

GEMA...from Page 1A

manager said that they are appreciative of the support of GEMA/HS and FEMA

staff in assisting the city with a successful funding application.

Heritage...from Page 1A

This will be Holmes' second time running for a seat on Hiwassee City Council, as he ran for Post 3 last year but came up short on votes, losing to Kris Berrong in the Nov. 3, 2015, municipal election.

Along with deciding who will fill the remaining balance of the term of former Hiwassee City Councilman Smith, registered city voters will decide on several alcohol referendums in November Special Election.

In the June regular meeting of Mayor Mathis and city council, the council passed unanimously several resolutions to place referendums on the Nov. 8 municipal ballot concerning the sale of alcohol within the city.

A pair of November referendums will concern the selling of liquor by the drink,

both during the week and on Sundays.

The other resolution which city council passed in that meeting will ensure that, come November, voters will be able to decide whether to allow beer and wine Sunday sales in retail settings, such as grocery and convenience stores.

Two more potential resolutions concerning the package sale of liquor require voter petitions in order to be placed on the ballot in November.

When it comes to whether or not city residents will be able to vote on the package sales of distilled spirits, both during the week and on Sundays, Hiwassee City Hall needs a petition of 35 percent of the registered and qualified voters of the city.

The original goal was for

For further information, please contact Rick Stencil, City Manager, at the Hiwassee City Hall, 50 River Street, or by telephone, (706) 896-2202, extension 3.

the city to have the required number of signatures for the package sale petitions before the end of August at the latest, in order to give Hiwassee City Clerk and Elections Superintendent Cenlya Galloway enough time to verify that all names on the petitions are in fact registered voters, and in order to have plenty of time to get the referendums on the ballot.

At the point that the petition names are verified, resolutions calling for the referendums will need to be passed by the city council, as the initiatives will be considered voter-driven initiatives.

Special Election early voting will begin on Monday, Oct. 17, and continue until Friday, Nov. 4, at Hiwassee City Hall.

Absentee ballots will be available at city hall starting Oct. 17.

Rabies...from Page 1A

cases of rabies in Towns County," said Tony Berrong of the Towns County Health Department. "Prior to May of 2015, we had zero. Two of those cases involved human exposure to the virus. The state manual requires that you start vaccinating pets at the age of 3 months.

"After 28 days, the pet is considered vaccinated. Upon receiving a booster, after one year, the pet is considered immediately vaccinated. Post-exposure shots are kept at the ER daily. So, if someone is exposed, you can go to the ER and get your shot.

"I've been working 17 years, and to go from zero to five in the last 10 to 11 months was quite a jump. This is why the rabies vaccinations are so important."

For those who are not aware of the effects of rabies, it is essentially a virus that attacks the nervous system of the host (animal or human), ultimately resulting in disease of the brain and death. Animal symptoms of the virus begin with personality changes, followed by loss of appetite, weakness, disorientation, seizures and eventually death.

Symptoms in humans are similar to those in animals, including itchiness at the site of the bite. While a bite from an infected animal is typically how the disease is transmitted, the virus may also be spread via saliva of an infected host.

"Rabies has been an epidemic in wildlife in North Georgia and North Carolina for a long time," said Dr. Burr. "We always thought the virus could be contained within wildlife, but with the cases both here and in Clay County (with cats), it means that it's jumped into



L-R: Marsha Grogan, Tony Berrong, Joan Crothers, Dr. Hilty Burr, and Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall, front, gather in support of the rabies proclamation for Towns County. Photo/Lily Avery

the realm of domestic animals. It's concerning for both pet owners and those of us who work with these animals that could be infected.

"I think it's still an awareness issue. I think a lot of people don't vaccinate their pets. A lot of people do, of course, but there's still a need for people to vaccinate their pets. It definitely serves as a protection not only to them but also to the public."

The proclamation, signed by Commissioner Kendall, states that according to the Towns County Rabies Ordinance, all pet owners are required to have their animals vaccinated accordingly.

Also under the proclamation, Towns County will continue to offer periodic rabies clinics to assist pet owners facing financial burdens in vaccinating their pets.

The fall rabies clinic will be on Saturday, Sept. 17, on the Hiwassee Square from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Also in Towns County commission news was the first reading of an amendment to the Towns County Code of Ordinance Article II Mountain Protection Standards.

