

# Towns County Herald

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## Packaged liquor to make ballot in Hiawassee elections

### Public hearing on townhomes set for June 17

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Editor

Come November, Hiawassee voters will be deciding the fate of packaged liquor sales within city limits, as City Council members unanimously decided in their June 1 regular meeting to put the question before the people in the upcoming 2021 Municipal Elections.

Several attempts to get package sales on the ballot have failed in recent years due to a 35% of the electorate petition requirement in state law. This year, however, the Georgia

General Assembly changed the law to make the process easier.

According to Senate Bill 145, a referendum may now be called via "ordinance or resolution from the governing authority of any municipality or county," or by "written petition containing the signatures of at least 20% of the registered and qualified voters of any municipality or county."

Specifically, the ballot initiative will read: "Shall the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits be approved?"

The resolution adopted in



The Hiawassee City Council is Jay Chastain Jr., Nancy Noblet, Patsy Owens, Amy Barrett and Anne Mitchell, with Mayor Liz Ordiales. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

the June 1 meeting says that "the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hiawassee believe that the city voters should have the opportunity to vote ... on the question of authorizing the package sale of distilled

spirits." "No means we have to keep going to Hayesville (North Carolina)," Councilwoman Anne Mitchell said.

Mayor Liz Ordiales pointed out that

regulations are already in place in the city's Alcohol Ordinance governing the establishment of package stores if the referendum passes, meaning the city will be ready to go at that time, with a significant portion of tax

revenues to benefit the city.

In terms of old business, the public hearing for the Planning and Development Ordinance change will take place on June 17 at 6 p.m. at the

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## Music Hall welcomes Atlanta Rhythm Section, Orleans



Atlanta Rhythm Section played from their classic stable of hits Saturday night, including "So Into You," "Spooky," "Champaign Jam" and more. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Guests of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds were treated to a double feature on Saturday, June 5, with Orleans and the Atlanta Rhythm Section performing at Anderson Music Hall.

The concert brought in hundreds of people who cheered on the two bands, giving them a warm mountain welcome.

Orleans took the stage first, playing a mixture of original songs and covers. Vee Kellerman of North Carolina came to the show just to see Orleans, which has been one of her favorite bands for as long as she can remember.

"I do like the Atlanta Rhythm Section, but Orleans is what I came here for," Kellerman said. "I haven't heard them live in a very long time. I actually haven't heard anyone live in a very long

time. "Being here was an experience and I'm glad I came. I almost didn't because I wasn't sure if the COVID stuff would cancel it. The music I remember growing up, and I had a blast hearing them."

When Atlanta Rhythm Section took the stage, the crowd went wild and started dancing straightaway to the opening song.

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## Residents continue to support Hiawassee Friday Night Market

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The second Hiawassee Night Market of the season took place on Friday, June 4, bringing in more guests than the opening event from May.

This event takes place on the first Friday of each month and features live music, food, and vendors to give people something to do with their neighbors on the Town Square.

Vendor Yvonne Miller, a Silver native, sold her scented candles at the market in May and June, and she was happy to announce that she'd become a popular stop among guests.

"I have been (in the U.S.)



The First Friday market was, yet again, an incredible success for the City of Hiawassee, now in its second year. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

for 23 years, lived in Atlanta, and once the kids went to college, we decided to move up here permanently," Miller said. "We love it up here, and

the great thing about Hiawassee is that it reminds us of Scotland. The mountains and lake are very similar.

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## TCSO makes arrest in May 9 domestic-related shooting

News Special  
Towns County Herald

The Towns County Sheriff's Office has arrested Joshua Clarke Nelson in connection with a domestic-related shooting that occurred last month in the Hall Creek Road Community.

Nelson was released from a local hospital last week after sustaining a gunshot wound and is being held without bond in the Towns County Jail on charges of criminal attempt to commit aggravated assault,

second-degree criminal damage to property, and first-degree burglary.

The shooting that occurred the afternoon of Sunday, May 9, initially saw Nelson enter the hospital in critical condition before becoming well enough to be released to the custody of the Sheriff's Office.

Assisting in the case is the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Region 8 Investigative Office.



Joshua Clarke Nelson

## Farmers Market opens season with produce, good cheer

By Jarrett Whitener  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Farmers Market excitedly opened its 2021 season on Saturday, June 5, welcoming customers, vendors and fresh produce alike.

Market Manager Joan Crothers believes this will be a banner year for the market because of the upward trend in attendance for public events lately.

