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'Porchfest' to feature local musicians Sept. 25

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

A big topic of discussion in the Sept. 13 meeting of Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby and City Council was the ambitious new festival coming to the college town Sept. 25, as the Young Harris Porchfest is set to debut downtown this Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

"Music on Porches," read the colorful flyers handed out by Gibby for the consideration of the council and invitation of the public. The focus of Porchfest will be live local entertainment in a variety of genres, including country, folk, blues and rock.

Although the four-hour

event is spread out among three different locations, guests are encouraged to move around, bring lawn chairs, and "park" where they see fit. All three venues are within walking distance of each other, with about three minutes between each point.

Two of the venues will cycle through three schedules. Located next to the clinic, The Porch is at 1159 Main Street and will feature music from Jack Stowers, George Boggs and Friends, and GAS. Meanwhile, over at 1055 Main Street, Cables Fine Art Gallery will host Quick Brown Fox and Mountain Breeze Bluegrass, as well as Jacey Wood, Tru Youngblood & Easton Collins.

The Young Harris Wing

House sits a little farther up at 1149 Main Street, and while the restaurant won't be open on Sunday, Rollie Thomas & the Roll Tights will be serving up some sweet jam tunes there the entire duration of the festival.

Guests can enjoy listening to local musicians while also delighting in local fare – food trucks will be present, although there's no word on which businesses will be out and about. Admission and parking will be free.

"It's going to be a fun, fun afternoon," predicted Gibby, who believes wholeheartedly that Porchfest will be a boon to the community. For more information, visit <https://www.youngharrisga.net/>.

Also in the Sept. 13

meeting, the mayor and council discussed the need for a budget meeting within the next month.

"We have to approve the budget at least by Dec. 31. We have to have a public hearing, and we have to advertise it in the paper at least 15 days prior to the meeting where we vote on it," Mayor Gibby explained before introducing her proposal.

"However, you know me; I don't like to wait until the last minute, so if we could find time in October, then we would have some time to talk about it. Then, (Finance Officer Ana Hess) could finalize the numbers, you could look at it in November, we could set a public hearing time, and then

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Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby showing off Porchfest promotional materials in the Sept. 13 City Council meeting. Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

City of Hiawassee debates raising hotel-motel tax



Hiawassee City Council members in their Aug. 29 work session at City Hall.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Sept. 6 regular meeting of the Hiawassee City Council was short and sweet – there was no old business to be discussed, and the only action in the meeting was to formally adopt the minutes from recent meetings.

There were, however, plenty of things discussed in the Aug. 29 work session, which the Towns County Herald covered in part in the Sept. 7 edition of the newspaper, with ad-

ditional topics of conversation covered below.

Another discussion held in the August work session was a proposal by Mayor Liz Ordiales to increase the local Hotel-Motel Tax.

Two-hundred and sixty-six Georgia cities collect varying tax percentages on "rooms, lodging, or accommodations furnished by hotels, motels, inns, lodges, tourist camps, or campgrounds," according to information in the meeting.

Tax collections among these cities ranges from 5%-8%, with many falling somewhere

in between at 6% or 7%. Just over half are at a Hotel-Motel Tax rate or higher.

Currently, Hiawassee sits at a 5% rate for the tax, but Ordiales suggested that Monday moving it up to 8%. This would mean, for example, that "the difference on \$100 is \$3. I don't know if that would discourage a whole lot of people from staying here for \$3," Ordiales said.

As it stands with 5%, the city made \$112,045 total last year. Forty percent, or \$44,818, went to the Lake Chatuge

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Daffodil Project moving ahead at Lloyd's Landing

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

"Flowers don't replace humans by any means, but they do add beauty to the world, and to me at least, there's a lot of symbolic meaning in adding some beauty back in honor, in memory, of the beautiful lives that were lost."

So said Seth Len, a Hiawassee resident and Jewish community member, on the important work undertaken by him and volunteers with the Mountain Beautification & Revitalization Association Thursday, Sept. 15, in preparation for a new Daffodil Project planting at the city-managed park, Lloyd's Landing.

An estimated 1.5 million Jewish children lost their lives to genocide perpetrated by Nazi Germany during the Holocaust, and the international Daffodil Project aims to become a living memorial to these children by planting just as many of the flower bulbs.

