

# 2018...from Page 1A

Sunday sales altogether.

In Hiwassee, voters approved a referendum to move the start time of local alcohol sales by the drink from 12:30 p.m. to 11 a.m. on Sundays to accommodate extended brunch sales.

Also resulting from the Nov. 6 election, Brian Kemp was determined to be the victor in the drawn-out governor's race.

In the end, Democratic challenger Stacey Abrams — who needed to muster thousands of votes just to force a runoff — acknowledged on Nov. 16 that she didn't have the votes to continue her challenge of Kemp, the majority vote getter.

Kemp's final margin of victory was about 55,000 votes, or 50.22 percent of the statewide vote to Abrams' 48.83 percent.

March 23, 2018, was a sad day in Towns County and beyond, as former Georgia Gov. and U.S. Sen. Zell Miller — a Young Harris native — passed away at the age of 86 at his home in Young Harris.

Politically speaking, Miller was a Southern giant who will be remembered for his many worthwhile contributions to his home state, including the HOPE Scholarship and Georgia's Pre-K Program.

Closer to home and everywhere he went, Miller was known to share a remarkable bond with his wife Shirley, with whom he enjoyed 64 years of marriage.

In the county, Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw spent several months last summer and fall deciding on the best course of action for Towns County in terms of its sign ordinance, ultimately amending the ordinance to exclude billboard signs moving forward.

Local opinion had turned on billboard signs, especially after Bradshaw became aware of the very real potential for an onslaught of billboard signs lining the main thoroughfares of the county and started letting people know.

Bradshaw also saved the county many thousands of dollars last year by making smart business decisions to include investments that yield better returns and switching some county services to better, more cost effective companies.

The city of Hiwassee made the news time and time again in 2018, starting with the swearing in of Liz Ordiales as mayor last January.

Following the early retirement of longtime Hiwassee Mayor Barbara Mathis in 2017, Ordiales filled in at Hiwassee City Hall as mayor pro tem, only to step down from her city council position to successfully run for mayor.

Since taking office, Ordiales has, with assistance from the Hiwassee City Council: located and paid



Zell and Shirley Miller outside of their namesake library at Young Harris College.



Hiwassee Mayor Liz Ordiales immediately after swearing in to office on Jan. 2, 2018. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

off a number of outstanding loans to save the city many thousands of dollars annually moving forward; helped the city to become a PlanFirst Community, which is a practical designation by the Department of Community Affairs that opens the city up for many benefits; completed grant-funded strategic planning with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government; secured a new economic development person, who will start in the position this month; added more than 50 historically excluded properties to the tax rolls; and much more.

Of course, the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds produced plenty of news in 2018, featuring big ticket performances by Gene Watson, Johnny Lee and Ronnie McDowell in early March, followed quickly by the Southern Uprising Tour with Charlie Daniels, the Marshall Tucker Band and Travis Tritt. And as usual, the hits just kept on coming at the Fairgrounds, with the 68th Georgia Mountain Fair and Moonshine Cruz-In in July, the Dailey & Vincent LandFest in September, the Fall Festival and Appalachian Brew, Que

& Stew Festival in October, and the Mountain Country Christmas in Lights to wrap up the year from Thanksgiving through December.

The Blue Ridge Mountain EMC grabbed a number of headlines throughout 2018, including with the election of two new board members — Jack Lance Jr. of Union County and Gayland Trull of Fannin County — and the re-election of Roy Perren out of Towns County.

Also of note, BRMEMC General Manager Jeremy Nelms and other local power companies pushed back against the planned Tennessee Valley Authority rate increase that went through last August, prompting a visit by TVA President Bill Johnson to the EMC's annual meeting in September, where he sought to explain TVA's financial position to members.

And who could forget the four-day 2018 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship that occurred in September, featuring a field of 50 bass anglers and a nationally televised event with total prizes worth \$1 million?

All in all, 2018 was definitely one for the record books in Towns County.

# Fairgrounds...from Page 1A

Mountain Fairgrounds for Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19, and will feature cooks and tasters from all over the United States and Canada. Tickets went on sale Jan. 1.

Gene Watson, country music performer extraordinaire, will perform at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, June 1, at 7 p.m. Tickets will go on sale on April 12: Level 1 - \$39, Level 2 - \$29.

The Happy Together Tour event will be at the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, June 8, at 7 p.m. Thomason said that six groups will each perform half hour sets. Tickets will go on sale April 5, with all seats being \$47.

The six groups are The Turtles, Chuck Negron formerly of Three Dog Night, Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, the Buckingham's, the Classics IV and The Cowsills.

The 2019 Georgia Mountain Moonshine Cruz-In will return to the Fairgrounds on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 11 through July 13.

The 2019 Georgia Mountain Fair will run at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds from Friday, July 19, through Saturday, July 27.

The 2019 Dailey & Vincent Landfest will also be returning and will run from Thursday, Sept. 12, through Saturday, Sept. 14. The Landfest will feature nine acts at the Anderson Music Hall.

The Landfest performers will include Dailey & Vincent, The Oak Ridge Boys, The Bellamy Brothers, Josh Turner, Flat Lonesome, The Malpass Brothers, Terry Baucom & The Dukes of Drive, The Primitive Quartet and The Chuck Wagon Gang.

"Tickets are on sale, and we've already sold over 600 three-day reserve seats for that, so I'm sure it's going to probably sell out again," said Thomason. "So, if you're wanting to come to that show, you need to make plans to get your tickets."

