

# Irma...from Page 1A

northwest through Georgia and South Carolina, moving into Tennessee as it weakened even further dissipating over western Tennessee on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Though the severity of the storm was diluted by the time it reached Georgia, all Towns County public safety employees remained alert to assure that all roads could be properly cleared and anyone who needed assistance could be helped easily and efficiently, something Commissioner Bradshaw was proud to report.

"I want to commend our public safety, the fire department, the road department and the sheriff's department," said Commissioner Bradshaw. "Wednesday morning I was up before daylight and driving all over the county checking on things and I saw the sheriff's patrol cars everywhere. And the road department worked through the night and they did a great job of cleaning everything up."

"Of course, the volunteer fire department helped clear the debris off the road as well. All of those guys did an excellent job. I've very proud of them and we're lucky to have them."

Even though Towns County was spared the havoc of Hurricane Irma's wrath, many in her path were not so lucky. By Wednesday, Irma left behind at least 38 dead in the Caribbean and 31 in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

In light of these events, President Donald J. Trump approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the state of Georgia on Friday, Sept. 15.

The declaration reads: "The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of Georgia to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by Hurricane Irma from September 7, 2017, and continuing."

"The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Camden,

Chatham and Glynn counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

"Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, in all 159 counties."

"Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide."

Those who have sustained losses in the aforementioned areas can apply for assistance by visiting [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or calling (800) 621-3362. Applications can be filled out at any time online and from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. by phone.

A deadline for application acceptance has yet to be determined.

families still know not of their whereabouts.

Last Friday was the second day of remembrance observed by the VFW Post 7807 last week, as the organization gathered on Monday, Sept. 11, in observation of Patriot Day.

Patriot Day is an annual observance on Sept. 11 each year to remember those who were injured or lost their lives on that tragic day 16 years ago as the Twin Towers fell in New York City, New York on Sept. 11, 2001.

The deadliest attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, Sept. 11 marks a day that no one will ever forget, a day that united American Citizens to stand tall, together, against those who wish to do harm to this country and her citizens.

Though the threat of storms from Hurricane Irma loomed over Towns County, VFW Post 7807 veterans braved the weather and held a small ceremony at the post last Monday, remembering all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"We must never forget those who have given their lives for this great nation," said Drummond. "It is up to us to carry their memory on, to tell their stories and to share this history with our friend and loved ones."

"God bless all of our veterans, all of our citizens and God bless the United States of America."

# Veterans...from Page 1A

liberties of her citizens with National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Though not a federal holiday, the United States Congress first passed a resolution authorizing a nationwide observance for National POW/MIA Recognition Day to be observed on July 18, 1979. For two years, it held that date, and then was moved to July 17 in 1981 and 1982. After several other date changes throughout the 80s, the observance was finally established as the third Friday of September in 1986.

This year, Towns County Veterans of VFW Post 7807 gathered with their loved ones to show their respect, to remember those who never returned home, who may still be wandering in foreign territory and for those whose families may never know what happened.

"Depending on whose numbers you go by, we have between 83,000 and 86,000 POWs and MIAs," said Drummond. "Think about all of those families. Everyday, everyday they're haunted by missing their loved ones. They don't know where they lie."

"There is a distinct possibility, especially in the case of POWs, there may be a couple of those folks still alive somewhere on this earth. If a family has been notified that their family member has



**Veteran and VFW Chaplain Scott Drummond. Photo/Lily Avery**

been captured, what are they thinking today.

"We need to keep these soldiers in our hearts. We need to never forget."

The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces face inconceivable hardships and endure the pains and sacrifices of war. The debts paid by those who are in the Armed Forces is one that can never be fully repaid, especially those who left American soil and never made it back to see their friends and loved ones.

In honor of those, Towns County Veterans held a Missing Man Ceremony and offered a word of prayer for those whose

# Stars...from Page 1A

Ten Towns and Union County couples showed off their best tango, belly dancing, waltz and more, all excited to give their friends and families a sneak peak into what they have been working on for the big night in November.

And while this might seem like all fun and games, at the end of the day the dancers know what this event is really all about.

"Most importantly, this is for a good cause," said Darren Harper, 2017 dancer.

Those who wish to donate can become a sponsor for the event, purchase tickets for the event and Gala, or both.

The show will be at the Union County Fine Arts Center on Nov. 4th, beginning at 7 p.m. with the gala following at 9:15 p.m. at the North Georgia Technical College.

Since the couples were selected and paired up, the Dancing with the North Georgia Stars participants have raised \$22,000, which is almost double the \$14,000 raised at this time last year, and all those

involved hope to collect even more before November rolls around.

"This doesn't really include ticket sales," said Liz Ruf, Enotah CASA Board chair. "We've barely touched ticket sales yet, so I think we're going to be in really good shape this year raising money for these children."