"The shape and color of the daffodils represent the yellow stars that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. Yellow is the color of remembrance. Daffodils represent our poignant hope for the future," according to daffodil-project.net.

Based in Atlanta, the Daffodil Project was first con-



(L-R) Gerry Gutenstein, Gordy Jones and Seth Len volunteering last week to prepare Lloyd's Landing for a new installment of the Daffodil Project, a memorial for child victims of the Holocaust, later this fall.

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

cealed by the non-profit Holocaust Education and Genocide Awareness Organization, Am Yisrael Chai. While part of their focus is to memorialize the young victims of the Holocaust, the organization also seeks to "eradicate all forms of bigotry and hate in the world."

Hiawassee will be welcoming its own memorial garden amid the breathtaking lakeside view of Lloyd's Landing. Volunteers ranging from Master Gardeners and builders to Mayor Liz Ordiales herself were present Sept. 15 to get

Photo by Brittany Holbrooks

The flowers will be placed at the edge of the rocks overlooking Lake Chatuge. Before the bulbs can be planted, the Mountain Beautification & Revitalization Association must complete some maintenance and setup work. The group consists primarily of volunteers, many of whom have experience as Master Gardeners or groundskeepers in places like Hamilton Gardens.

Thursday's activities were largely dedicated to lay-

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American Made Music Fest another big Fairgrounds hit



Dailey & Vincent have become a staple at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, returning year after year with a talent-packed lineup of fellow musicians to entertain the masses Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds-style.

By Jeremy Foster
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

The Dailey & Vincent American Made Music Festival held its three-day musical extravaganza Sept. 15-17, featuring the very cream of the crop of talented artists in country, bluegrass and gospel genres inside Anderson Music Hall at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.

Acts included Riders In the Sky, The Singing Contractors, Primitive Quartet, the very honored, historic, patriotic and certainly "traveled" United States Navy Band Country Current, and, of course, headliners and the only act to play each night, Dailey & Vincent.

"We have been coming here for three or four years now, and one of the things we love so much about coming back is the beauty here," Jamie Dailey

said. "And another thing is the people here."

"They are wonderful, friendly, nice to be around, and there are lots of good foods here, and we just love playing at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds."

Speaking on his absolute favorite part of performing live music, Dailey said "it is definitely the energy of the crowd and the connection with the au-

See Dailey & Vincent, Page 6A

Indian Summer Festival to run Oct. 1-2 in Suches

By Brittany Holbrooks
Towns County Herald
Staff Writer

SUCHES – Come the first weekend of October, The Valley Above the Clouds will celebrate the 45th Annual Indian Summer Festival at Woody Gap School – the smallest public school in Georgia.

The Indian Summer Festival will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. Parking is free, and admission prices are based on age. Guests 13 and older will pay \$5, children aged 7 to 12 can get in for \$3, and kids 6 and under can enter free.

The K-12 school, the size of the interestingly ties into the beginning and purpose of the festival. Back in 1977, the Woody Gap Sports Club originated a fundraising idea to not only help develop the school and better conditions for students but also to stimulate the community.

And despite the involvement of the Sports Club, it's important to note that festival proceeds go toward more than just athletics.

"Funds from the Indian Summer Festival over the years have helped purchase sports equipment, uniforms, trophies, computers, electronic equipment, learning devices and more," read the bright orange brochures circulating



Not only is the Indian Summer Festival fun for the whole family, it also supports local school children. Pictured here: The Woody Gap Shop Class Booth.

Photo by Todd Forrest/2018

around town as an invitation to all who would support the event.

Susan White, a kindergarten and first-grade teacher who has been working at Woody Gap for five years, has been a part of the Suches community ever since she was 4 years old. White said the proceeds also go toward scholarships for graduating seniors.

"Every student that's going on to higher education, whether it be trade school or college, they're going to get a \$600 scholarship as long as we can do it," she said.

White also revealed that, due to Woody Gap's small size, the traditional fundraisers employed by larger systems simply don't work in Suches, saying, "Think about other schools that send home the wrapping paper and the cookie dough, and (say) 'Buy these things.'"