"We are looking forward

to the best we have ever had," Crothers said. "I'm sure it will be. I think our population has almost doubled. Most of the vendors were here before I got here, and everyone is ready to go."

Vendor Steve Hutchison of Papa Steve's Jams, Huchies & More is ready for his third year at the market and is expanding his selection of products and canned goods.

"This is the first year that I have made peach jelly," Hutchison said. "I take the

peaches and boil them and peel them and juice them for my jelly. The strawberries come out of Hayesville (North Carolina), and they are pretty popular."

"The pecans I have actually come out of my yard in Hampton. I have pecan trees down there. I am just expanding on and on."

New to the market this year is Jolene Hendrix, who sells honey and honey-infused products as part of her business, "The Honey Hustle."

See Farmers Market, Page 5A



Farmers Market Manager Joan Crothers enthusiastically greeted a youngster at the June 5 opening day of the 2021 market season. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

## Movers and Shakers talk fire safety in weekly meeting



L-R: Michael Borkman, Michael Courey, Frank Riley and William "Scotty" Scott headlined the June 4 meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers. Photo by Allison Youngblood

By Allison Youngblood  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

The Towns County Movers and Shakers discussed fire safety in their June 4 weekly meeting, welcoming Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council Executive Director Frank Riley and Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition President Michael Courey.

Together, the two men outlined the goals of the local Firewise Coalition and their commitment to providing quality fire safety education in and around mountain homes using the nonprofit Firewise

organization, as wildfire is a particularly pressing issue in heavily forested North Georgia.

Identifying as a Firewise Community is no small feat, requiring the organization of at least 8 single-family dwellings contributing one service hour per dwelling per year, or the monetary equivalent, toward safety improvements and getting an online application approved.

Georgia has 115 Firewise Communities, standing at fifth in the United States, with Towns County serving as a model for the nation and being a major

contributor toward Georgia's success with 23 of those 115 qualified communities.

For his efforts in preventing wildfires, Riley has been awarded the Silver Smokey Bear Award in 2021, an honor for which he credits the vast team of people who help him do his job.

The Silver Smokey Bear Award is a nationally recognized achievement that acknowledges the winner as having made vast improvements in a multi-state region, and it was awarded to just two people nationwide this year.

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# Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

**Please join us on Tuesday, June 15** at 4:30 p.m. for a ribbon cutting celebrating Artworks Gallery & Gifts' new location at 243 Big Sky Drive.

**Also celebrating a ribbon cutting in June will be Crane Creek Vineyards** at their new tasting room location on Wednesday, June 30 at 4:30. Crane Creek is located at 916 Crane Creek Road in Young Harris.



**Fantastic ribbon cutting at Christian Financial Ministries** on Thursday, June 3. A big crowd turned out to support this new business which will be providing Bible-based financial coaching to learn, apply, and pass along what God says about our money. Christian Financial Ministries will be offering specialty seminars and workshops, counseling services, video teaching blogs and financial coaching, in-home services for senior citizens, personal income tax preparation and the formation of the Chatuge Community Prayer Force. For more information, contact Dr. Bob Lauder at 678-386-2640 or visit [www.christianfinancialministries.org](http://www.christianfinancialministries.org).

**Deaf Man Vinyl** - This small town, independent record store salutes the past when tunes were heard by spinning vinyl! Congratulations to Steve and Jackie Smith for bringing back the best way to listen to music - on a turntable from a vinyl recording. This record shop (that offers a lot more than just records and albums) is located in McCaysville, GA at 100 Blue Ridge Dr., #109. You can order from their great selection of vinyl, turntables and merchandise online or in person. Visit [www.deafmanvinyl.com](http://www.deafmanvinyl.com) or call 706-455-7629.

**Made in Georgia Festival** - Mark your calendar for June 26 & 27 for the Made in Georgia Festival held each year at the Towns County Recreation & Conference Center located at 150 Foster Park Road in Young Harris. This inside festival features vendors from all over the state of Georgia who grow, sew, craft, brew, bake, etc. products that are made in Georgia. Of the 75 vendors that have

## Hiawassee...from Page 1A

Towns County Civic Center. A final discussion will be had in the June 28 work session, with a second reading and adoption at the July 6 city meeting.

The initial public hearing date was changed from June 1 to June 17 to allow for more public notice to be provided via advertisement in the Towns County Herald legal organ.

Much discussion has taken place among council members and the public since the change was introduced in the March 29 work session, including in the April 26 work session, the May 4 regular meeting during which a first reading took place, and the May 24 work session.

