

Avis Shaw...from Page 1A

more than 30 years and retired in 2000, though that only lasted about eight months before she'd made up her mind to return to nursing because she missed seeing and looking after people so much.

After considering her options, Shaw went to work at Heritage Healthcare of Blue Ridge for 18 months. She then took a position at Union County Nursing Home, where she spent 11 years taking care of the elderly before retiring in 2014 just a few months shy of her 80th birthday.

Now, she's 86 years old, and looking back on her time as a nurse, Shaw can say she has enjoyed every minute of it.

And she did it all – from teaching fourth-graders about health and their bodies to assisting mothers with their newborns and caring for the elderly and disabled, Shaw has loved her more than five decades in health care.

During the dedication Friday, Superintendent John Hill presented a shadow box displaying photos chronicling her many years as a local nurse, and he explained to those gathered why they were holding the dedication that morning.

"The reason we're here is (to honor) one of the most remarkable women in the United States," he said. "Now, we're going above and beyond Union County here because it's true, Mrs. Shaw; you have had more of an impact on this community, probably, than any one person in the world."

"Your ability to take care of folks and to make folks feel like they're going to be OK and reassure generations of people – it's one thing to have an impact on one generation of folks, but Avis, you've had hugely positive impacts on people for decades."

Added Hill, "You have definitely set the bar for what a nurse should be, and in my opinion, what a human being should be, above and beyond a professional career. You're an amazing person."

The superintendent said

the lab dedication was but a small tribute to Shaw for what she had done for the county, "and every student that goes through (Sandra Hatfield's) program, I hope we have a little taste of local history as to why this is the Avis Shaw Health Care Science Room now."

For her part, Shaw was incredibly grateful and moved by the dedication Jan. 22.

"I thank y'all for this honor," Shaw said. "There is a little saying that says, 'If you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life.' And that is true. I love nursing. That's why I stayed in it (for more than 50 years). I loved it – I couldn't quit."

"I retired from Public Health, and then I retired from the Nursing Home. When I retired from Public Health, I missed people so bad, and I missed doing nursing. And I said to Carlton, I've got to go back and take care of people, because that's what I'm supposed to do."

Shaw said her big focuses have been general health and immunizations, making sure with the latter that parents were vaccinating their children. Now, there's a new health threat looming over all with COVID-19, and she encourages everyone to get their vaccine as soon as its available.

"The most important thing we can ever do for our nation is to be healthy," Shaw said, adding that she hopes future generations remember the importance of U.S.-based food security, that food doesn't just come from a grocery store, and that healthy foods can be grown in home gardens.

In closing, Shaw once more thanked those gathered in her honor, taking the time then to highlight the significance of teachers in educating and inspiring students by "lighting that fire under them."

"We are what we are, but we're not what we're going to become," Shaw said, pointing out the vital role of growth and motivation in individual development that is so often fostered by great teachers.



Family and friends of Avis Shaw joined her for a ribbon cutting commemorating the naming of the Avis Shaw Health Care Science Lab. Guests signed the ribbon pieces, giving one half to her and putting the other half in her dedicated shadow box.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

A special plaque presented to Shaw in the Jan. 19 Union County Board of Education meeting reads: "Health Care Science Wing, dedicated to Mrs. Avis Shaw in appreciation for her many years of dedication and health care services for Union County residents."

Healing Hands Community Clinic, Inc. has a new location

Healing Hands Community Clinic, Inc. is so excited to be in its new location at 108 Blue Ridge Highway, Suite 2, Blairsville, GA, in the Town Center Business Complex.

Healing Hands, a non-denominational health care ministry for the uninsured of the mountain area, meets the basic healthcare needs of those members of our community who are uninsured and are unable to afford insurance due to their financial situation. There is no charge to the patient for medical visits.

Healing Hands is staffed by a completely volunteer group of medical and non-medical personnel. Funding is provided solely by the generosity of the community.

The clinic treats those simple conditions that you might see in a walk-in clinic, although, Healing Hands is not a walk-in clinic and appointments are necessary.

Healing Hands assists in the management of diabetes, COPD, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and thyroid disease. The clinic is unable to treat children under the age of 2, chronic pain conditions, those conditions that require



Healing Hands Community Clinic, Inc. new location

the care of a specialist or provide women's health. We are unable to provide emergency services.

Please call 706-994-6768 to schedule. Business hours are Tuesdays from 5 PM - 8 PM, Saturdays from 8 AM - 12 PM. Healing Hands also provides affordable DOT Physicals for truck drivers.

