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joined Arencibia, Bleckley, and Patton as first team members.

Indians' freshman Dallas Manus received Honorable Mention honors on the All Tournament Boys Team as one of just three freshmen named to the 15-member boys' team.

The other two freshmen selected were Eric Williams of Athens Academy on the first team and Will Jackson of Athens Christian on

the second team.

It's been a banner year for the Lady Indians. Cochran broke the school freethrow record, Arencibia, who set the state record last season for 3-pointers in a single game, broke the Ladies record for 3-pointers in a career.

She also became a member of the select 1,000-point club for the Lady Indians, registering more than 1,000 career points with the

Lady Indians.

Manus, the Indians' leading scorer in 2011-2012, broke the freshman scoring mark set in 1953 by Bob Bryson. He finished the season with 230 points to lead the way for the Indians.

Sincere congratulations are extended to all five TCHS basketball players and Coach Jim Melton from your reporter and the Towns County Herald for well deserved recognition.

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ing 15-0 against Region 8-A opponents in regular and post season play as they prepare to enter the first round of the Class A State Tournament.

The region championship is the second consecutive title for the Lady Indians and the third in the last four years.

It's a near certainty at press time that the Lady Indians will host the Georgia Military Lady Bulldogs of Milledgeville on Friday with the time to be determined after press time. Readers wishing to attend the game should check with the

school, coaches, players, or other fans to confirm the opponent and date and learn of the game time.

If victorious in this game, the Lady Indians will then host a second round game, most likely next Tuesday, Feb. 28 at a time to be determined. The winner of that game will then move on to the Elite Eight round at Marietta High School on Saturday, March 3, with the starting time of that game also as yet to be determined.

During the three-game region tournament, seniors Gabby Arencibia and Ali

Bleckley and freshman Stephanie Patton combined to score 114 points. The three also were named first-team Region 8-A. Coach Melton was named Region 8-A Coach of the Year and Arencibia was named Region 8-A Player of the Year. Sophomore Eryn Cochran was named Honorable Mention.

Congratulations to Coach Melton and the Lady Indians on yet another successful and exciting season that your reporter and the Towns County Herald hope doesn't end anytime soon.



Lady Indians' Head Coach Jim Melton congratulates senior Ali Bleckley as the Lady Indians clinch their second consecutive Region 8-A championship. Photo/James Reese

Identified...continued from page 1

in the area of Enota Campground off Highway 180.

Towns County authorities conducted an extensive search of not only the campground, but the U.S. National Forest in the area. The search included six agencies along with three individual K-9 teams. Agencies included the Towns County Sheriff's Office, Towns County Emergency Services, Union County Emergency Services, Clay County Emergency Services, Dawson County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Forest Service. After an extensive search, no sign of the missing person was found.

On Jan. 15th, 2012 human remains were discovered on U.S. National Forest land by hunters in a rugged mountain area in the southern part of the county.

The hunters notified authorities and Towns County sheriff's deputies and a Department of Natural Resources ranger hiked approximately two miles up the mountain to the scene and determined that the re-

mains were in fact human, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Clinton contacted GBI's Region 8 Field Office in Cleveland to determine the availability of a forensic anthropologist. Sheriff Clinton met with other law enforcement agents at the command post near the scene.

A search of the area over the next two days, which included personnel from the Towns County Sheriff's Office, GBI, DNR, U. S. Forest Service and Towns County Fire Department, found additional evidence. During the overnight hours, deputies remained near the area to secure the scene, according to Towns County sheriff's reports.

A forensic anthropologist was also on the scene to assist in the search and direct efforts to preserve evidence. Investigators concluded that all available evidence was collected and the scene was released on Jan. 16. The remains were transported to the GBI Medical

Examiner's Office, where further investigation revealed no apparent trauma.

Almost immediately upon the discovery, Towns County investigators suspected the remains belonged to Lee.

Sheriff Clinton and his staff would like for the public to remember the family of Mr. Lee in their thoughts and prayers. Sheriff Clinton also wanted to thank all of the local, state and federal public safety personnel and agencies who assisted not only in the original search but also in the recovery of the remains.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office, on behalf of all the public safety personnel, expresses thanks to Enota Campground for allowing the use of their facilities and property as a command post and planning center during both the search and rescue operation and the recovery of the remains. The local chapter of the American Red Cross was also extremely helpful in providing logistical support.

HPD goes high-tech to find missing persons

Special to Towns County Herald
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Hiawassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright has formalized an agreement with the A Child Is Missing Alert program that has led to a high tech method now in place to search locally for missing children, missing elderly, missing college students, and missing persons who may be mentally or physically impaired.

The program went into effect Feb. 8th. Now, upon receipt of a missing persons call, the Hiawassee Police Department will make the first phone call to a toll-free number that rings in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. — the national headquarters of the A Child Is Missing Alert.

