

Towns County Herald

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Ivy Phillips defends Georgia Mountain Fiddle Queen title

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

Ivy Phillips has done it again – for the second year in a row, she has earned the title of Georgia Mountain Fiddle Queen in Georgia's Official State Champion Fiddlers' Convention at Anderson Music Hall.

Plenty of people have won the top title multiple times since the convention started many decades ago. But what Phillips accomplished on Oct. 20 – achieving back-to-back wins – has only been done once before, by Randy Howard in the early 1980s.

"I've had so much fun, this is one of my favorite contests," said Phillips, just before winning the coveted Fiddle Queen title. "I loved all the people that come here and

getting to make new friends." To earn her title, the 16-year-old fiddler from Chapmansboro, Tennessee, first had to take top honors in the Junior Fiddler category before moving on to challenge the winner of the Senior Fiddler division.

That put her in the final round against Marcia Denton, who won the Senior Fiddler contest that Saturday following her terrific performances of "Cattle in the Cane" and "Yellow Rose Waltz."

Phillips won the coin toss and elected for Denton to go first in the fiddle-off for state champion.

For her part, Denton performed "I Don't Love Nobody," after which Phillips played "Fiddle Patch," which is the first song she ever competed with at the Fiddlers' Convention several years ago.

No matter what, the 2018 Fiddlers' Convention was primed to end with the coronation of a queen, and when the judges finished scoring and all the dust had settled, that queen was Ivy Phillips.

All told, Phillips did well in several categories over the two days of competition on Friday, Oct. 19, and Saturday, Oct. 20.

Alongside winning Junior Fiddler and becoming the 2018 Fiddle Queen, she also earned state titles in mandolin, dobro and buck dancing.

Judges for the 2018 Fiddlers' Convention were Red Henry, Sharon Bounds, Jim Buchanan and Mike Johnson.

"You want to listen for how clean the musicians play, the clarity, tone – you want them to play some of the basic, but yet, you want to hear their improvisation as well," said

Bounds, a longtime friend of event emcee Barry Palmer and former contestant at the Georgia Fiddlers' Convention.

As a treat for guests during the competition, the judges and Palmer teamed up for a powerful performance of "Orange Blossom Special" and other songs.

Palmer took over Fiddlers' Convention hosting duties from Fiddlin' Howard Cunningham about six years ago, though he's officially been a part of the Georgia Mountain Fair in one capacity or another for 42 years.

"Things went great this year," said Palmer, who thrives on making sure people have a good time at the Fairgrounds. "We had enough people to cover the categories. We could have used a bigger audience, but it rained, and when it rains, they



Ivy Phillips won a fiddle-off to earn the title of Georgia Fiddle Queen for the second year in a row on Saturday, Oct. 20. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

GDOT to close Crooked Creek Road at SR 66 on Oct. 31

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, the Georgia Department of Transportation will close the Crooked Creek Road entrance at SR 66 in Young Harris for a period of 120 days.

The reason for the road closure is to complete construction of the new Brasstown Creek Bridge.

Previously, King Cove Road and Gumlog Road across from Crooked Creek Road were closed for nearly seven months due to construction, and those roads recently reopened on Oct. 5.

Residents who live on Crooked Creek Road and regularly use SR 66 will be required to use SR 17 as a detour to either North Carolina or SR 515/U.S. 76.

Similarly, people who use Crooked Creek Road, aka SR 339, as a detour around Young Harris will need to take SR 66 all the way into Young Harris and travel SR 515 across Swanson Mountain.



A GDOT roadside setup alerting motorists to the impending closure of Crooked Creek Road at SR 66. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

Come Oct. 31, both north and southbound traffic on SR 66 will begin to utilize the newly constructed bridge.

"Once we shift over to the new bridge, we'll close State Route 339, and we will remove the old bridge," said Daniel Freeman, GDOT project manager. "Once we get

the old bridge tore out, we will construct 10-feet onto the new bridge.

"And once that's constructed, we'll open the road up the way it's going to be from now on."

Construction on this part of the project is expected to

Courthouse to host Halloween event away from busy street



A view from a past Halloween near Hiwassee City Hall. This year's Halloween festivities will take place on the porch of the Towns County Courthouse.

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

It's that special time of year again, when the air cools down and the leaves go from green to a firestorm of reds, yellows and oranges, and along

with these changes comes Halloween.

Halloween in the North Georgia Mountains is a fun time of year for kids and adults alike, though it's definitely the kids who get the most out of it, with all of their costumes and candy spoils.

And as always, a big Halloween event is planned in Hiwassee this year, with a new and safer twist.

"In past years, we've always had the businesses and whoever wanted to have candy to give away to the kids line

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Bradshaw says future billboards are out in amended ordinance

By Jarrett Whitener
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw held a first reading of the county's amended sign ordinance in his Tuesday, Oct. 16, regular meeting.

The ordinance has been under revision since the commissioner enacted a sign permit moratorium on July 17, and since then, the commissioner has held several public meetings on the ordinance.

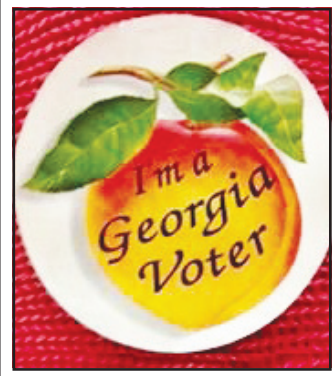
Now that the ordinance is getting ready for final adoption, the commissioner has adopted,



Towns County Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw in his Oct. 16 regular county meeting, with County Attorney Robb Kiker. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Five ballot initiatives aim to amend state constitution

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor



The Official General Election Ballot for the state of Georgia features five proposed amendments to the Georgia

Constitution, and voters will be directly responsible for deciding whether or not these amendments pass or fail at the ballot boxes.

With General Election early voting well underway and Election Day rapidly approaching, here's a look at the proposed constitutional amendments and what they mean.

Amendment 1
Ballot Title: "Creates the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and parks."

Amendment 1 is asking voters whether or not they support setting aside 80 percent of existing sales taxes on sporting goods for conservation efforts. If passed, the measure is expected to raise \$200 million over the next 10 years,

which will likely be used for the purchase and/or preservation of Georgia wildlands.

Amendment 2
Ballot Title: "Creates a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency, and promote predictable judicial outcomes."

As it states, Amendment 2 would lead to the creation of a statewide court system dedicated

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Indian Raider Band does well at Blue Ridge festival

News Special
Towns County Herald



More than 2,000 marching band members from nearly two dozen high school bands participated in the Blue Ridge Marching Band Festival on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Bands ranged in size from approximately 40 members to more than 150 members at the festival, which took place at Fannin County High School.

The Towns County Indian Raider Band performed their show "Mantras to Live By," which includes the songs "Let It Be," "Hakuna Matata" and "Keep Your Hands to Yourself."

Drum Major Mackie Wallace received a superior rating, and the Band, Color Guard and Percussion received excellent ratings.

Within the 1A Division, our Indians took home additional trophies for the Percussion, coming in Third Place; Color Guard in Second Place; and Drum Major, Second Place.



Members of the 2018 Towns County Indian Raider Band at the Blue Ridge Marching Band Festival on Oct. 13.

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Blue Ridge 1,672.29
Chatuge 1,919.39
Nottely 1,764.36



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FOOTBALL
Friday, Oct. 26
@ Lakeview
7:30 PM

Appalachian
Brew, Que &
Stew Festival

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State of the
Water

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Run for
Recovery
5K

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