Towers Memorial Ride started out of the Towns County Veterans Park Saturday to spread awareness of the tragic events in recent American history. Photo by Lowell Nicholson



The Eighth Annual Benghazi/Twin Towers Memorial Ride stopped into Blairsville Saturday to spread awareness of the tragic events in recent American history. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Dr. Arencibia...from Page 1A

they do it using state-of-the-art technology and equipment at both locations.

Long before she joined her dad as a fellow optometrist, however, the younger Arencibia worked as a technician at Georgia Vision Center. It was her father's influence there, his clear impact on patients' lives, that inspired her to pursue a career in optometry.

"I've learned a lot from him," Arencibia said. "He's definitely the reason I'm an optometrist today. I really look up to him, and I think he's great with his patients."

Added Arencibia, "I've always known I wanted to help people and have been really interested in health care as a profession. At first, I thought I wanted to go into nursing school. Once I started working with dad, I fell in love with the eyes; I guess it's in our blood."

She continued working in her father's office while pursuing her undergraduate degree at the University of North Georgia, where she also played basketball, with an ultimate goal of returning home full time to join his practice as a full-fledged professional in the field.

"This area has a place in my heart because it's where I grew up," she said of her desire to work in her own backyard. "There's a need for health care here, and I also feel like it's a great place to raise a family. I've just always really enjoyed the area."

Upon obtaining her bachelor's degree, Arencibia enrolled in the brand-new Kentucky College of Optometry

at the University of Pikeville, and she became a Beta Sigma Kappa International Optometric Honor Society member and graduated cum laude after four years of intensive study.

Alongside her schooling, she gained extensive knowledge in ocular disease and family eye care via clinical externships, which included training in private practice, at the KYCO school specialty clinics, Pikeville Medical Center, and at Omni Eye Services of Atlanta.

And now that she's seeing patients full time in Blairsville, Arencibia says it is her mission to help people understand the importance of having their vision health monitored.

"We can actually see things that people don't know are going on in their bodies," Arencibia said, noting that, with dilation, she can spot changes in people's eyes to alert them to medical conditions they may not be aware of, such as hypertension or early stages of diabetes.

"Sometimes we can even see your risk of having a stroke, or catch tumors and other emergent conditions," she said. "Especially with kids, they don't necessarily speak up whenever they're having visual problems."

Of course, South East Eye Group offers contact lenses and a whole range of fashionable eyeglasses as well, and Arencibia said their services extend to referrals for any serious medical conditions they might discover using industry-leading tech.

"We have a lot of new technology that really sets us apart from other practitioners

in our area, and just the care you're going to get here," she said of the family-owned and operated business.

Among the technologies available at South East Eye Group is optomap retinal imaging, which can be used to detect both eye-related and chronic health conditions. And the Arencibias treat a number of conditions like dry eye using the highly effective LipiFlow treatment.

Both the Hiwassee office at 344 Main Street South and Blairsville office at 17 Hometown Way are following all COVID-19 best practices, including mask wearing for staff and patients, social distancing, temperature checks and frequent sanitation.

People can easily arrange an appointment - including a new telemedicine option - and check out available services by visiting <https://gavisioncenter.com>, or by calling 706-896-3303.

Arencibia said the practice will be expanding again in about a year when her sister Alexa graduates from the same optometry program in 2021, and it goes without saying that their father is extremely proud of them both.

When not working to promote eye health among the families of the area, Dr. Gabby Arencibia enjoys hiking, traveling, and spending time with her friends, family, fiancé Cass Coleman of Hayesville, North Carolina, and dog Archie, a Brittany Spaniel.

As a Hiwassee native and Towns County High Class of 2012 graduate, she looks forward to working in the communities she grew up in for many years to come.

Dr. Nuelle...from Page 1A

that he doesn't get paid the full amount for.

"He does a good job, and I have had several surgeries from him and know veterans that have had surgeries through him, and everyone has come out real good."