Door-to-door sales in Suches aren't exactly practical, so having a community get-together that supports the futures of local children as much as social connections turned out to be a much better

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Lake Levels

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SPORTS

SOFTBALL

Sept. 22 @ Lake Oconee 5 PM

FOOTBALL

BYE WEEK

Until further notice the

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD OFFICE

will be

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS

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BRMEMC

Annual

Meeting

Sept. 24

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Hotel-Motel Taxes...from Page 1A

Chamber of Commerce to help promote the city. By contrast, the other 60% went to the city itself, totaling \$67,227.

Following the same trend with a lift to 8%, the total would then come out to \$179,272, with 43.75% going to the Chamber, or \$78,431.50. Then, 37.5% would go to the city for an unchanged total of \$67,227. Finally, 18.75% of Hotel-Motel Tax revenues, or \$33,613.50 in the example model, would go to projects designed to enrich the city and bring in more tourism.

In Hiawassee's case, this would include fishing preserves, more parks and other "sightseeing" attractions, greater involvement of performing arts, and even installing more wayfinding signs around the city.

Michael Redd, General Manager of Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hiawassee, voiced his disagreement, saying, "You don't see this, but I do . . . From last year to this year, our occupancy is already down 37%, OK? Revenue wise, that's \$250,000. You're wanting to take extra that we don't have."

Redd's point was that any hike in prices would deter an already dwindling number of tourists from coming to Hiawassee, and by extension result in more lost profit for lodging managers already in a tight situation.

And that's only the income that would go toward the Hotel-Motel Tax. Redd mentioned the additional strain brought about by skyrocketing maintenance costs like gas and electricity.

To add onto that, Redd said he also honors occasional discounts through third parties, meaning he must pay a 12% to 17% commission "because that's what they get for booking our stays through their marketing plans."

In an effort to sway hikers to visit the mountains in the fall, Redd also made available another \$10 discount onto the rates of nightly stays.

Despite the commitment, Redd told Ordiales, "If you're going to do that, we're not going to discount rates." In short, he believed that the city was taking more money from guests that should be going to hotels that bring people to the area.

With 22 years of hotel management experience, Redd said that in the two years he's been in Hiawassee, he has noticed that his Dahlenega site sees more business "because it's a fun place to go to."

"That's what we're trying to do," said Ordiales, countering that the additional tax would allow more "fun" to be introduced to the city.

Councilwoman Amy Barrett suggested a compromise of a 7% Hotel-Motel Tax, but Ordiales was skeptical,

asking, "for the difference in money, is it worth it?"

Ultimately, the council was advised to "think on it," and Redd was thanked for his appearance at the work session, with the mayor concluding that a different opinion was helpful.

This opened the floor for the council to suggest putting a special "feedback" addition to the agenda in the works, where public opinion would have a greater impact on work session discussions.

Also covered in the Aug. 29 work session was the minor Aug. 7 flood. Photos of the incident highlighted business culverts becoming moats, and some yards, like that of Councilman Junior Chastain, becoming lakefront properties.

The heavy rush of water broke Hiawassee Brew's drainage pipe and left stains on the ceiling tiles in Hiawassee City Hall.

But as it turned out, on the corner of SouthState Bank near River Street, city water workers uncovered the grate of a storm drain that had previously been covered in asphalt.

"We were able to notice that (and) lift that up," detailed Ordiales. Now, any storm runoff from River Street should end up in a proper storm drain.

"We'll just have to wait until it rains big again to see," said Chastain regarding the anticipated changes.

In other news, the main component of the motor that pumps lake water into the treatment plant was discovered to have a tear caused by "air pellets" leaking out and forcibly wearing away the metal of the propeller. The cost to repair it is approximately \$35,000, but no plan has been publicly formulated yet.

Enotah Garden Club of Young Harris kicks off their 2022-2023 season with meeting and guest speaker



Enotah Garden Club members and guest speaker Gene Boyd

The Enotah Garden Club of Young Harris kicked off their 2022-2023 season year with a monthly meeting on Thursday, September 15th with guest speaker Gene Boyd of the Rotary Club of Lake Chatuge. His presentation highlighted the hydroponic garden towers that were established to provide fresh leaf lettuce for the food pantries in Towns County, Clay County,

and the homebound.

