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Towns County begins March to Macon for a state title

Lady Indians (26-1) capture Region 8-A crown on the road with victories over Athens Academy, Hebron and Prince Avenue Christian

By Jerry Kendall
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The Towns County Lady Indians begin their March to Macon after sewing up a Region 8-A Championship with a 55-47 victory over Prince Avenue Christian on Saturday night.

Gabby Arencibia, Jordan Moss and Ali Bleckley combined for 38 of the Lady Indians' final tally of 55 points.

The Lady Indians used six 3-point baskets by three different players between the 2:15 mark of the first quarter and the 3:20 mark of the second to great advantage in racing out to what proved to be an insurmountable 33-15 lead by exactly the 2 minute mark of the second quarter.

Scoring leaders for the game were Arencibia with 15 points, Moss with 12, Bleckley

with 11, Eryn Cochran with 6, Dadrian Blythe with 5, Lindsay Patton with 4 and Makayla Underwood with 2 points.

Arencibia also led in assists with 5 and was followed by Bleckley and Cochran with 3 each and Underwood with 2.

The next opponent for the Lady Indians arrives Friday evening in the form of the Mt. Zion Lady Eagles out of Region 6-A, Sub Region B.

"Our Lady Indians will be hosting Mt. Zion in the first round of the state basketball tournament this Friday, Feb. 25th, at 7 p.m.," said TCHS Principal Roy Perren. "The state requires us to charge \$7 admission to the tournament games and we are allowed to recognize only GHSA issued passes (and press passes) for admittance to the game.

"Mt. Zion is the No. 3

See *Championship*, page 7



The Lady Indians celebrated their second Region title in three years. Photo/James Reese

Dr. Page reaches one more goal

By Charles Duncan
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Dr. Sandra Page will soon complete another professional goal.

Dr. Page, named last week to succeed Don Dermody as principal at Towns County Elementary School, said she was honored to be the school's next principal.

"I'm excited and I look forward to the challenge," she said. "Don Dermody has been a role model for me over the years and I'm ready to step into his shoes."

Dr. Page begins her school day by walking through the cafeteria and saying good morning to the children and her fellow educators. Then she has some quiet time and prepares for the day ahead.

"I love greeting the children in the morning, getting the school opened up and starting our day together," she said. "I get excited about



Dr. Sandra Page is excited to meet the challenge of being Towns County Elementary School's next principal. Photo/James Reese

each day. I try to learn something new each day."

Learning is fundamental and being an elementary student is tougher than ever before, Dr. Page said.

"The schools have to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress," she said. "But we have wonderful methods to achieve that goal. We let the data do all the talking. We analyze each student's previous CRCT scores.

"There is an abundance of technology now that monitors the kids," she said. "We can track each student to see how much growth they've made. We can tweak what ever we need to tweak. The whole process of accessing children has changed."

Technology is moving so fast that textbooks and

See *Dr. Page*, page 7

Proposed GDOT project funding slated for 2014

Proposed widening project's estimated cost at \$32.3 million

By Charles Duncan
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An 8.3-mile proposed widening project from Blairsville to Young Harris is estimated to cost \$32.3 million, according to Georgia Department of Transportation Project Manager Steve Adewale.

The GA 515/US 76 project, APD-0056-02(209), *Union and Towns Counties, P.I. No. 122900*, is in the conceptual phase of development, and was scheduled to be discussed with stakeholders on Tuesday at Young Harris City Hall from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.,

according to Adewale.

Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby said that patience is necessary as both the city and its residents wait for a conceptual project design from GDOT.

She said that the city doesn't know enough about the project to pass judgment of whether it's good for the city or not. It's one of those occasions where everyone will have to wait and see what happens next. She encouraged residents to become informed about the project.

The proposed project would encompass widening

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Lt. Koppel chosen state's best

Towns County Fire Dept.'s Safety Director heads list of public safety honorees

By James Reese
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Towns County Fire Rescue Department Safety Director Lt. Harold Koppel has been named the state's top firefighter by the state Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The news came last week as Towns County VFW Post 7807 presented its annual public safety awards last week at Hiwassee City Hall.