"We just want to show our appreciation for the best in North Georgia here, and to let him know that we really appreciate him. He has great bedside manners and has been an orthopedic surgeon for many years. He is a good part of the hospital."

The veterans surprised Nuelle with the presentation during his lunch hour, which led to a small reunion and gathering where he shared stories with the other veterans.

Nuelle is a Vietnam Veteran, having served his time as a doctor in Guam.

"I joined the Navy when I was in medical school," Nuelle said. "I did my reserve duty essentially while I was in medical school under an internship. I didn't know where I was going until like May, and I had to deploy on the first of July."

Roy Perren returns to Mountain Home Music Theater

"Elvis" Roy Perren will return to Mountain Home Music Theater on Saturday, October 3. Roy has been singing publicly since he was a small child. Along the way he was told his voice had a strong resemblance to that of Elvis Presley. With that encouragement he began performing as "Elvis".

Roy has brought hours of enjoyment to folks in the North Georgia Mountains. Roy is in his 8th season as a regular at Mountain Home Music Theater. In addition to Elvis, Roy has a love of Classic Country and Southern Gospel music and sings at churches and events whenever he can. Many say that Roy is the best male vocalist they have ever heard. Half of the show Roy will perform your favorite Elvis hits, with the other half going to performing favorite Classic Country songs.

So come out Saturday, October 3, for a high-energy show with some good music and good times guaranteed. If you have never heard Roy before, you are in for a treat. If you have heard Roy before, you know the he will

"The guy from the Pentagon calls me and says that I have my orders now and I will be stationed on the USS Proteus. It was homeported in Guam. I was trying to write all this down, and I vividly remember that I was being deployed to someplace I didn't even know how to spell."

Having an award presented in appreciation was meaningful to Nuelle, since these are the patients that he works with year-round.

"This is touching, it really is," Nuelle said. "Part of the reason I joined was, that same year, four of my very close friends that I had been in high school with were all killed in Vietnam, in one year. I was going to military funerals all the time."

"I felt obligated to join up, and I joined up because I wanted to go into the Navy. I really didn't have any desire to get in the Army, and that is where I would have gone if I was drafted. It was a six-year commitment."

"For years they had veterans' ceremonies and stuff like that, and because I had

such a cushy duty - I was a doctor on a tropical island - I never really considered myself a veteran. I figured the guys out there getting shot at were the veterans."

Nuelle realized from conversations and encouragement from other veterans that he was indeed a veteran, for devoting years of his life for the country.

To Nuelle, it is important to remember veterans and make sure they are cared for and not forgotten.

"The era that I was in, the veterans were not appreciated," Nuelle said. "Because of the political climate, they were called baby killers and not appreciated."

"Today, you go to the airports and the guys have their packs on and uniforms. The years I was there, the first thing the guys did when they got a chance was to get into civilian clothes so they weren't recognized."

"The world has changed, and everyone pats each other on the back. They pat the veterans on their backs, and I think that it is great for the people that are there now. For the people there when I was in, it is long overdue."



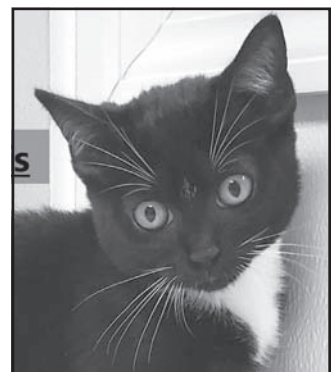
"Elvis" Roy Perren

leave you with smile. Family friendly and spotlessly clean, Mountain Home Music Theater is located 2 1/2 miles West of Hiwassee at 2468 U.S. 76 West, Hiwassee, GA. Look for the Red Building and the Flashing Sign.

If you are attending and have a request, let Roy know by email at rperren2@gmail.com. Please wear a mask as we try to keep everybody safe. The show begins at 7 PM. Tickets are \$8, Children under 10 are free. For more information, call Mountain Home Music Theater at 706 896-3624.