According to Commissioner Kendall, this amendment will not change the way Mountain Protection Standards are handled but is simply a technicality, removing the word "building" from the ordinance. A segment will be added to the ordinance to include a building permit section that states all building permits and building inspections within the Mountain Protection Standards must be conducted by the county building inspector.

The county already conducts business according to the revised ordinances, making the changes a mere formality to reflect what happens on a regular basis. The ordinance will officially be amended as of September's monthly meeting.

Market...from Page 1A



Jean McFalls of Rock Hill Farms talks produce with Pat Smith of Hiwassee at the Towns County Farmers Market last Saturday. Photo/Shawn Jarrard



Vendors Don Ruth and Sally Patterson share a friendly word at the Towns County Farmers Market last Saturday. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

Market's regulars hope to see that trend continue.

Barbara Keyes was a first-time vendor at the Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 20, and she said it will likely be her only time due to a typically conflicting work schedule. She wanted to see what the Farmers Market was all about, however, so she brought her art business, known as Keyes to the Heart, to put on display.

"I paint on anything that doesn't move," said Keyes, pointing to a nearby and beautifully painted ironing board and window. "I'm famous for my little Santa egg gourds – these are actual gourds with Santa faces on them. You can hear the seeds inside."

Keyes, whose works can be seen at ArtWorks Artisan Centre in Hiwassee, said she appreciates what the Towns County Farmers Market stands for, and what it means for the community.

Beth McEwen, who lives in the Upper Hightower area, sold cantaloupes and green peppers at the market Saturday.

"We live on a mountainside, and our neighbor down in the valley has graciously allowed us to use his land to farm on, so we've done corn and green peppers and cantaloupe and squash, all kinds of stuff," said McEwen. "I can do a lot of things and sell some things, too, but we like to give the proceeds to him and his family, because – it's kind of like sharecropping. We're sharecroppers, so we like for them to benefit from their kindness to us as well."

McEwen is still pretty new to the Farmers Market, having only been selling for four or five weekends now, but she said she's impressed with the whole experience.

"We wanted to try the Farmers Market this year because we'd never tried it before, to see how it would work," said McEwen. "We've met so many nice people – the vendors are all really wonderful folks, really



Marsha Elliott and Carol Townsend represented the Towns-Union Master Gardener Association at the Towns County Farmers Market on Saturday, Aug. 20. The Master Gardeners are always available to lend a helping hand during market season. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

friendly people, and we get a lot of great advice from them and the Master Gardeners, and it's just a fun day."

Of course, a trip to the Farmers Market is never complete without a stop by Ruthie Lee's table, which now until the end of the season will be featuring a half-off sale on her famous purses, baby blankets, necklaces, garden aprons and other handmade goods.

"I've got tons of fabric, and all winter long I'll be sewing new bags for next year," said Lee.

O'Neal's Produce & Plants fared well Saturday, as Sheleila O'Neal offered up free samples of her perfectly sweet and tart apples for market patrons.

Don Ruth sold out of his peaches, and many attendees stopped to look at his large heirloom tomatoes.

Sally Patterson of Hiwassee sold out of her homemade pattypan squash early on Saturday, and she also sold blueberries and rattlesnake green beans alongside miscellaneous kitchen wares.

"It's close, you see people you know, it's friendly," said Patterson, describing a few of her favorite things about working the Farmers Market. "I would like to say that, if people don't come to buy, (vendors) won't come to sell, and it will go down the tubes. So it's easier to come and buy than it is to sell – we want to get people out here. I want to see it grow. I really do."

As for the customers, Mike Allen of Upper Hightower Road summed up the general sentiment nicely.

"It's local people, and you get to enjoy and talk stories, and learn about everything while you're buying vegetables," said Allen, who is known for his appreciation of homegrown tomatoes. "You'll always have a good experience when you come here, if you buy anything or not."

The Towns County Farmers Market is located directly across from the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on the way into Hiwassee.

Music...from Page 1A

Hiwassee Town Square, enjoying from the comfort of lawn chairs the hour and a half of entertainment known as the Enchanted Music on the Square concert series.

Booked music talent has been strong all season, and Saturday's offerings continued that trend, first with a brilliant performance by the large singing group The Sharptones, out of Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris.

The Sharptones, back from a brief hiatus, only put on the one big show a year, and this year's themed singing show was all about happiness, with songs like "Put on a Happy Face" and "Keep on the Sunny Side."