There are three-day reserve tickets, three-day

general admission tickets, two-day general admission tickets and one-day general admission tickets, she said. Tickets are available online at the Fairgrounds website.

The 2019 Georgia Mountain Fall Festival will run at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds from Friday, Oct. 11, through Saturday, Oct. 19.

The 2019 Appalachian Brew, Que and Stew Festival will be on Saturday, Oct. 26.

And rounding out the year, the 2019 Mountain Country Christmas Lights will again adorn the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Check the website for dates.

"We're working on several other things," said Thomason, who went on to mention the Southern Uprising Tour, Travis Tritt and The Cadillac Three.

"Get your tickets early and make your camping reservations early," said Thomason. "We're going to begin Jan. 2 making camping reservations for 2019 for the fairs and festivals and the holiday weekends. If you want to camp, remember Jan. 2."



Three Dog Night performing at the Fairgrounds in 2015 — they will return in 2019. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Apply now for Beta Epsilon Educator Scholarship

The Future Key Woman Educator Scholarship is awarded by Beta Epsilon chapter of Psi State - Georgia of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. This chapter includes members from Fannin, Towns and Union counties. The scholarship is awarded to a female resident of one of these three counties who is a rising junior

or senior at the college or university level in an accredited education program who has demonstrated high academic achievement, leadership experience, involvement in extracurricular activities, community and civic involvement, and a commitment to pursue a degree in education. The 2019 scholarship amount is \$1000.

The deadline for completed application is February 28, 2019 and successful applicants will be notified by April 1, 2019. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The application is available at [www.deltakappagamma.org/GA-betaepsilon/scholarship.htm](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/GA-betaepsilon/scholarship.htm). For more information, please email [be.psi.dkg@gmail.com](mailto:be.psi.dkg@gmail.com).

## ICL Winter 2019 Previews at Young Harris College

The Institute for Continuing Learning (ICL) at Young Harris College offers a wide range of educational opportunities for mature adults who are interested in intellectual stimulation as well as cultural enrichment and shared interests. The winter schedule has 15 different courses, some of which are being offered for the first time.

The Course Previews are Saturday, January 5th at 10:30 a.m. in the Wilson Lecture Hall of the Goolsby Building at Young Harris College. The course instructors will provide a brief overview of their upcoming courses. We will also be nominating and electing ICL officers for 2019.

For more information please visit [www.iclyhc.org](http://www.iclyhc.org) for registration and detailed course information or call 706-379-5194 and leave a message or send an email to [icl@yhc.edu](mailto:icl@yhc.edu). You can also find us on Facebook as "ICL At YHC".

Winter Birding - Class limit 15: Tom Striker, Monday, January 14 - February 18, 6 Sessions, 10:10 AM - 12:10 PM.

Industrial Versus Sustainable Agriculture - Brenda Hull, 4 Sessions, Monday and Wednesday, January 14, 16, 21, 23, 1:10 PM - 3:10 PM.

United States Presidents - Part II - Bob Short, 6 Sessions, Monday, January 14 - February 18, 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM.

History of Towns County - Jerry Taylor, 4 sessions, Tuesday, January 15 - February 5, 10:10 AM - 12:10 PM.

Zentangle - Kaye Teronde, 3 sessions, Tuesday, January 15 - January 29, 1:10 PM - 3:10 PM.

Getting To Know Your Camera & Basic Photography - Class limit 12: Stephan



Bob Short teaches "United States Presidents - Part II"

Banakas, 6 Sessions, Tuesday, January 15 - February 19, 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM.

Gentle Yoga - Pat Tomczyk, 4 Sessions, Tuesday, January 15 - February 5, 3 PM - 5 PM. Note: Classes will be held at the New Towns County Recreational Center.

Foundation Training - Class limit 15: Julie Shaw, 4 Sessions, Wednesday, January 16 - February 6, 1:10 PM - 3:10 PM. Note: Classes will be held at the New Towns County Recreational Center.

Picking Up The Pieces - Moving On After A Significant Loss - Ray Ashurst, 6 Sessions, Wednesday, January 16 - February 20, 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM.

Germs vs. Man: Battling Epidemics Through Time - Jill Long and Sheila Rodgers, 4 sessions, Thursday, January 17 - February 7, 10:10 AM - 12:10 PM.

My Family: My Self - Scotty Hargrove, 6 Sessions, Thursday, January 17 - Febru-

ary 21, 1:10 PM - 3:10 PM.

What Is Mah-Jongg? - Class limit 20: Ann Powell, 6 Sessions, Friday, January 18 - February 22, 1:10 PM - 3:10 PM. Note: Classes will be held at the New Towns County Recreational Center.

Painting A Portrait: Neel and Freud - Class limit 10: Jake Bennett, 6 Sessions, Friday, January 18 - February 22, 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM. Classes will be held at YHC Campus Gate Gallery.

Techniques of Modern Short Stories - Janice Moore, 3 Sessions, Wednesday, January 30 - February 13, 1:10 PM - 3:10 PM.

Classical Journeys - Intro to French and Italian Wine - Class limit 12: Ed Kountz, 4 sessions, Thursday, January 31 - February 21, 3 PM - 4:45 PM. Note: Classes will be held at the Bacchus Wine Shoppe, 365 N. Main Street, Hiwassee, GA. NTJan2,27/CA