Woof, Buster here, I am a handsome almost two year old Boxer mix that is a graduate of the Rescued Program where I learned basic obedience. I am a very sweet boy who is very affectionate, clean, crate trained and gentle with my toys and treats. I love all my friends here at the shelter but I am ready for my very own family. I am this weeks featured dog and can be adopted for \$50 from September 29th thru October 5th. Please call the Mountain Shelter at (706) 781-3843 to make an appointment to meet me!



Meow, Tennis here, I am a beautiful 6 month old black and white kitty. My family here at the Mountain Shelter found me outside one morning in the tennis ball holder. I was a true wild child but they were very patient with me and now I am very affectionate and adore being loved on and playing! I am ready to have my very own humans to play with me, won't you please call the Mountain Shelter to make an appointment to meet me! I am this weeks featured kitty and can be adopted for \$50 from September 29th thru October 5th.



Meet Me at The Market
Mickey Cummings & Kristy Peney

Please remember a few items as we head into October. First, as you know the Canning Plant will close for regular operation after October 1st. But, we will have a couple of special dates of operation on Tuesday October 20 and Tuesday October 27. If you are interested in canning a few more items for the season those are the only dates left available. Please call for an appointment at 6 a.m. or 9 a.m. for one of those dates.

We are also winding down the season at the Farmers Market as well. We will be open through October 31st and

then be closed until our Kris Kringle Market on December 5th. And please remember we are still and will continue to operate with all of our Covid-19 policies in place. These policies can be found on our website at ucfarmersmarket.com.

During the month of October we will be conducting a food drive for the local food bank. If you wish to participate please bring your canned items by the Farmers Market and place them in a bin located next to the Farmers Market Office located in Building B.

Come out and meet us at the Market!

Dr. Michele Shirley named North Georgia Technical College Interim President

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Commissioner Greg Dozier announced his appointment today of Dr. Michele Shirley as North Georgia Technical College's (NGTC) Interim President after the recent death of NGTC President Dr. Mark Ivester.

Dr. Shirley has served as NGTC's Vice President of Administrative Services since February and previously was the Director of Administrative Services for the college since 2017. She has served in various roles at the college for more than 14 years, including Director of Admissions and Registrar, Special Populations and Retention Coordinator, Career Planner, and Marketing Specialist and Associate Instructor of Business Management.

"Dr. Shirley's leadership experience at the college, passion for higher education, and love for the surrounding community make her the right person to lead North Georgia Technical College at this time," said TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier. "Dr. Mark Ivester left a lasting legacy at North Georgia Technical College and I know Dr. Shirley will carry his vision forward



Dr. Michele Shirley

by providing more students with opportunity and by continuing to develop a skilled workforce for the region."

Dr. Shirley assumes the position to lead the college along with the college Executive Team of Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Mike King, Vice President of Academic Affairs Mindy Glander, Vice President of Economic Development Keith Powell, Vice President of College and Community Relations Amy Hulsey, and Executive Assistant to the President Trudi Schubring.

"This is truly an honor to help lead North Georgia Technical College and continue fulfilling the college goals and

visions that Dr. Ivester had set forth," said Dr. Shirley. "We have a wonderful, supportive college community, and we are all thankful for the outpouring of love shown for Dr. Ivester and his family. Fulfilling his plans to take our college to the next level will continue to be our priority. The 67 years of combined technical college experience of our Executive Team will provide the basis to guide the future of our college during this interim time, and I certainly look forward to working together with them and our entire college family."

A native of Habersham County, Dr. Shirley received a Doctorate of Education degree in adult education from the University of Georgia in 2009, a Master of Business Administration degree from Brenau University in 1997, and a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in accounting from Piedmont College in 1994. Dr. Shirley lives in Clarkesville with husband John and two daughters, Julianne and Ellison, and attends Shirley Grove Baptist Church.

NGTC President Dr. Mark Ivester, 57, passed away on Sept. 12 after a short-term battle of Covid 19.