

GEMA...from Page 1A

incentive for counties to get storm debris removed sooner rather than later.

Debris removal completed zero to 30 days from the start of the incident period, which would be Dec. 22, will receive a federal reimbursement

of 85 percent. Coupled with the 10 percent from the state, this leaves the local share for debris removal at 5 percent for debris cleaned up within 30 days from the very first day of storms.

For debris documented as having been removed between

31 and 90 days from the start of the storms, the federal cost share drops to 80 percent, and for debris removed 91 to 180 days, the federal share goes to 75 percent.

And according to a pilot program fact sheet made available in the April 6 meeting, "federal dollars will not be provided for debris removal after 180 days, unless an extension is granted by FEMA."

It is important to note that the federal disaster aid works as a reimbursement of costs, and not as a means of directly funding repairs, so all work completed must be well documented in order to receive the reimbursement, including invoices if work has been completed by the end of the 60 days, and estimates and quotes if the work has not yet been completed by the end of

the 60-day kickoff period.

According to Hawkins, the following is a list of roads for which the county had to replace culverts due to the flooding incidents between Dec. 22 and Jan. 13: Bailey Road, Burnett Lane, Craig Gap Road, Crumby Creek Terrace, E. Misty Lane, Everett Road, Liberty Church Road, Low Gap Road, Ralph Jones Road, Sandalwood Road, Spring Cove Road, Stephens Road, Trackrock Camp Road and Upper Plott Town Road.

And the following roads were damaged, though without the need to replace culverts: Plott Town Road, Poplar Cove, Ridge Crest and Tate Road.

"We also had damage on Butternut Creek Golf Course from Butternut Creek getting out of the banks in particular areas of the golf course, and that damage to the creek banks and golf course will have to be

repaired," said Hawkins. "We also had damage to the river banks of the Nottely River through Meeks Park in the Meeks Part II area near the bridge on Blue Ridge Highway and the new canoe launch. We also had damage in other areas of Meeks Park from the Butternut Creek."

Furthermore, the Union County Fire Department conducted two boat rescues during one of the flooding incidents, which will also be eligible for reimbursement up to 85 percent from federal and state sources.

Leading the meeting were Tara Teuta, a grant specialist with GEMA-HS, and Chris Nelson, the FEMA public assistance crew leader for Union County.

Other FEMA representatives made the meeting, including Rosalyn

Cole, the federal coordinating officer appointed by President Obama to lead this particular disaster relief effort in Georgia.

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that, as a nation, we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards," said Cole, who urged everyone to download the FEMA app to their phones to get the latest on disasters and disaster preparedness.

Also in the meeting were: Union County Manager Larry Garrett, Fire Chief David Dyer, EMA/911 Director Charles Worden, Road Superintendent Tommy Tanner, C.J. Worden with GEMA-HS Field Operations and Richard Jones with Union County EMA.

Seabee...from Page 1A

"Our first meeting we had on April 10 of last year we had 17 members, so that was a highlight. The other highlight of the year, I would say, would have been the Seabee Ball."

The Seabees took on a rather ambitious project of conducting the first ever Seabee Ball in the North Georgia

Mountains, all while being a brand new group themselves. Fortunately, the March 5 event was a success, and Island X-3 members are already thinking ahead to next year's ball.

Island X-3 serves the Tri-State area of the North Georgia Mountains, Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee, including both Union and Towns counties, and the Seabees are looking to expand their membership based on this particular geographical region.

"My main focus this year I guess you could say would be membership, trying to reach out and see how many more members we can find out here," said Crenshaw, who plans to put out a membership blast to area news agencies in the coming months. "We want to make it fun for everybody. I don't like meetings that are long and drawn out, or just beset in ritual and all that - we're here to have a good time, and that's what I like to see."

Ruback, who was nominated as First Vice Commander in the April 8 meeting, said that Island X-3 is a brotherhood.

"People that belong to this organization, 98 percent of them were in Vietnam," said Ruback. "It's a very small organization, very small outfit in the service, but we build and we fight. That's exactly what we did, we built and we fought. We thought when we first started (Island X-3) we'd have five members, and we're well over 30 members now."

2016 officers nominated and sworn in at the anniversary meeting were: Crenshaw, commander; Bart Hoibraten, second vice commander; Keith Hunter, secretary; Bob Ramay, treasurer; Paul Brown, chaplain; Richard Peck, historian; and George Andrin, master at arms.

The Seabees also welcomed three new members with Bill Jones, Dewayne Polston and Vaughn Palmateer.

Also part of the meeting were a series of Thank-You's issued by the Seabees to individuals who helped to build up the Island X-3 Seabee



Former Vice Commander Rick Grenon and Ed Crenshaw prepare to cut the cake, heralding a year for the Seabees in the North Georgia Mountains.

Ball from March 5: Ashleigh Stephens of the Union County Community Center, Harold Helms of Mountain Resort Entertainment, the owners and staff of Amazing Grace Catering and Events, and CW4 Jerry Cannon, U.S. Army (Ret.).

Cannon, a member of Appalachian St. Andrews Pipes & Drums, dressed up in traditional Scottish attire and played the bagpipes during the Missing Man Ceremony at the Seabee Ball.

"I joined the VFW up here, and of course, a lot of the Seabee guys are in the VFW," said Cannon, speaking on how he first came to be involved with Island X-3 even though he's retired Army. "And they were talking during one of the VFW meetings that they were going to put together a military ball and asked if anyone had any experience with it, and I told them that I had done a lot

of them with the Army."

During the April 8 monthly Seabee meeting, Cannon was named an associate member for his contributions to the ball.

Bart Hoibraten, one of the original plank members of Island X-3, said that he was pleased looking back over the past year.

"With the help of the community and everything that's going on with the membership here, we seem to be able to reach out to do more for others," said Hoibraten. "And as we continue to grow, hopefully we can be a very positive part of the community in assisting - that's what we are, we are Seabees."

"We build and we continue to build. We want to build this community and we want to build our organization to help others, and that's our main goal."

Drugs..

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Office into the distribution of methamphetamine.

Pam Franklin, 53, was arrested and charged with two felony counts of distribution of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, according to the sheriff's office.

John Thornley, 34, was arrested and charged with felony distribution of a controlled substance, methamphetamine; possession of marijuana less than 1 ounce; possession of drug related objects; and felony probation violation, according to the sheriff's office.

"During the course of the investigations, controlled purchases of methamphetamine were made from the two, which led to the arrest of both of them," said UCSO Sgt. Tyler Miller of the Narcotics Unit.



Open House at Union County Fire Station 4

Union County Fire Station 4 Open House will be held on Saturday, May 7th at the Ivy Log Station, 93 Moccasin Road from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.