Also this year, the event's presenting sponsor United Community Bank, is matching the first \$350 that each couple raises, and a second anonymous donor is matching the second \$350, creating extra incentive for each couple to get out and fundraise.

Right now, the couple that has raised the most money has accrued almost \$4,000.

All proceeds raised by each couple, and by the event, goes toward helping foster children within the Enotah Judicial Circuit, which includes Union, Towns, White and Lumpkin counties. As of right now, there are 268 children in foster care and the number is ever growing.

"I'm on the board for CASA," said Rick Siefken, Enotah CASA board member. "I'm still learning a lot about it. But all of this that we're doing, this is all for the kids. I got involved with this because of what I went through as a child. I went to court one day to see exactly what's going on and I sat in the back row, tears in my eyes as I listened to some of the stories of things that goes on in this community."

"It's unbelievable. All of us are blessed in so many ways, but there are way too many kids out there that fear for their lives. So, this is for the kids. This isn't for us. This is for the kids, to try and make life better for them. Please remember that."

Tickets for the event are \$25 for the show, \$20 for only the Gala and \$40 for both. These tickets may be purchased from the dancers, at the Towns County Chamber of Commerce or online at [www.dancingwithnorthgeorgiastars.com](http://www.dancingwithnorthgeorgiastars.com).

If seats are still available, tickets will be on sale on the night of the event as well.

# Beta Epsilon awards Future Key Woman Educator Scholarships

The local Beta Epsilon chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma awarded two \$1000 Future Key Woman Educator Scholarships in August 2017 to Kaila Reece and Allison Lindstrom. Both recipients call north Georgia their home and are very close to seeing their dreams of becoming educators come to fruition. Kaila Reece resides in Hiwassee, GA and is a senior at Young Harris College majoring in Middle Grades Education. She hopes to teach mathematics. Allison Lindstrom resides in Epworth, GA and is a junior at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, PA majoring in Early Childhood Education. Both young ladies have a strong desire to become educators and make a difference in their students' lives. Beta Epsilon is honored to award these Future Key Women Educators with these scholarships.



**Recipients Allison Lindstrom & Kaila Reece**

Delta Kappa Gamma is a professional honor society of key women educators in the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Japan. Our mission is to promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Our vision is to have leading women educators impacting education worldwide. Serving Fannin, Towns and Union counties, Beta Epsilon is the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and was organized in 1963. NT(Sep20,N4)SH

# Garrett charged again for burglary in Towns County

**By Charles Duncan  
Towns County Herald  
Editor**

Nathan Brice Garrett is in the news again.

The Western North Carolina man, 29, has been charged with yet another burglary – once again in Towns County, by the Towns County Sheriff's Office – his third burglary arrest since mid-August.

Sheriff's detectives arrested Garrett on Thursday, Sept. 7, Towns County sheriff's reports show.

Garrett was charged with one count of burglary, two counts of theft by taking, one count of criminal damage to property, and one count of criminal trespass, according to sheriff's reports.

The charges are related to a reported burglary which occurred at a local antique store located on Highway 17 in Young Harris.

The burglary was reported to have occurred between Monday, Aug. 14, and Tuesday, Aug. 15, of this year.

During the investigation, several of the reported stolen items were recovered, and warrants were secured for Garrett.

The case has been referred to the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Garrett has become a household name in Towns and Union counties in recent weeks.

News accounts indicate that items recovered from Garrett's vehicle in Hiwassee last month were connected to a recent burglary of Victoria's Antique Mall in Union County, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Subsequently, Garrett, 29, was charged in Union County with three counts of second degree burglary, according to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The Victoria's Antique Mall burglary was discovered the morning of Thursday, Aug. 17, the same day Garrett was later arrested for a separate burglary incident in Hiwassee, authorities said.

Following Garrett's August arrest in Hiwassee,



**Nathan Brice Garrett**

UCSO investigators received a tip that cracked their burglary case wide open – Hiwassee Police and the Towns County Sheriff's Office called them up saying that they potentially had information concerning the Union County burglary from earlier that day, authorities said.

A search warrant turned up items connected to the Union County burglary in Garrett's vehicle impounded in Hiwassee, authorities said.

Three vendor shops located inside Victoria's Antique Mall were hit in the burglary, and stolen items, including old coins and jewelry – some of which had already been pawned prior to Garrett's Towns County arrest – were recovered and returned to their respective owners, authorities said.

Garrett's initial arrest came on Aug. 17 in Hiwassee, when he was charged with burglary, criminal trespass, possession of tools for the commission of a crime, and obstructing law enforcement officers, according to Hiwassee PD at the time.