The call, answered 24/7/365 by an information and Mapping Technician, initiates a rapid process of information gathering and use of so-

phisticated mapping systems. A Child Is Missing then launches potentially thousands of calls within minutes with an alert message detailing the missing person's description, last known whereabouts, and pertinent information. This alert message also includes a Hiawassee Police Department phone number for use by anyone with information related to the missing person.

This program is a free service to law enforcement. Hiawassee Police officials will evaluate each potential activation of the A Child Is Missing Alert program to ensure the application is appropriate to the case and to ensure the system is optimally used. Policies, procedures, and employee training will also guide the most efficient and effect use of this Alert program.

Phone numbers that are

called by this program include listed numbers and mobile numbers available to ACIM in the selected area. Mobile numbers, unlisted numbers, broadband/voice-over IP numbers, or TDD/TTY devices can be added to ensure they too are called in the event of an alert. To enter your cell phone, unlisted, broadband/voice-over IP or TDD/TTY device number visit achildissing.org and click on "add your name" to enter your name, number, and address. This information will only be used for emergency message alerts.

A Child Is Missing is a nationwide non-profit organization that helps law enforcement agencies locate missing children, missing elderly persons, missing college students, and missing persons who are mentally or physically impaired.

Wrestling...continued from page 1

back to claim a bronze medal.

He defeated Grant Chastain of Holy Innocents by a 6-3 decision. That put him in the console finals head-to-head against Joseph Brittan of First Presbyterian.

Stroud took Brittan to school, winning a major 16-4 decision and becoming the first wrestler in Towns County history to medal at the state tournament.

"Zack had the highest

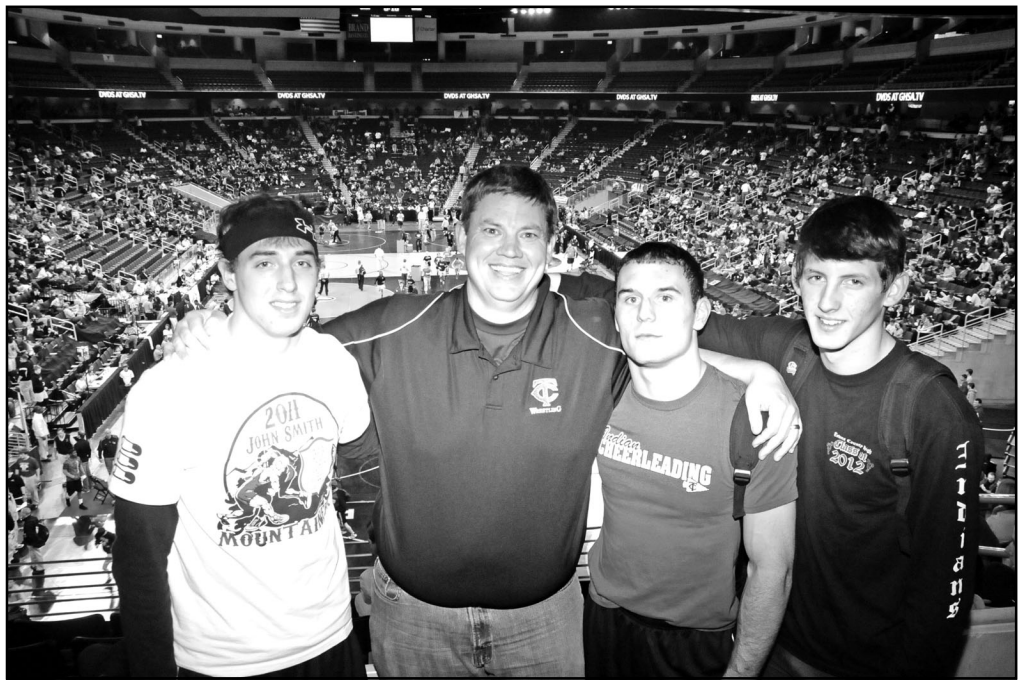
finish ever for a Towns County wrestler," Indians Head Coach Jeff Stowers said. "We finished twelfth as a team with just the three kids we took. So, I felt we accomplished a lot."

Stroud would have been a favorite to medal during his junior year, but a shoulder injury prevented that from happening.

What a difference a year makes. The Indians medaled with Stroud and

Tim Collier and Tyler Hoffman both placed with fifth-place finishes in their respective weight classes.

"We've got some really good wrestlers on this team," Stroud said. "You have to hand it to (junior) Tyler Hoffman (160 pounds), he works his tail off. (Senior) Timmy Collier (138 pounds) is the best wrestler on this team. I'm proud to have been a part of this team."



Towns County Indians' Head Wrestling Coach Jeff Stowers is grinning from ear-to-ear as his team finished the highest of any Indians' wrestling team at the state championships at Gwinnett Center on Saturday. Photo/James Reese

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Perren said.

"Jeanne will be honored along with Sabrina, as well as our Honors students," Perren said. "We'll be recognizing our SAT Wall of Fame students as well as our Honors students and our seniors. It's a big night for those students."

Perren was excited about Sabrina Garrett's selection as STAR Teacher. It possibly marks a first in

TCHS history, he said.

