

# Towns County Herald

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## Hiawassee receives GEMA reimbursement

News Special  
Towns County Herald

A special presentation was recently held in Hiawassee City Hall where the Georgia Emergency Management Agency & Homeland Security presented Mayor Barbara Mathis with state reimbursement checks totaling \$26,517.79.

C.J. Worden with GEMA/HS delivered the checks to Mayor Mathis.

"This reimbursement is most welcomed," said Mayor Mathis. "As a small city, we have limited resources to deal with unexpected events

such as the Christmas rains we received. The help of our state and federal officials go a long way in making needed repairs. This reimbursement is 90 percent of the costs of repairs and takes much of the expense off our local residents."

During the federally declared incident period of Dec. 22, 2015, through Jan. 13, 2016, severe storms coupled with heavy rains resulted in overland flooding throughout Hiawassee.

Four streets within the city were damaged during the event, and the Hiawassee Sewer Plant Pond was used to handle inflow overflow.

The flooding left debris and contaminants which the city paid to remove. The city also had the overflow pond cleaned.

Hiawassee City Manager Rick Stancil met with state and federal officials on numerous occasions and submitted detailed information to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement for the damages the city suffered.

This is the first time that Hiawassee has ever applied for GEMA/FEMA funding.

The mayor and city  
See GEMA, Page 6A



C.J. Worden with GEMA/HS presents Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis with a check for damages incurred during the stormy weather at the start of the year

## Ross, Holmes qualify for Hiawassee City Council Post 1

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Rayette Ross and John Holmes both qualified last week for the November Special Municipal Election of Hiawassee City Council Post 1.

Currently, the five-seat council has only four members – Liz Ordiales, Anne Mitchell, Jay Chastain and Kris Berrong.

The special election was discussed in the July meeting of Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis and city council, in which the council held a second reading and adoption of the election ordinance to fill the seat of former councilman Stephen Smith.

The Special Election will be held the same day as the General Election, on Tuesday,



John Holmes

Nov. 8. Hiawassee residents looking to vote in both elections will need to vote at Hiawassee City Hall for the Special Municipal Election, plus at their regular precinct for the General Election.

Either Ross or Holmes,



Rayette Ross

whomever is elected, will fill the remainder of the term of Post 1, which will be for approximately one year, one month and 16 days, from Aug. 14, 2016, through Dec. 31, 2017.

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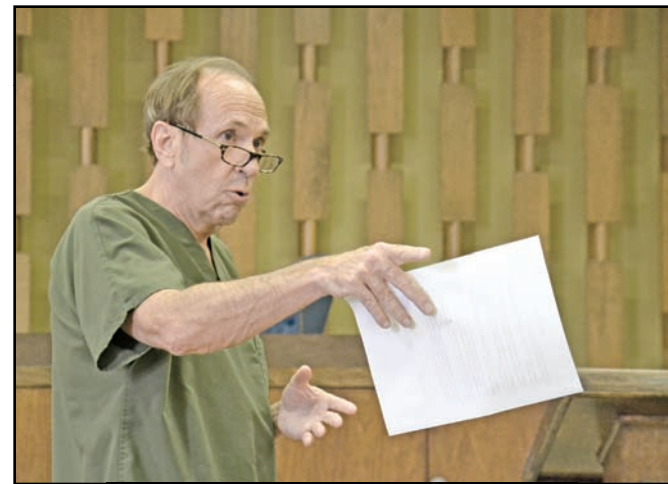
## Rabies vaccinations now a must for pets in Towns County

By Lily Avery  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

After an influx of rabies found in Towns County during the last year, vaccinations and precautionary measures have been a huge topic of discussion around town.

The regular county meeting of Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall was no exception to such talks, as many members of the community searched for an answer on Thursday, Aug. 18.

Joan Crothers and Marsha Grogan with PUP (Prevent Unwanted Pets) proposed a Proclamation on Rabies during the meeting. Crothers and Grogan have been working with the Towns County Health Department as



Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital owner Dr. Hilty Burr explains the importance of rabies vaccinations for both indoor and outdoor pets in the Thursday, Aug. 18, county meeting. Photo/Lily Avery

well as Dr. Hilty Burr of Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital to promote rabies awareness within the county by hosting a rabies clinic this fall. "Since May of 2015, we have had five positive See Rabies, Page 6A

## Farmers Market a family friendly adventure



Local artist Barbara Keys up her ever-popular Santa egg gourds at the Towns County Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 20. Keys and her art can be found at ArtWorks Artisan Centre in Hiawassee. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

Friendly faces, colorful crafts and plenty of produce – that's what the Towns County Farmers Market has to offer area residents every Saturday of the season, from 9 a.m. until noon.

The market started in May this year, though Joan Crothers, an avid supporter of the Towns County Farmers Market, said that may have been a little early.

"So we're going to start in the first part of June probably, next year," said Crothers. "From June until October – you're still getting pumpkins and squash."

The numbers of both vendors and customers have doubled since the opening of the season this year, and Crothers along with the rest of the Farmers

See Market, Page 6A

## Towns Indians takes the sting out of Hayesville Yellow Jackets



Indians Head Coach John Cornett takes a celebratory ice bath after he and his Indians won their first game of the season against the Hayesville Yellow Jackets on Friday, Aug. 19. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

See Sports, Page 6A

## Library Friends host annual Book and Bake Sale



John Roberts and Jim Reynolds hang signs for the annual Friends of the Libraries of Towns County Book and Bake Sale out front of the old Blue Ridge Mountain EMC building in Young Harris, which is the temporary location of the Mountain Regional Library. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
Towns County Herald  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Last year was supposed to be the last year that the Friends of the Libraries of Towns County put on a big annual Book and Bake Sale, thanks to the new permanent storefront they are getting in the renovated Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris.

However, the Friends decided to hold another big sale this year – the biggest to date – because of some very generous book donations.

"We have so many books because a private school in Dahlonega closed, and we inherited all of their books and some of their library furnishings," said FOLTC Book Bunch Director and Immediate Past President

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## Music on the Square brings our community together



Pam Leslie dons her director hat to lead The Sharptones during the Hiawassee Music on the Square's Saturday, Aug. 20, event. The Sharptones are a large singing group out of Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

For the past 16 years, music has filled the Hiawassee

Saturday evening air, or at least those Saturdays booked around Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. The evening of Saturday,

Aug. 20, was no different, thankfully, as more than a hundred people gathered around the gazebo in the

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**Young Harris Art Fest**  
Aug 27-28  
Mayor's Park

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**Friends of the Library Book and Bake Sale**

See page 2a

**Balance Workshop at Senior Center**  
Thursdays  
Sept 1st- Oct 20th

See page 3A

**Football**  
JV Aug 25 @ Gilmer 5:30 PM  
**Softball**  
Tues. Aug 23 @ Prince Avenue  
Thurs. Aug 25 vs. Rabun Co.