The EGC is already planning the events for this season; Tree Lighting at Mayor's Park in Young Harris, on December 3, 2022, and Yard Sale at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds with the raffle for the two Garden Wagons that raise money for our charities. EGC also continues its gardening and beautification projects at the Young Harris Post Office

Planter, Cupid Falls, and Mayor's Park.

EGC meets every 3rd Thursday from September - May at Young Harris City Hall. For more information; email enotahgardenclubyh@gmail.com; Or contact President Helen Harvey at 561-262-2428. Enotah Garden Club of Young Harris P.O., Box 422, Young Harris, GA 30582. NT(Sep21.A8)CA

Looking Forward to Steins & Wine Event October 1

Historic Hayesville Inc. volunteers are finishing preparations for the second Steins & Wine Around the Square in 2022 to make up for time and funds lost due to COVID during the past two years. The event provides a major portion of annual funds for HHI to complete downtown projects such as rehabilitating the old Hayesville Town Hall as a small classroom for historical, art and cultural presentations in addition to maintaining the HHI Centennial Exhibit building. HHI also provides shuttle service on Red Ryder to events within the town limits, recruits new businesses and works with partner organizations to maintain or create additional amenities for the downtown area under the Small Town Main Street program.

Wine Around the Square started in 2013 as the first area event to recognize the passage of the alcohol ordinances in

Clay and surrounding counties. The new ordinances provided upgraded services from existing restaurants and brought in new businesses to spur economic growth.

The first event featured only area vineyards but new area breweries started renovating and opening in older vacant buildings within four years. Eagle Fork Vineyards and Hayesville Brewing Company were the first winery and brewery to open in Clay County. Returning to Steins & Wine event this year as of early press promotion include FernCrest Winery, Hoppy Trout Brewing Company, Snowbird Mountains Brewery and Nocturnal Brewing Company. Wehrloom Honey is a vendor recently joining the event with a variety of honey products including mead which was the favorite drink of choice for many centuries.

Visit with these and other vendors to enjoy Octo-

berfest on the Square from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 1 inside the Historic Courthouse Beal Center grounds. Entry tickets are \$10 each and available at Tiger's Store or the HHI Centennial Exhibit on Sanderson Street next to the Hayesville Post Office. Attendees must be over 21 and show current ID to drink alcohol and to enter the event area. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit HHI downtown projects and the Small Town Main Street Economic Vitality committee recruiting efforts.

HHI is a 501c3 nonprofit organization managed by volunteers and support from sponsors of Steins & Wine are greatly appreciated. Those interested in participating as a sponsor or vendor in the Fall event can email historichayesvilleinc@gmail.com to request registration forms or visit historichayesvilleinc.com for more STMS/HHI program details. NT(Sep21.Z9)JGG

Iota Iota a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi monthly meeting



Iota Iota a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi had their monthly meeting at the Civic Center at 5:30 pm on August 16th. President, Robin Zimmerman called the meeting to order where members recited the Opening Ritual and Pledge to Allegiance. Hostess for the meeting was Kathy Ross who had a wonderful spread of salads for all to enjoy. The weather has been so hot that it was the perfect food to serve. Of course, Kathy made everything herself from tuna salad, chicken salad to a delicious

cocktail salad. Kathy provided a very informative program on the meaning of Mizpah. The Mizpah is said at the close of the meeting. The word comes from Hebrew which means "watchtower" but is loosely interpreted as "May God watch over you."

Paula Myers the Service Chair reported that several members were present on Saturday, August 6th for the Back2School backpack held at the First United Methodist Church. The upcoming service project is to collect socks for

the Coat Give-away that will be held in November.

On Saturday, members gathered at the Blairsville Restaurant for Beginning Day which starts the new sorority year and new theme. The 2022-2023 theme is "Friends at Your Fingertips." President Robin Zimmerman gave each member a pair of Halloween socks and Ann Sullivan handed out pages for the Yearbook. We were so busy enjoying the food and fellowship we forgot to take pictures. The only picture to mark the occasion was Ann Sullivan's gigantic salad. This is the second time this month we didn't get our usual pictures. The first time we know it was because Jeanee McJilton, our photographer wasn't present but she was at Beginning Day.

