

On February 28, at approximately 12:00 p.m. a missing person report was called in to Towns County 911 Center, and Towns County Sheriff's Deputies arrived at a scene in the Woods Grove area in the northern part of the county.

Investigators discovered that a male and female, both adults, who lived in a residence in the area, had apparently had a domestic dispute and left the scene approximately three hours earlier. The person who called in the information had allegedly waited some time before calling authorities.

Information and evidence discovered at the scene caused responding sheriff's deputies to issue an alert for authorities to be on the lookout (BOLO) for the two individuals, and surrounding county law enforcement agencies were given descriptions of the two and the vehicle in which they were believed to be travelling.

As there was concern for the welfare of one or both parties who were allegedly missing, Sheriff's Investigators continued searching for the persons and vehicle throughout the next day, February 29. The Region 8 office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigations was contacted and an agent arrived to assist in gathering evidence. In addition, all available deputies and staff were on scene at the command post to follow up on leads.

Late in the afternoon, the missing female was discovered by Sheriff's Deputies near the Woods Grove community in the area of her residence. Based on evidence and statements collected, Rebecca Lynn Franklin, 24, of Hiawassee, was taken into custody and charged with one count of Aggravated Assault and two counts of Cruelty to Children in the third degree. At press time the subject remains in the Towns County Detention Center. The case continues to be under investigation.