

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Towns County Herald

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### Fairgrounds to host Hank Jr., Three Dog Night, Price is Right in 2019

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Having closed out 2018 with the ever-popular Mountain Country Christmas in Lights, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds promises to play host to a 2019 lineup everyone can enjoy.

Three Dog Night will start 2019 off in a high-profile way at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m.

Fans of Three Dog Night's countless hits, like "Mama Told Me Not to Come," "One," "Joy to the World" and others will not want to miss this show, the tickets for which went on sale Nov. 30, 2018, at \$47 for Level 1 seating and \$37 for Level 2 seating.

The Drifters, Cornell Gunter's Coasters and The Platters will appear in concert on Saturday, March 16, at 7

p.m. Tickets went on sale for this show on Dec. 21, at \$38 for Level 1 and \$30 for Level 2 seating.

The Price is Right Live, the hit interactive stage show where contestants can win appliances, vacations and, possibly, a new car, is coming to the Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 23, at 7 p.m.

Tickets for The Price is Right Live went on sale Dec. 14, and according to Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason, as of the end of December, the show had sold over 700 tickets at \$47 for Level 1 and \$37 for Level 2 seating.

To register to be a contestant, one must be at the box office by 3 p.m., said Thomason. Click on the link for The Price is Right Live at www.GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com under "Upcoming Events" for more information. A ticket

must be purchased to register.

Hank Williams Jr. will be in concert on April 6 at 7 p.m. Thomason said the show has been confirmed but not listed. Those tickets are not on sale yet, so be sure to check back regularly at the Fairgrounds website for updates.

Big Daddy Weave, the fabulously successful contemporary Christian band that recorded the original hit "Redeemed," will perform on Saturday, April 13. Doors open at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are only available online through TICKETFLY. A link to TICKETFLY for this event can be found at the Fairgrounds website under "Upcoming Events." Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$175.

The Ninth Annual Georgia Mountain Egg Fest is scheduled at the Georgia See *Fairgrounds, Page 3A*



Hank Williams Jr. will return to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in 2019.

Photo by Lowell Nicholson

### A Year in Review: Remembering the Top Stories of 2018



Workers installing the new roof on the joint middle/high school building of Towns County Schools in June 2018.

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

It's official – 2019 is here. Happy New Year, Towns Countians!

But wait. Before we move on to new beginnings, let's take a few moments to reflect on some of the bigger local happenings of 2018.

The Towns County School System found itself the subject of a number of headlines last year, having undertaken a huge renovation project at the 40-year-old middle/high school building.

Total costs of the summer 2018 renovations – the first part of a two part modernization project – ran to about \$3.7 million, which included a total roof replacement, brand new zoned HVAC systems, and the installation of new drop ceilings inside the school.

Funding for phase one of the project has been possible thanks to the voter-backed ESPLOST, which has allowed the schools to front the costs of the renovations in order to secure about \$2.5 million in reimbursement grant monies from the state.

Phase two of the middle/high school renovations are still on track to be completed this summer 2019, including rewiring, replacement of the fire alarm system, new doors, flooring, repainting, and maybe even major library and front office renovations.

The school system also added a second school resource officer in 2018, bringing on Sally Tanner from the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Tanner had previous experience as an SRO in Union County, and she joined longtime SRO Donnie Jarrard at the schools.

Towns County Historian

Jerry Taylor, who taught at the schools for more than three decades before retiring, left the Board of Education at the end of December after serving two terms in the elected position.

Tamie Bradley was elected last year in the May 22 Nonpartisan General Election to serve in the seat vacated by Taylor, and she should be sworn in at the upcoming January regular meeting.

The 2018 midterm elections were big news around the state and country, and they were big news in Towns County, as well.

Locally, voters supported a countywide referendum to allow restaurants in the county to apply for liquor licenses that will be regulated by county ordinance to determine the hours and other parameters of liquor by the drink sales, excluding

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### Local man dies three months after wife in Christmas Day crash

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

A Towns County resident died shortly after a motorcycle accident that occurred on Sunnyside Road as he was driving home Christmas evening, according to authorities.