The circumstances of his arrest indicate that on or around 6 p.m. on Aug. 17, a group of vendors having a meeting inside the Hiwassee Antique Mall heard what sounded like someone doing construction, according to Hiwassee police.

When the hammering continued, one of the meeting attendees went outside to look behind the building to find a man pounding his way through

the cinderblock exterior of the mall and into a back wall, according to police.

Upon being discovered, the man packed up his tools and took off, after which a 911 call was made from the scene, according to police.

The call came in at 6:04 p.m., and two Hiwassee PD officers responded to the area within a minute of the call, at which point witnesses told the officers the man had fled on foot into the wooded area behind Fred's Super Dollar, according to police.

Local first responders, including firefighters, officers and deputies, helped to establish a perimeter around the search area, and the Towns County Sheriff's Bloodhound K-9 Copper picked up the suspect's scent and led officers into the woods, according to police.

Not long after, authorities spotted the suspect, later identified as Garrett, fleeing across Bell Creek Road, where he ran behind the McDonald's restaurant, according to police.

Unfortunately for Garrett, more than a dozen Towns County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 911 call, as they had just let out of a previously scheduled pre-eclipse training session, according to police.

Finding himself with cops seemingly on every side, Garrett entered the water and began to swim out into Lake Chatuge, according to police.

Towns County Fire responded with a rescue boat from Station 1, just in case Garrett needed to be saved or pulled from the water, according to police.

Garrett attempted to make landfall via several docks, only to be met by authorities at each dock, according to police.

Exhausted from the pursuit, Garrett finally exited the lake near the Towns County Senior Center, where Hiwassee Police Chief Paul Smith arrested him without further incident, according to police.

Garrett's vehicle was found at the crime scene, and is being held as part of the investigation, according to Hiwassee PD.

# Operation PUP sponsors Mum sale and Rabies Clinic



**VFW members: (l-r) Glenda Geddings, Beverly Chambers, Susan & Bill Bongiovanni, Susanna & Mel White; (front) Joan Moyher, (seated) Frank Geddings.**



**LCAH Rabies Clinic: (Seated) Nikki Hawks, Michelle and Linda Hedden with their doggie, Justin Lee, Dr. Al Marshall, and Savannah Scholtz, (upcoming Vet.); not pictured: Madison Hart and Cindy Audirsch.**

Thanks to all who made Saturday, September 9, 2017 such an outstanding day on the square in Hiwassee. Operation PUP (Prevent Unwanted Pets) had their Mums the Word fund-raising plant sale both Friday and Saturday with mums from Mike Clark's English Country Garden.

Then on Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. the staff from Lake Chatuge Animal Hospital held a reduced price Rabies Clinic in the gazebo on the square.

Last year we had 51 attending and this year 53 dogs and 15 cats, total of 68, attended. This is a wonderful increase and we plan to do this again next year.

To add to the festive feeling on the square, the VFW had some members who grilled hot dogs and made homemade potato salad, plus drink, for just \$3 and they sold out. They are donating part of their profits to PUP. Also helping walk dogs was Troop 407 Cub Scout Brody Barrett.

Troop 407 is sponsored by local VFW Post 3807.

Operation PUP has fund-raisers throughout the year to help Towns County residents spay and neuter their pets and doorstep animals they feed. Please call 1-888-496-2387 if you need help. The next low-cost Rabies Clinic will be held on the square in Hayesville on Saturday, September 23rd at 8 a.m. at the annual Pet Celebration for 2017. NT(Sep20,F4)SH

# YHC presents violinist Dr. Rachael Fischer October 2

Violinist Rachael Fischer, D.M.A., will present an evening of chamber music for violin and piano on Monday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. in Glenn McGinnis Hall of the Clegg Fine Arts Building on the Young Harris College campus. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for students and children under 12.

Dr. Fischer began playing the violin at age four and continues to perform as a soloist and chamber musician. She earned her bachelor of music and doctor of musical arts degrees from the University of Georgia (UGA) and her master

of music degree from Arizona State University. Dr. Fischer has been invited to perform for regional, national, and international events across the United States and in Europe.

Her recent concert appearances include performances with Aspen String Trio, clarinetist Jon Manasse, pianist Peter Miyamoto, and members of the UGA string faculty. Dr. Fischer has performed in violin master classes for renowned artists and teachers including Roger Frisch, Brian Lewis, J. Patrick Rafferty, Stanley Ritchie, and Walter Verdehr, and in chamber music master classes with

members of the Ebéne, Juillard, Parisii, St. Lawrence, and Tokyo String Quartets.

She currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Georgia Gwinnett College and also maintains a full violin studio at UGA's Community Music School. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Suzuki Association of Georgia and is an associate director of UGA's Summer Music Camps.

For more information about the event, call the YHC Division of Fine Arts at (706) 379-5182. NT(Sep20,N1)SH