Lt. Koppel was named Firefighter of the Year; Curtis Walls was named EMT of the Year and Hiwassee Police Officer Arvel Walls was named Law Enforcement Officer of

See *Awards*, page 7



Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd accepts the VFW Firefighter of the Year award for Lt. Harold Koppel. Lt. Koppel also was named the state's top firefighter. Photo/James Reese

GHSA could change the face of Class A athletics

Public and private school titles proposed

By Charles Duncan
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The great divide between public and private schools competing for state championships is expected to be a hot button of conversation at the Georgia High School Association's Executive Committee Meeting in March.

A proposal has been submitted that if accepted by GHSA, would allow Class A public and private schools to compete in the regular season, but divide the two come tournament time beginning in 2012.

The GHSA Reclassification Committee met in October to discuss innovative plans to resolve some of the perceived problems with the existing classification structure of GHSA schools.

The Reclassification Committee is currently investigating several plans, and it is hoped that one plan will be presented at the March meeting of the Executive Committee for approval, according to the GHSA Web site.

According to GHSA Executive Director Ralph Sweargin, this could merely be a tweaking of the existing structure, or it could be a revolutionary plan to change the number of classifications and/or the number of state championships.

"Many of the complaints with the existing re-



Dr. Richard Behrens

gion structures will be difficult to fix, and some of the complaints are actually contradictory," according to Sweargin. "For example: in Class AAAAA, there are concerns that the gap between 1,900 students and 3,500 students is too big; but others are concerned because there are not as many teams in AAAAA as there are in AAAA.

"Obviously, those two opinions contradict each other," he said on the GHSA Web site.

Sweargin also touched on the public school/private school debate.

"It is no secret that there is a level of discontent between public and private GHSA schools, and toward

See *Debate*, page 7

TOWNS COUNTY HERALD

Changes ahead for Main Street

By Charles Duncan
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A downtown landmark is on the way out.

The Denton House, one of Towns County's oldest landmarks, will soon be replaced by an Ingles Gas Island, Ingles General Manager Doug Green said.

The supermarket chain purchased the building and grounds in October, Green said.

Ingles offered the historic building to the Towns County Historical Society to allow the group to move it to another location.

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Bill Hunnicutt recently accepted the stone fountain his father made for W.O. Sparks' former residence in downtown from Ingles Market GM Doug Green. Bill Kendall played a part in the historic transaction. Photo by James Reese



Local Weather and Lake Levels

Thur: Rain	59 47
Fri: Rain/Thunder	63 33
Sat: Cloudy	59 41
Sun: Rain	62 40
Mon: Rain	59 35
Tue: Sunny	55 32
Wed: Sunny	56 32



Upstream Elevation Predicted 02/23/11	
Lake Chatuge	1918.21
Lake Nottely	1765.22
Blue Ridge	1624.87

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Baseball Season

The Towns County Indians kicked off the 2011 baseball season with the home opener on Tuesday against Union County.

Game results were not available at press time.

The Indians are scheduled to play Tallulah Falls on Thursday at Tallulah Falls at 4:30 p.m. It's the home opener for the Tallulah Falls Tribe.

The Indians have eight seniors this season and expect that veteran leadership to work in their favor.

Chris Vardo takes the reins this season after four seasons as assistant to Head Coach Shannon Moss.

The Indians skipper stepped down after last season to spend more time with family.

Early Voting

Towns County's registered voters began heading to the polls on Monday.

Early voting is underway to decide the \$12.7 million Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum.

Ballots can be cast at the Old Rock Jail at 91 Berrong Street. The election is scheduled for March 15.

A 'yes' vote extends the current 1 cent sales tax for six years and provides capital outlay funds for the county and cities.

If approved, the sales tax extension would begin on July 1.

Supporters hosted a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday at the Towns County Senior Center.

Event goers say the SPLOST fundraiser was an overwhelming success.

CPR Class

The American Red Cross is holding its annual Free Adult CPR Training course on Saturday, March 5th. The class will be held in the Towns County Recreation Center at 10 a.m. The class lasts about three hours. Call (800) 282-1722, to sign up.