Since Pam Leslie took over as music director at Sharp 10 years ago, The Sharptones have been performing their annually changing one-of-a-kind show at a big church dinner. And six or seven years ago they began taking that show to the Hiwassee Square for the concert series.

"We took a couple of years off because of just our own personal situations, so this is our return after a couple of years," said Leslie. "We always try and have a theme, and our theme (this year) was 'Happiness Is...'"

"This is just a small group of people out of our choir – the choir is about 30 people – but these are the people that give all their extra time to practice for these songs, and they love doing it."

The show was filled with props and good-natured gags, as the men and women of The Sharptones took turns at and shared the several microphones, regaling their audience with enthusiastically heartfelt performances.

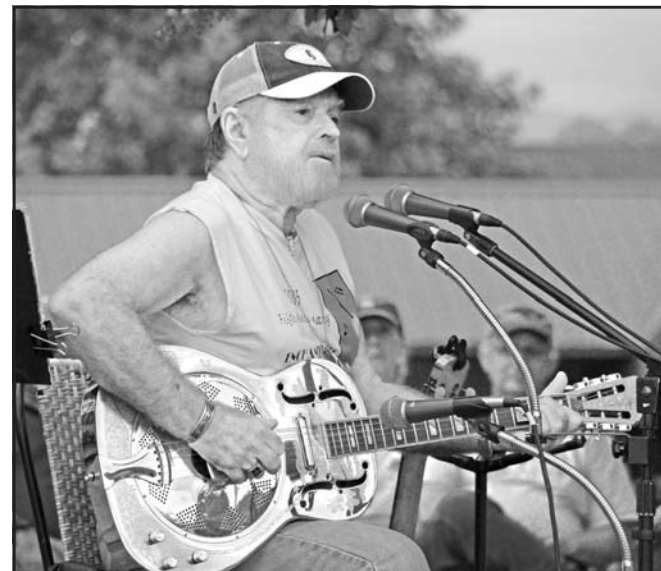
"We appreciate the support," said Leslie of the folks who showed up to see them perform. "We always feel very supported when we're here. And that helps us, when the audience has the energy and gives it back to us."

Also performing that Saturday was Don Byers and his beautifully moving Americana Show, featuring all original music ranging from Folk to Country influence.

Byers, a Blairsville native, invited concert-goers down the uniquely interwoven country roads of his personal lyrical invention and acoustical accompaniment, playing classic Byers tunes such as "Adams Park," "It's Only a Paper World," and "For What It's Worth."

A 2010 honoree to the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame, Byers will return to the Hiwassee Square on Sept. 3 as part of Leather and Lace band.

"Next week we have Ron Schott, and he is a very terrific



Don Byers performed all original music on the Hiwassee Square last Saturday, serenading the crowd with his Country and Folk ballads and guitar work. Photo/Shawn Jarrard



More than 100 people gathered on the Hiwassee Town Square for the weekly Music on the Square event, which is emceed by Tim Massey every Saturday from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

saxophone player," said emcee Tim Massey, speaking on the Saturday, Aug. 27 show. "Then from that point, the last show of the year will be Leather and Lace (on Sept. 3)."

Don and Marian Parker of Troy, Alabama, were in town on vacation when they drove past the square and stopped to see what was going on last Saturday, and they were blown away by the performances of both The Sharptones and Byers.

Jerry and Sherry Strachn

also attended Saturday, though they're Enchanted Music on the Square veterans. The Strachns are from the Orlando, Florida, area, but have had a second home near Hiwassee for many years.

"We always come here when we're here on Saturday nights," said Sherry, as Jerry added, "It's a good place to go and bring some friends – usually we have company coming in, so we bring them over here."

North GA Technical College Honor Roll & President's List

Dr. Mark Ivester, President of North Georgia Technical College, has announced the Honor Roll and President's List for Summer Semester 2016. The President's List recognizes full-time students with a 4.0 GPA. The Honor Roll recognizes full-time students with a 3.5 GPA. Full-time students are those taking at least 12 credit hours with no developmental courses.

Union County resident named to the Honor Roll

was Cynthia Roe, Health Care Assistant and Union County residents named to the President's List were Jessica Chipman, Accounting; and Samantha Munkus, Applied Business Technology.

Towns County resident named to the Honor Roll was Ciji Gibson, Cosmetology; Towns County residents named to the President's List were: Mary Cromer, Cosmetology; Tan-ya Hedden, Cosmetology.