Lawrence Pringle, 63, who lived off Sunnyside Road/Georgia 288 in Hiawassee, sustained massive injuries in the single-vehicle accident, according to authorities.

Pringle succumbed to his injuries while awaiting transport via medical helicopter at a landing zone, according to authorities.

The specific circumstances of the accident were not available at press time, as the Georgia State Patrol was still working to finish a crash report on the incident.

Pringle was the husband of Cynthia Spiriti, also 63,



Towns County resident Lawrence Pringle died following a motorcycle accident that occurred on Sunnyside Road/Georgia 288 on Christmas Day 2018.

Photo by Shawn Jarrard

who died three months earlier on Sept. 26 when her car left the road and struck an empty building not far from Sunnyside Road on U.S. 76, according to authorities.

### Blood drive still taking volunteers at Towns County Public Library

By Mark Smith  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Public Library will host the Towns County Emergency Management Agency's winter blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 3.

Library Manager Debbie Phillips said that Assistant EMA Director Brandon Walls approached her with a request to host the blood drive there because of the central location.

"Here at the library, we're always looking to partner with anyone and actually provide services for the public because we're a public building and a public service," said Phillips. "When he asked if we would like to provide the facility, I said, 'Well, sure!'"

Phillips said the blood drive will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donors can call the library at 706-896-6169 to make an appointment, and walk-ins are welcome.

Walls said that 20 of 24 appointment slots had already been filled, and that they could accommodate up to 30 donors at this blood drive.

Among those who have committed to giving blood are Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw, Towns County 911 Director Marty Roberts, and Walls himself, as well as several Towns County Sheriff's Deputies.



"This time of the year, they're always really low on blood," said Phillips, adding that she has posted an announcement for the blood drive on her library Facebook page, had issued a "One-call" to library patrons, and sent a flyer around to local media.

Phillips and Walls, who happen to be mother and son, both said the American Red Cross is always short on blood and blood donations this time of year.

"The American Red Cross issued an urgent call for blood and platelet donors today in response to some 21,000 fewer donations (nationally) during September and October than required to fulfill hospital needs," according to a recent Red Cross statement. "It has been a difficult fall season for blood donation collection."

"More than 1,000 fewer blood drives hosted by volunteer sponsors and coordinators in September and October, coupled with the widespread cancellation of scheduled drives as a result of

hurricanes Michael and Florence, have led to the current Red Cross blood shortage."

Walls said that more blood platelets imperative for clotting are needed because of an increased demand from cancer patients.

Type O-negative blood is in high demand because it is considered to be a universal blood type and can be used when there is no time for blood typing in an emergency.

Some little-known facts about blood needs and blood supply can be found at RedCrossBlood.org.

Surprisingly, only 38 percent of the population is eligible to give blood or blood platelets.

Blood and blood platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer blood donors.

Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed daily in the U.S., and almost 7,000 units of platelets and 10,000 units of blood plasma are needed daily in the U.S.

Importantly, a single car accident victim can require as much as 100 pints of blood.

Towns County residents are urged to donate blood for the emergency needs of the county and to call the Towns County Public Library to make an appointment for the Jan. 3 blood drive.

### Deputies arrest Hiawassee resident for alleged boat theft

By News Special  
Towns County Herald

On Saturday, Dec. 15, deputies with the Towns County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported theft at a residence located off Georgia 288/Sunnyside Road in Hiawassee.

Upon arrival, deputies made contact with the victim, who reported a boat as having been stolen from his property.

deputies, upon investigating the reported incident, located the stolen boat at a residence off Tay Walk Way, which is also off Sunnyside Road in Hiawassee.

Melvin Linn Masters, 40, of Hiawassee, was arrested and charged with burglary and theft by receiving stolen property.

The case will be forwarded to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



Melvin Masters

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Lake Levels  
Blue Ridge 1,676.74  
Chatuge 1,921.54  
Nottely 1,765.91

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**SPORTS**  
BASKETBALL  
Jan 4 @ Providence 6 PM  
Jan 5 @ Hayesville 6:30 PM

**BOOK SALE**  
at Senior Center

**GED Classes**

Sink your Tree!



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