

## Dorian...from Page 1A

dangerous storm surge along the coasts of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina later this week," the National Hurricane Center said Sunday. "Residents in these areas should continue to monitor the progress of Dorian."

The National Weather Service in Atlanta said over

the weekend that "there is still a lot of uncertainty regarding the storm's track later in the week," noting that "a very small westward shift will mean larger impacts across Georgia, so continue to monitor the storm and be prepared."

After intensifying to Category 5 on Sunday,

Dorian became "the strongest hurricane in modern records for the northwestern Bahamas," creating "catastrophic conditions" in the Abaco Islands located just east of southern Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Locally, the Union County

Emergency Management Agency hosted several weather briefings at the Emergency Operations Center at Fire Station 1 last week, and EMA Director David Dyer said local first responders would continue daily monitoring of the storm's potential impact.

## Isakson...from Page 1A

Isakson, 74, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2013. In July, he fell in his D.C. apartment and suffered four fractured ribs and a torn rotator cuff.

On Monday, Aug. 26, Isakson underwent surgery at WellStar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta to remove a 2-centimeter renal cell carcinoma from one of his kidneys.

In 2016, Isakson won reelection with 54% of the vote and became the first Republican in Georgia to be elected to a third term in the U.S. Senate.

After more than three decades in the real estate business, Isakson became the only elected official in Georgia to serve in the Georgia House, the Georgia Senate, the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

For a third consecutive term, Isakson is chairman of both the Senate Ethics Committee and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he remains the

only Republican in the Senate chairing two committees.

He also serves on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Johnny and his wife, Dianne, have been married since

1968. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

In a statement released last Wednesday, Rep. Doug Collins said that Isakson will be missed in Congress.

"Johnny Isakson has been a standard of public service and statesmanship for decades in Georgia," Collins said. "He's

always drawn on his extensive roots in our state to deepen his advocacy for all Georgians. Johnny faithfully remembers the forgotten, including America's veterans. I've looked up to him as a mentor and still work to emulate him."

## Garrett...from Page 1A

on Stanley," Catham said. "He's never told me something that you couldn't depend on."

"You know, he has been such a blessing to me and my family, and he has been the best boss that I have ever had. If you call most people at 10 at night, then they won't answer, but Stanley will answer. And if you are broken down on the road, he will come and get you."

"I just think we need a lot more people like him that stay true to what they say. This wasn't really Stanley's job, it was his life, and he went at it wholeheartedly and put everything he had into it."

"There's not a kid in this school that doesn't love Stanley, and I just think this place would be a lot better place with more people like him."

Garrett, who has been in local school transportation for 43 years now, said he was retiring as a way to bring some change into his life.

"I guess I'm old school,



Bus drivers attending a special retirement breakfast for Stanley Garrett, who retired Friday as transportation director of Union County Schools after 43 years in the school system.

Photo by Jarrett Whitener

and that doesn't always work the best," Garrett said. "It's a good time for everything to change, and it's a good time for me to change."

And though Garrett doesn't know exactly what he will do in retirement, he did say

he was considering working for a dealership.

The retirement party concluded with the telling of stories and sharing of memories about how Garrett had impacted the lives of so many people — adults and students alike — as part of the Union County School System.

"Stanley Garrett has been one of the most dedicated employees our system has had, and we are so thankful for his dedication to student transportation for the past 40 years," Superintendent John Hill said. "Stanley will be missed, but we all wish him the very best in retirement."

"If anyone deserves to retire, it's Stanley Garrett. Thank you, Stanley, for your tireless dedication to Union County Schools."

Garrett's assistant, Kody Owenby, has been promoted to transportation director, and he will have big shoes to fill according to the other transportation employees, though Garrett has confidence in Owenby's abilities.

## Duck Derby...from Page 1A



The Aug. 31 Rubber Duck Derby featured 1,200 ducks being sent down Butternut Creek at the Union County Farmers Market.

Photo by Mark Smith

win him the Grand Prize of \$500. Buck Dills won Second Place and took home \$250. Tony Hamby won \$100 with a Third-Place finish. And Worley Hooper, whose duck was the very last one across the line, won a Yeti cooler.

"My kids loved it," said Andrew Glass, who was there with his wife and three small children. "They enjoyed seeing the ducks and playing with other kids. They've been talking about it all week, coming to see the ducks. They've been looking forward to it."

"They stood there and didn't miss a beat. They watched the ducks come down the river and they had a good time. It turned out good. They really enjoyed it."

The fundraiser derby being new to the department, Police Chief Michael "Bear" Baxter and Assistant Police Chief Shawn Dyer said they weren't sure if it would be a success or not.

"We just didn't know how it would go because it's the first time we've ever had one," Baxter said. "But look at the people who stayed to watch it. It's been a great success."

"We thank our sponsors, local businesses who helped sponsor it, and just the public in general. Everybody who supported this helped send a kid shopping at Christmas. That's a big deal."

"You're helping a child who otherwise is not going to have a Christmas. That's the whole point of this thing, and we couldn't be more thankful for the support. It shows you what our community is about."

The Blairsville PD holds its Shop With A Cop Program every December, taking many kids shopping each year for presents to put under their Christmas trees.

And the derby turned out to be such a big success that the Police Department is already planning for next year's edition, Baxter said.