"Sabrina is a hard working lady," he said. "I know that she and Jeanne worked closely together during her entire high school career."

"I know that Sabrina is the first vocational teacher (CTAE) to get this honor since I've been here and I believe she is the first in school history; we'll have to check that out and see if

we've made history."

Last year's STAR Student was Nora Sutton; her STAR Teacher Lynn Swanson.

The next big announcement for TCHS — naming the 2011-2012 Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Historian. That comes later in the school year, Perren said.

"We're not offering in news tips on that," he said with a smile.

Chief...continued from page 1

Three days turned into 36 before U.S. forces could claim control of the tiny island on March 26, 1945, Johnson said.

"We bombed Iwo Jima for 72 hours before attempting to go ashore," Johnson said. "It didn't do any good. All it did was make potholes in the airfields. The Japanese were in the hills."

"The Japanese had turned the island into an ant-hill," he said. "They had miles and miles of tunnels underground and in the hillside. All that bombing and we didn't touch a single Japanese soldier."

Johnson, who turns 90 on March 7th was honored by Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall and members of the Towns County Marine Corps League.

"We're losing our World War II veterans fast," Commissioner Kendall said. "Most of them are coming up on 90 years old like Bud. I think we need to do something special for the Greatest Generation."

Kendall began his honoring of veterans by naming March 7th, Bud Johnson Day in Towns County.

"Bud is a good friend, and one of my Sunday School classmates," Commissioner Kendall said. "He's not just a friend of Towns County, he's served his country to the maximum over the years — almost 37 in military uniform."

"Bud Johnson and

Leon West (both of Towns County) are the last two Iwo Jima vets in Northeast Georgia," he said. "We're here tonight to honor Bud, but we need to remember all of our World War II veterans in a special way this year."

Johnson told the crowd at the monthly Commission meeting that the next time they see a vet, "just thank him or her."

"This nation gave me an opportunity to do something with my life," Johnson said. "I thank my fellow veterans and all the people who have helped me along the way."

"We all said after World War II that peace will come," Johnson said. "But this nation is still in a battle today, we need to pray for this great nation. We thought all the wars would cease after World War II, but we all know that didn't happen."

"I want to thank you all for making this a special night; I love you all, I love Towns County," Johnson said.

Johnson, who served in both the Pacific and Atlantic during World War II, said Iwo Jima was a dog-fight. The Japanese were among the most disciplined military forces of all time.

"They fought to the death," Johnson said. "Before you even encountered the Japanese, you knew you were in for a fight."

The number of Japanese left standing following

the 36-day struggle backs up Johnson's claim. Of the more than 21,000 Imperial Japanese soldiers who defended Iwo Jima against *Operation Detachment*, only 1,087 survived the battle and were taken prisoner.

"The Japanese didn't know the meaning of the word surrender," Johnson said. "The only way you were going to take their position was to kill them."

The Battle of Iwo Jima is remembered for the most famous photograph of World War II: the Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima.

The photograph portrays five U.S. Marines and a U.S. Navy Corpsman lifting the U.S. Flag atop Mount Suribachi during the height of the battle on Feb. 23, 1945.

Johnson watched through field glasses from his ship, the U.S.S. Silverstein as the Flag was raised.

"There was the loudest roar you've ever heard when that flag went up," he said. "It was one of the proudest moments of my life. You've seen the photograph, well, I saw it in person and I'm extremely lucky to be here to tell about it."

"I'll never forget what happened at Iwo," Johnson said. "A lot of good men died there fighting for our way of life."

All told, more than 26,000 of the 74,000 U.S. troops died at Iwo Jima.

Calling all artists and crafters



Blairsville, GA would like to invite all artists and crafters to join us for the 5th Annual Downtown Blairsville Spring Arts & Crafts Festival! The 2012 Spring Arts & Crafts Festival will be held on Saturday, May 26th and Sunday, May 27th. Applications deadline is March 1, 2012 and can be found online at www.downtownblairsville.com. Guidelines can also be found online.

In 2011, Blairsville welcomed over 50 artists and craftsmen to the festival.

Vendors set up their exhibits around the square for two days of arts, crafts, demonstrations, entertainment, and good food. Everything from paintings, jewelry, and pottery to delicious kettle corn and barbecue is available for purchase.

Location of the 2012 Spring Arts & Crafts Festival will be either on the square (as in previous years) or at the Historical Society's Mountain Life Museum and Heritage Center on Cleveland Street (one block from the square). Final decision on location will be made in April depending on streetscape construction timeline.

Please call Janet Hart-

man at (706) 994-4837 for more information. Come celebrate the arts!

Veterans and Seniors

Need a little light exercise? I make custom light weight bar bells of various sizes and weights. I also make a light weight walking stick along with my regular metal walking stick. There is no charge for these items and they can be picked up only at the Union County Senior Center in Blairsville.

Call 706-745-6912 or email goines@brmemc.net for details. NIE#022X2CA