

Miller...from Page 1A

“Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) has provided more than \$9.4 billion of financial assistance for educational programs beyond high school,” per the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

Another of Miller’s great accomplishments is Georgia’s Pre-K Program, also instituted during his time as governor.

Since its inception, the program has appropriated more than \$5 billion “to send more than 1.6 million 4-year-olds to Pre-K programs throughout the state,” per the Georgia Lottery for Education.

Taken together, the Hope Scholarship and Georgia’s Pre-K Program “were his proudest achievements in his 46-year career in public service,” per the Miller family.

Miller grew up in the North Georgia Mountains, and he graduated from Young Harris College in 1951.

In 1953, he began his lifetime pursuit of service to others by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps, and a year later, he married the love of his life, Shirley Carver, in 1954.



Photo by Shawn Jarrard
Zell’s grandson Bryan Miller giving a press briefing on behalf of the family on Friday, March 23.

Zell and Shirley enjoyed 64 years of marriage and had two sons.

Miller served in the Marine Corps until 1956, and in 1958, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a master’s degree in history.

After graduation from UGA, he returned to Young Harris College to begin a career as an educator.

Miller commenced his political career as mayor of Young Harris, the same office his mother Birdie once held, and he served there from 1959 to 1960.

Subsequently, he won election to the Georgia Senate

and served from 1961 to 1964, and later, he became the longest serving lieutenant governor in Georgia history with his service of 16 years from 1975 to 1991.

He went on to become Georgia’s 79th governor, serving from 1991 to 1999, and from 2000 to 2005, Miller proudly represented his home state of Georgia in the U.S. Senate.

Miller’s full obituary can be read inside this newspaper, and for more information on the life and times of Zell Miller, visit MillerFoundation.com or follow #ZellMillerLegacy.

Concert...from Page 1A

some good music out here tonight,” said Doug Gray, lead singer of The Marshall Tucker Band, before the show. “It will be cool because I never do the same thing twice. I’ll change it from out here to in there. It’s all about picking out the right song for the right to time.”

Added Gray: “Charlie’s going to be good, we played with him the other night. Travis was good, everybody was fine, and everybody gets along good together. As you can see, everybody laughing back here, that makes for a good show.”

The Marshall Tucker Band started performing 47 years ago, and over the many years, the band has gained quite a fan base.

“I’ll be 70 in a couple of months, and I’m satisfied not only with our career, but everything else. It’s pleasant,” said Gray. “People are around, and they’re interested in not only the band and not just me, but they’re interested with the bands that we play with and how we all interact.”

Being a Vietnam Veteran, Gray remembered coming home from the war, finishing his military career stateside, and then starting the band, and later performing for the troops in Iraq.

“We started the band shortly after coming home from the war, and it was an honor to go out to Iraq and play for those guys and gals before they got them in the hole,” said Gray.

When the show started, The Marshall Tucker Band was first to take the stage, playing some of the old favorites, “Running Like the Wind” and “Can’t You See.”

Charlie Daniels performed next, and he got a standing ovation to welcome him to the stage.

Playing many of the band’s hit songs, Charlie Daniels once again brought the crowd to their feet during his performance, leading them in the Pledge of Allegiance before dedicating the song “In America” to those who have served, are serving and who are about to serve their country.

Daniels calmed the crowd with the song “How Great Thou Art,” before bringing everyone inside and out to their feet once more by closing the show with “The Devil Went Down to Georgia.”

The crowd got plenty of exercise that night, as fans leapt



Photo by Mark Novak
Travis Tritt rocking out inside the Anderson Music Hall on Saturday, March 24.



Photo by Mark Novak
Doug Gray, lead singer of the Marshall Tucker Band, belting it out at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds for the Southern Uprising Tour.

to their feet again during Travis Tritt’s opening salvo. “Put Some Drive in Your Country,” which he followed up with “Move It On Over.”

“It’s great to be back in my home state of Georgia, and great to be in Hiawassee,” said Tritt. “We have got a whole bunch, and I mean a whole bunch of music, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.”

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds General Manager Hilda Thomason stayed on top of the show and concession stands all night, making sure everything went smoothly.

“The concert sold out inside and out and was a huge boost to tourism for the North Georgia Mountains,” said Thomason. “Everyone had a great time. We hope to book the Southern Uprising Tour again soon. We could have sold out another show with everyone that wanted tickets.”

Added Thomason: “The artists were great to work with, and thank you to all the volunteers and staff.”

The Towns County Sheriff’s Office provided security for the concerts, and volunteers with the Citizen Law Enforcement Academy helped

the sheriff’s office during the event.

“Everything went very smoothly,” said TCSO Sheriff Chris Clinton. “We always operate under an incident action plan to ensure the safety of all, and each worker knows their assignment.”

“We are very blessed to have a growing number of CLEA volunteers that assist with these and other events. These volunteers are a force multiplier and greatly increase our efficiency at no cost to our taxpayers.”

Sheriff Clinton has not had any serious issues at these events in the past, however, being prepared is very important to the safety of the community.

“We are prepared and hopefully better able to prevent any issues with all the combined efforts of everyone in involved,” said Clinton.

Tickets are still available for upcoming shows at the fairgrounds, including Jeremy Camp Contemporary Christian Concert on April 27 and Montgomery Gentry on April 28.

Webb...from Page 1A

Each candidate must undergo 18 weeks total training and 52 weeks of field training.

There are 43 counties without game wardens right now, and the department is looking to hire additional game wardens soon.

“We have 17 in the academy right now,” said Webb. “We are looking to hire 23 more within the next two years.”

Game wardens not only protect the lakes, they enforce the laws on them as well.

“Over 33,000 vessels we checked last year statewide,” said Webb. “(We had) 118 BUI’s, boating under the influence, and over 4,000 boating violations. You can ask the probate judge here, I write more warnings than I do citations. I always have, ever

since I got up here ... We want folks to be safe.”

The department also has scanning units and robots called ROV, to go down into the water to find drowning victims.

“If we have a drowning, we can put the side scans out and find the body,” said Webb. “The ROV can go down to help retrieve the body for the family.”

Warden Webb’s list of duties runs the gamut, so you never know where or when he may show up next.

“A lot of us take for granted the stuff they do,” said Towns County Sole County Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw of Georgia DNR. “He lays his life on the line to protect the law, protect game and fish, and to protect us every day.”

Added Bradshaw: “In the hunting world and the fishing world, you better obey the law because they know David Webb will get you. I’m not saying he’s going to write you a ticket, but he will catch you.”

Georgia DNR also runs regular educational programs that encourage people to get outdoors. For a list of programs, visit GADNR.org.



Community Easter Egg Hunt 2018

2018 Towns County Recreation Department Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31st at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. The hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m!

All boys and girls ages 4 - 9 are invited to come out and enjoy the hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on the recreation ball fields located off of U.S. Hwy. 76. Entrance to

the ball field complex will be through the upper gate located near the Georgia Mountain Fair Office.

We will have over 2,500 eggs, including special prize eggs! There will be two age groups (4 - 6) Field 3 and (7 - 9) Field 2.

The hunt is free, just bring a basket! For more information contact us at 706-896-2600!

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