Iota Iota's next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 20th at 5:30 pm at the Civic Center. If you are interested in learning more about our chapter and Beta Sigma Phi please contact Vice President Helen Teboe at heteboe@email.com. T(Sep21.A4)CA

Dailey & Vincent...from Page 1A



People crowded into the new seating at Anderson Music Hall to enjoy three days of country, bluegrass and gospel music during the American Made Music Festival Sept. 15-17.

Dailey & Vincent released a brand-new CD on Friday, Sept. 16, called "Dailey & Vincent: Let's Sing Some Country," with special guests including Alison Krauss and others, that is available at all major music outlets.

Kevin and Gina Savage of Gainesville were excited to return to The Hall, as they are no strangers to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and have a daughter-in-law who is a Towns County resident.

"I have been coming to events here for 40 years, and my favorite part of the Dailey & Vincent Festival is the different types of groups that they have," Kevin said. "Country, bluegrass and gospel are my favorite genres of music."

Added Gina, "I love that this is a great venue for music,

and of course meeting people again that we have met over the years and getting to see them again; I love making new connections and friendships. Every year we also make it a point to come here as many times as we can."

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds sends a special "thank you" to festival sponsors in Springer Mountain Farms, Towns County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Union General Health System, The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge, Cattrill Motorsports and United Community Bank.

Coming around the corner, folks can look forward to more festivities at the Fairgrounds, like the Acoustic Sunsets Concert Series at the Hamilton Gardens, with another performance this Thursday, Sept. 22, from 6-9 p.m.

Photo by Jeremy Foster featuring headliner A. Lee Edwards, food vendors and more.

Then there's the 49th Annual Fall Regional Shelby/Mustang and Ford Show running Sept. 23-24 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Both events are free to enter for spectators.

The return of the Georgia Mountain Fall Festival Oct. 7-15 will give families plenty to do together, with nine days of activities ranging from arts & crafts to music, carnival rides, educational demonstrations and more.

So, as always, come on out and enjoy every rain or shine event with family, friends, and the entire community. Visit www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com for complete information on upcoming events or to become a volunteer or vendor.

Daffodil Project...from Page 1A



Master Gardener Mark Noyd walking in front of the soon-to-be planted Daffodil Project area at Lloyd's Landing on Thursday.

ing foundations of mulch, newspaper and cardboard to stifle the return of weeds. Some volunteers, like Master Gardener Maggie Oliver, were hard at work tidying up the rest of the space by neatly cutting twists and snarls of dead limbs off the roadside boxwood shrubs.

"It's the entrance to the city, and Liz has worked real hard to do some nice things in this community, and we just want to support her and keep doing things (for the city)," Oliver said.

Volunteer Gerry Gutenstein is involved in the project not just because of his faith, but also because of the Holocaust's impact on his own family.

"My family was affected by the war because they were in Germany," explained

Gutenstein. "My father was here (in the United States), but my grandmother, aunts and uncles were there. And grandfather, he didn't get to the concentration camp; he was killed on Kristallnacht."

Otherwise known as "The Night of Broken Glass" and literally translated to "Crystal Night," Kristallnacht was the overnight murderous attack on Jews carried out by Nazis, Hitler Youth and German civilians that resulted in much death and the destruction of synagogues, homes, hospitals and schools.

"(The Daffodil Project) means that in my community, we will have awareness of the Holocaust, whether they teach it in the school or not. That plaque, when it gets up in November or whenever we do it,

will have the ability to tell a story of . . . the children who died in the Holocaust," Gutenstein said, taking a pause from filling a wheelbarrow with mulch. "Those are the things that are important to me."

According to fellow association member Gordy Jones, the bulbs should arrive and be ready to plant by late September or early October.

Going forward, Master Gardener and MBRA member Mark Noyd, who laid stones to outline the daffodil beds on Thursday, will be in charge of the project.

"I did not live in that era, I was born afterwards - I'm not Jewish, but it still means a lot," Noyd said, adding that he would never understand how anyone could make the conscious decision to harm a child, let alone 1.5 million of them.

"I have grandkids, I adore every single one of them," he said. "I have kids, and I can't imagine what the world would be like if people wanted to kill them."

In the spring, when the daffodils bloom, the new garden will undergo an opening ceremony with MBRA volunteers and city officials.

For now, those involved in the project will continue to do what they can to prepare, and although the site is not complete, the public is welcome to see the progress at Lloyd's Landing by visiting 458 Azalia Drive.