Many concerns have been expressed over the change, which is being made to accommodate a project that will bring in 16 townhomes next to Georgia Vision Center, though the change to increase the density limit for such housing will apply to all developments

moving forward.

Some concerns expressed by the public include traffic congestion and safety, local control over future development, and the potential use of such developments as rentals or VRBO-type places, though the council feels the change may usher in much needed affordable housing to the city.

In other news, people can check out recently completed plans for the Paris Buildings, which the city is working to develop into the "Paris Business Center" in Downtown Hiawassee.

The plans have been posted in the windows of the Paris Buildings along Main Street, to include a rooftop bar, restaurant, multiple storefronts, and a "Business Incubator" program to help motivated people come up with "a solid business plan" to implement in one of the storefronts.

"And when they do very

well, they can either stay there and pay us more money, or they can go somewhere else and we can start all over again with a new business with a solid plan to help them do well," Ordiales said.

Also in the June 1 meeting, the city held its second reading and adoption of the 2021-22 budget. The first reading occurred in the May 4 regular meeting followed by a public hearing with no comments from the public in the May 24 work session.

"Basically, nothing drastic, nothing different, just the same old budget, the same old stuff - water, sewer, water treatment, general," Ordiales said May 24.

Interested parties may view all of the above meetings on the City of Hiawassee Facebook page, as they are still being livestreamed even though the public is now invited to attend meetings in person.

## Farmers Market...from Page 1A

"We do local honey, flavored creamed honey, lotion bars, and other stuff," Hendrix said. "We are part-time residents. My husband is a retired Army veteran, and he is the beekeeper. We live out there in an area called The Pasture, and that is where we have our hives.

"My husband was a beekeeper as a kid growing up in Colorado. After he retired from the Army in 2017, he needed a hobby. It has gone from just a hobby to a cottage industry. He does all the beekeeping, and I do the extracting and help with the sales."

Hendrix said she will be at the market every other Saturday, and they also offer home deliveries that can be purchased at [TheHoneyHustle.com](http://TheHoneyHustle.com).

Key market vendor Sheleila O'Neal plans on having various produce this year, with the early year vegetables ready to go.

"We have a little of everything," O'Neal said. "We



**Jolene Hendrix is new to the Farmers Market this year, and she's excited about selling her homegrown honey products from The Honey Hustle.**

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

have all of the early vegetables that are already here. It will be a few more weeks before we have tomatoes. We also added a new table that I put mixes on.

"My brother and sister-in-law gave me a big box full of jars for Christmas. So, I thought I would do some mixes, and

I just did it to try it out. The recipes are on the jars, and we will see how they go."

With all the excitement of the market reopening for the year, O'Neal said she is confident 2021 will be terrific as people return in greater numbers to public life.

"People are getting back out and tired of being inside, and you can see that everywhere you go," O'Neal said. "We will just have to see, but I think it will be a good one."

## Gurley named to LaGrange VPAA List

Jordyn Gurley of Young Harris, GA, was recently named to the LaGrange College Vice President of Academic Affairs' List for the Spring semester. To be eligible for this honor, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.6 while taking a minimum course load of 12 hours.

## VFW Fish Fry

Another new season has begun for us at VFW Post 7807 here in Hiawassee, we hope you will come and enjoy our Fish Fry.

We are open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Remember it's all you can eat for just \$10 and no tax no tip plus it's the best fish in town!

been accepted to the Festival there are a lot of favorites returning as well as several new vendors. Classes by Olivia Rader of the Georgia Grown cooking team will be held both days of the event. We will also be offering an Introduction to Beekeeping Class which will include a look at all the necessary equipment needed for this skill. Carlton Chamblin is back again this year to teach us all more about shrubs and the delicious drinks that can be mixed using them and Buster Brown of Georgia Mountain Falconry will be on hand to teach us about his passion for birds of prey. And, joining us again will be the Georgia Dairy Association's Mobile Dairy Classroom. Cost to attend the festival is \$5 for adults and children over the age of 14 or purchase a ticket for the entire weekend for \$7. A full schedule of classes will be posted in an upcoming issue of this newspaper so stay tuned! And, please come out and support these vendors who were unable to show and sell their products in 2020 because of the pandemic. The Made in Georgia Festival will be one of the first events they've been able to participate in since March of 2020. For more information visit [bit.ly/MadeInGeorgiaFestival](http://bit.ly/MadeInGeorgiaFestival) or call 706-896-4966. This event is sponsored by the Towns County CVB, City of Hiawassee, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and The Retreat at Hiawassee River.