Healing Hands has a strict Covid-19 protective protocol in place. Our first responsibility is to provide a safe and secure environment for our staff and patients. We offer telehealth (video) appointments and/or telephone consultations for follow up visits as well as on-site visits for new patients. If you need us, call us; we would welcome the opportunity to help you. NTJan27,21/SH

Fatal Wreck...from Page 1A

and she was injured in the accident and transported to Northeast Georgia Medical Center via life flight that day.

Maze was driving the green Ford Explorer that apparently caused the accident in which her passenger, Curtis Miles, 51, of Murphy, North Carolina, was killed, per GSP. She has been charged only and is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

A 32-year-old Blairsville woman was driving the white Honda Pilot that was also totaled in the crash, and while she did receive minor injuries, she was not transported for medical treatment, per GSP.

The accident occurred around 3:50 p.m. on Jan. 16, about a tenth of a mile south of Stonehenge Senior Living on Murphy Highway. Maze had been driving north in the Explorer when her vehicle crossed the centerline and struck the Honda in the left southbound lane, per GSP.

After impact, the Explorer traveled off the west shoulder of the road and down an embankment before striking trees and coming to rest on its top, GSP said, while the Honda came to a rest straddling both southbound lanes and facing west.

Elements of the accident are still under investigation, but it's possible that Maze and her passenger had been rushing to leave the county to avoid being stopped by local law enforcement, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Prior to the crash, the couple had been at the Union General Hospital Emergency Room seeking treatment for Miles, UCSO Lt. Doug Brackett said, though it was not known at press time why.

After being admitted, Miles allegedly revealed to ER staff that he had been drinking beer that day, and he reportedly became "irate" over the wait inside the ER, verbally abusing

hospital employees and being disruptive, at which point the staff called security, Brackett said.

Hospital security in turn asked the couple to leave and escorted them to the parking lot, notifying them that they had contacted the Sheriff's Office for assistance with "disorderly conduct inside the hospital," Brackett said.

Miles and Maze are alleged to have left in a hurry, Brackett said, so neither was there when he arrived at the hospital to make a report.

Responding to a BOLO issued by E-911, two other deputies headed in the direction the couple was thought to be traveling, and they came upon the vehicle after the crash had already occurred, Brackett said.

Responding to the scene were GSP, the Union County Sheriff's Office, Union General EMS, Union County Fire, Air Life Georgia, with assistance from Tanner's 24-Hour Towing and coordination by Union County E-911.

Paris...from Page 1A

around the turn of the year.

Next steps for the range include completion of in-progress final designs for joint approval by the Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and Union County Government, with input from the Union County Gun Club, at which point the project can be bid out for construction.

Paris went on to explain that someone came up to him after the Senate runoffs earlier this month, asking "what we would do if the government came and started taking our guns away."

"I told him to just relax, nobody is going to come and take your guns away," Paris said. "Now, they may start putting new guidelines, whether it be ammunition or whether it

would be safety devices with guns, and they may not do anything. The one thing they can't do is retroactively take your guns away."

Someone in the audience asked the commissioner about adding specific language declaring Union County a Second Amendment "sanctuary county," and others chimed in urging him to do this.

Paris said the resolution had been carefully drawn up taking into account input from multiple surrounding counties that have adopted similar measures, but that he would certainly go back, analyze the resolution language and consider making the addition if he thought it necessary.

Commissioner Paris also discussed the COVID-19

vaccine and urged people 65 or older, who are currently eligible, to get vaccinated when they can to help reduce the spread and impact of the virus in Union County.

"The way that COVID is flourishing and spreading throughout the county, I know a lot of you surely had friends that have had it or gotten it; I have had several," Paris said. "It is really trying and scary. There is no rhyme or reason about who can get it and who doesn't."

Added Paris, "It is a serious thing, and we take it serious here at the county. I urge you all to do the same thing. We aren't going to get out here with a gun or anything and start trying to force everybody into putting their mask on and doing the right thing, but it is going, and it is serious."

Special training to save the hemlocks



On Saturday, January 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Save Georgia's Hemlocks is offering an ONLINE Volunteer Facilitator training. The class is designed for people who want

the practical knowledge and skills needed to actively participate in saving our hemlock trees: An overview of the importance of hemlocks, the invasive insect that's killing them, and options property owners have for saving their trees. Complete how-to instruction covering the trees, the insects, assessing infestations, cultural practices, chemical treatments, biological controls, cost considerations, personal and environmental safety.

Volunteer training to

advise and assist other private property owners and nonprofits and to work with the US Forest Service and Georgia DNR to save hemlocks on our public lands.

Registration is required – To register and receive your sign-on instructions, please call 706-429-8010 or email donna@savegeorgiashemlocks.org NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 29 and provide both your phone number and email address. NTJan27,21/SH