This will be the second local Daffodil Project planting, replacing the original garden that resided at Hamilton Gardens. The new location will be more readily accessible from the highway, and MBRA members believe the spot in Lloyd's Landing will provide a better growing environment.

Indian Summer Fest...from Page 1A

choice. For this year's festivities, coordinators are looking for more vendors. There's already been some interest with somewhere between 30 to 40 businesses signing up, but White said 60 is typically the norm, and she would love to see more.

"There's art, we have a lot of crafty stuff," she said. "There's usually a lot of handmade jewelry. Textiles (are) a big thing; you know, it's jewelry, the pocketbooks, the pillows, the things like that."

White's brief synopsis of handmade goods serves as a general overview of the kinds of products available for purchase at the Indian Summer Festival, and for 2022 specifically, she made mention of at least two woodworkers and one garden artist.

In the past, there's also been an interest in produce, depending on the availability, and if stopping to grab fresh, local-grown veggies isn't enough, there's plenty of other gustatory delights to fill the bellies of locals and tourists.

"There's usually pretty good barbecue traffic from the locals, that they come in and know they're going to get a

plate, or they're going to get a butt," noted Coach Robert Hill, recalling years past when folks made a point of showing up and supporting the endeavor even in inclement weather.

But there's still just one thing that White says the festival is in need of this year, if more restaurants or bakers would like to sign on as vendors.

"We don't have a vendor doing fried apple pies," she noted, pointing to the advertisement on the brochure that stated otherwise. It would be a shame to miss out on the annual autumn treat.

Guests can also do more than shop. Live entertainment will include local artists and even student organizations like the Woody Gap Band of Steel, made popular by performances around Union County in recent years.

Not only that, but younger students will be performing in the annual play "that (tells) the story of the Cherokee Indians who once lived here."

"It's really, really cute," Hill said with a fond smile, adding that, despite the difficulties that come with corralling tiny children, raising money for a good cause makes

everything worth it.

Like last year, the Run Above the Clouds benefit race will not be happening in tandem with the Indian Summer Festival in 2022, as the 5K and 10K races have been moved to the spring due to how busy the fall season is.

In addition to soliciting for a fried apple pie vendor, White is also hoping locals and others can provide photos from past festivals. Because teachers, staff and members of the Sports Club are usually busy managing booths and taking care of upkeep, they don't have many chances to capture their own memories in picture format.

"Please come, plan to eat. You know, just keep in mind that any money you spend with the barbecue booth, the teachers' booth, and the entrance booth, that's going straight back to your kids," said White, hoping to make parents feel welcome. "Come on, we'll be here rain or shine."

To find out more about the Indian Summer Festival or to register as a vendor, visit www.indiansummerfestival.org or email theindiansummerfestival@yahoo.com. Alternatively, folks may call 706-747-2401.

Porchfest...from Page 1A

approve it in December." Ultimately, council members opted to keep an eye on their schedules with a tentative date somewhere around Oct. 11, the second Tuesday of the month, at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The Timberline Booster Pump Project is on schedule, and according to Councilman Steve Clark, the new pump station should be simply built with concrete walls, high enough to accommodate a human frame for easy maintenance, and stable enough to keep the elements out. Official plans should be in by the end of the month.

In other news, Clark and City Planner Dean Stanley met up with Mueller Water Products representatives to discuss the update and installation of new water meters. Over 50 antennas are waiting in the City Hall basement for meter heads, the latter of which will remain analog rather than digital due to the ease of hand reading.

The problem is that analog meter heads are on a 14-week backlog. Still, they are needed, and after checking with Hess, Gibby confirmed that the city could afford 30 meters presently, which come in at about \$185 per unit, totaling to nearly \$5,600. Going

forward, the city plans to order additional meters each month to replace broken ones.

Gibby spoke about the Georgia 515 expansion project, which was delayed this year after construction bids came back too high. The project has been separated into three phases for budgeting and bidding purposes, with bidding to resume late spring 2023 starting with the Young Harris Bypass portion.

Young Harris City Council meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. inside City Hall at 50 Irene Berry Drive, barring delays for holidays. These meetings are open to the public, and the community is encouraged to attend.