**Lake Chatuge Boat Parade** - it's time to think about your red, white and blue boat decorations! This year's boat parade will be on Saturday, July 3 at 10:30 a.m. Prizes will again be awarded for the Most Creatively Decorated Boat and the Most Red, White and Blue Boat. Registration must be completed prior to the day of the parade (deadline to register is Friday, July 2 at 12 noon). Numbers will be issued to all registrants at the Lake Chatuge Chamber office located at 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, GA 30582. (Numbers must be picked up by Friday, July 2 at 12 noon.)

**Lake Chatuge Classic Golf Tournament** - Calling all golfers! We've got another great tournament planned for Friday, July 9 at Brasstown Valley Resort. Four-person select shot, longest drive, closest to the pin, prizes and refreshments. And, of course, hole-in-one on #17 wins a car! Register your team now by calling the Lake Chatuge Chamber at 706-896-4966. Sponsorship opportunities also available.

**If you are a Facebook user**, stay up on community news by liking Lake Chatuge Chamber and Community page. Updated information is shared regarding events, area businesses, "feel good" stories and much more about the Lake Chatuge community.

Thanks to all our members for their continued support! Additionally, we'd like to thank these Platinum and Gold Members: PLATINUM MEMBERS: Blue Ridge Mountain EMC; Century 21 Black Bear Realty; Lake Chatuge Lodge; Mountain Realty; RE/MAX Hiawassee EMC; The Retreat at Hiawassee River; United Community Bank; Windstream Communications. GOLD MEMBERS: Brasstown Manor; Brasstown Valley Resort & Spa; Brother's Restaurant at Willow Ranch; Chatuge Regional Hospital; Chick-fil-A of Blairsville; Homestead Hospice; Hughes Accounting; Mahan Family Chiropractic; Northeast GA Health System; Peach State Federal Credit Union; Sanre Organic Skin-food; South State Bank; Tri-County Office Supply, and, Young Harris College. For information on becoming a member of the Towns County Chamber, visit [www.golakechatuge.com](http://www.golakechatuge.com) or call Candace at (706) 896-4966.

## The Georgia Mountain Writers Club May 2021 meeting



(L-R): Jean Nethery, Sylvia Turnage, James F. Davis, K.D. Bloodworth, Mary Cone, Ruth Ann Cole, Alan Cone, and Nadine Justice

The Georgia Mountain Writers Club held their monthly meeting on May 19, 2021, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Suggested topics for May were Mother's Day, Memorial Day, When Good People do Bad Things (or vice versa), and True Confessions. Jackie Volk began with a piece incorporating three of the four topics for the month. She composed a letter, which was both a tribute and a series of confessions to her mother, in which she acknowledged her misdeeds were hard to hide in the small town where she grew up.

Jean Nethery's writing, "Before and After the Pandemic," described the 11-hour trip from her home in Florida to her home in Georgia during the height of the lockdown, summed up lessons learned during the last 15 months, and compared the freedom of finally receiving a vaccine to what it felt when she turned 21.

Dawn Bloodworth used "When Good People do Bad Things" as a starting point for "From the Journal of Frank Sawyer." In the winter of 1930 in Marquette, Michigan, Frank and Mary are near starvation when Frank decided to poach a deer. Certain he's going to jail when Sheriff Swanson arrives at his door by dog-sled, he is shocked when the sheriff sympathizes and adds to their food supply with a gift

of smoked fish.

James F. Davis added to his memoir with "1974 - David Rockefeller, Most Powerful Man in the World at That Time?" After meeting and talking with Mr. Rockefeller one day, James discovered Rockefeller's rigid schedule, his lack of control over much of his life, and his golden cage existence was not what James wanted for himself.

Nadine Justice read from her published book "I'm a Coal Miner's Daughter...But I Can't Sing" about her relationship with her Queen of Control, abusive, fun-loving, fanatically religious, wine making, hypochondriac mother, Nell Ruth. Near the end of her mother's life, Nadine finally heard the praise she had been seeking when she overheard a phone conversation in which Nell Ruth said, about her daughter's interior design skills, "Nadine really knows her onions!"

Mary Cone wrote a moving remembrance - "Memorial Day 2021" - about several USA soldiers who died in the Vietnam conflict. She had personally known these men through connections to people in her hometown, including one who left behind a 16-year-old widow.

Alan Cone's piece recalled Big Dumb Corporate Initiatives and Total Quality Management (TQM) of the 1980s and 90s. Alan's main

character, Rodney Perrell, believed in training employees in all the latest business concepts until he took a Lie Detection seminar. He trained his colleagues to watch each other's body language. The disastrous result was the elimination of Rod's job and the loss of his wife and dog.

Sylvia Dyer Turnage began with a spring poem from her published book "Mountain Gold: A Treasury of Poetry of the Hill" and followed up with a short story entitled "The Premonition." Though based on a true story of a business trip to New Orleans, a warning from her young son, and a Mississippi River ferry accident, Sylvia created a dramatic, fictional ending.

Our next meeting will be held in The Conference Room (across from the office) at St. Francis of Assisi on June 16, at 10 AM. Suggested writing inspirations are: June Weddings; the warning "If you do that, you're gonna get a whumping"; or the inclusion of the quote, "This needs to be cleaned, the police will be here any minute."

Our meetings are open to all who enjoy writing and would like a place to share it with others. Please come and bring whatever you would like to read. Limit your contribution to five minutes or less so that all have time to contribute.

## Gnarly Fingers at Enchanted Music on the Square

Saturday, June 12 at 7 PM on the Hiawassee Square. Bring your family and friends and the family pet (on a leash please... and with clean up equipment!) Enjoy hot dogs, chips and sodas starting at 6:30 PM sold by our local VFW Post 7807 Auxiliary.

Gnarly Fingers is a five piece acoustic band that specializes in three and four part harmony.

"The Gnarlies" as they're known to their fans, have been entertaining audiences in north Georgia and western North Carolina for over fifteen years. They cover The Band, The Eagles, Tom Waits, Butch Hancock, Guy Clark, The Steeldrivers, John Prine, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band..., in addition to their original music and they're known for their mix of "eclectic acoustic" music from some of the greatest songwriters.

Hailing from Hayesville, NC and Hiawassee and Blairsville, GA, the core of the band consists of the original three vocalists, Pat List, Keith Layton and Tom Edwards. List provides the rhythm guitar and harmonica while Layton "smokes" on lead guitar.

Edwards is now the



Brian Kruger, Tom Edwards, Pat List, Jo Holoman, Keith Layton

Hiawassee Squares. Gnarly Fingers is known wherever they play as a "fun" band. There is always good energy around their shows and 'spontaneous dancing' frequently occurs where they play. Their trademark is ending all their shows with "Will The Circle Be Unbroken".

The rain venue for this Summer Season is the Civic Center, (just around the corner from the Square) if in doubt about weather on the Square, call 706-994-1247 after 5 p.m. to check our location.

# Night Market...from Page 1A



Be sure to check out the Hiwassee Night Market on the first Friday of every month between now and October. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

"I have been (making scented candles) for many years. North Georgia and North Carolina have Scottish connections, so I wanted to bring some of the fragrances from Scotland and intertwine them with some of the fragrances around here."

Miller will be at the Night Market every month this season and hopes to meet many new people along the way.

Of course, considering the windchill from the May 7 First Friday event, guests enjoyed the June 4 weather much better, and the numbers showed.

Sara Gleast of Hayesville, North Carolina, was happy to see such a large crowd of people enjoying themselves, especially considering how so many folks spent an inordinate amount of time indoors over the last year due to COVID-19.

"This is wonderful," Gleast said. "This is what a small-town festival is supposed to be, and it is so great that they put this on every month. People can come here and unwind and enjoy some music, food, and things that these vendors are out here selling."

"I wish we had more stuff like this around other areas up here. There really isn't a lot to do, so it is nice when cities make something that locals can rely on and people can be a community. This is what small-town living is all about, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Organized by the City of Hiwassee and Development Authority, Mayor Liz Ordiales participated in the market by making Cuban sandwiches and other treats.

And many people from

the community, such as Terry Howard, were similarly thrilled to be part of the Night Market experience.

"This turned out way better than we thought it would," Howard said. "We were honestly coming here for a nice glass of wine and a bite to eat, but we stayed because of the atmosphere. People are being social and neighborly, and that is what we love about being in North Georgia."

"You can't get this anywhere else. I think this is what people need, and it is good that this city is moving forward without letting the pandemic stop them. A lot of places are still closing down and canceling festivals. You can't get over it if you don't push through it."

The next market will take place on Friday, July 2, starting at 5 p.m. and lasting until 9 p.m.

# Firewise...from Page 1A

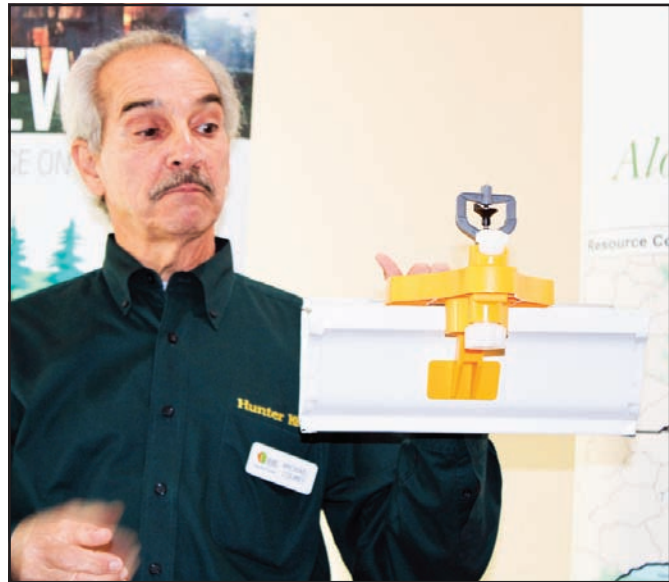
For his part, Michael Courey spoke on wildfire prevention around homes, listing several everyday items on or near homes that increase the risk of housefires exponentially, like vinyl siding; decks with flammable stains; piled leaves and debris in gutters, around propane tanks, and underneath decks; and pine straw or mulch in flowerbeds within 30 feet of the home.

Courey highlighted simple home maintenance that can dramatically improve safety, including cleaning gutters and trimming trees and shrubbery away from roofs and decks of homes. He advised creating a 30-foot buffer zone where no highly flammable debris should be allowed near the house.

After identifying various risk factors, Courey asked members of the Movers and Shakers to be more mindful moving forward of choosing building materials that are less flammable, and he offered pamphlets and informational sheets to help the audience make more informed decisions.

Additionally, Courey presented a gadget that is helpful and efficient in ensuring roofs have a smaller chance of catching fire, especially from flying embers that can "travel up to a mile" and cause "about 70 percent" of house fires.

The device is called a



Towns County Firewise Citizens Coalition President Michael Courey brought a gutter sprinkler Friday to show Movers and Shakers a simple way to protect their homes during wildfires. Photo by Allison Youngblood

gutter sprinkler. Users are instructed to set the sprinklers in the gutter, attach a water hose, and the sprinklers can cover a roughly 60-foot diameter of rooftop each, depending on water pressure. Such a simple measure could prevent serious damage to homes in the event of nearby wildfires and flying embers.

Courey's parting message was a request for attendees to be aware of the fire risks around their homes and to be as prepared as possible to leave their homes in case of

a wildfire.

To learn more about how to prepare for a wildfire evacuation, visit [www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org). And for additional information on becoming a Firewise Community, visit [www.Firewise.org](http://www.Firewise.org).

Towns County Sheriff Ken Henderson will be speaking in the June 11 meeting of the Mountain Movers and Shakers, which occurs every Friday at 8 a.m. inside the Sundance Grill in Hiwassee.

# Concert...from Page 1A



Musical acts Orleans and the Atlanta Rhythm Section were jamming all night long to the delight of a packed Anderson Music Hall June 5. Photo by Jarrett Whitener

Judy Hartington of Florida enjoyed the event with her husband for their first time at the Anderson Music Hall.

"I think this venue is wonderful," Hartington said. "I heard they are redoing the seating here soon, and that will make it so much better. We had seats towards the front, and it was so awesome."

"I'm not a huge fan of Atlanta Rhythm Section like my husband is, but I really enjoyed the concert. He seemed to be having a wonderful time, and the atmosphere was really great. Being in this building

feels kind of nostalgic, and it was just the classic concerts I remember."

For Dale Hartington, seeing other fans enjoying the concert as much as him made the experience just that much better.

"Atlanta Rhythm Section is my favorite band of all time," he said. "I've been to a few of their concerts over the years, and I am happy to get back into it. This is our first big outing after the pandemic, and it is a great way to spend it."

"The audience was so awesome, too. There was a

lady upfront, and she was just dancing away. I think everyone had a lot of fun. It was a blast, and we will probably come back to the Fairgrounds for other concerts."

Many more concerts are in the works at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds this year, with the next big concert being Country Music superstar Dwight Yoakam on Saturday, July 31.

For more information on tickets and other upcoming events, visit [GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com](http://GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com).