

Heartbreaker in Hiawassee...from page 1A

team hang around long enough, they will beat you. The Tribe forgot. At the 2:20 mark in the first quarter, the Wolverines converted a steal making the score 9-2. They followed with a trey to narrow the gap to 9-5. After the Lady Indians were caught camping in the lane it suddenly became a 9-7 game in the first after the Wolverines got the kinks out.

Conrad then laid a shot on the glass on an inbounds pass and moments later glassed another making the score 13-9 Towns County. During the early first quarter, the Tribe had visions of an easy championship win. Lindsey Patton then found Moss free inside for the feed and it was 18-9. The visitors answered with a trey at the other end making it 18-12. Gabby Arencibia answered by working the arc for three to give the Lady Indians a 21-12 lead. In the early going, Conrad was a force on the glass as she dominated the offensive and defensive boards. Bleckley had her best night outside as she sent her third air mail through the net to

double up the Lady Wolverines 24-12. Conrad then hit a pull-up jumper from the foul line to make it 27-12. The Wolverines tried hard to give the last shot in the final 30 seconds but it took four turnovers before Moss finally converted the hoop at the horn, to give Towns County a 29-12 lead at the half.

The visitors quickly iced a long trey to start the third quarter, but again, on the next trip down the hardwood, it was Arencibia with the deuce to give Towns the 31-15 lead. After a couple of minutes in neutral, Moss sank two from the line to restart the offense. Prince Avenue picked up four unanswered points to close the gap to 34-22. Again Arencibia went long, this time hitting from the right side of the arc. After a questionable traveling call on the Indians, Prince got the basket and it was 37-26 Towns. Moss answered with a rebound put-back to make it 39-26 Lady Indians. A turn-around jumper by Conrad increased the lead. Brittany Walls then opened up the game with a jumper, giving Towns a 16-point, 43-27 lead

after three quarters.

With eight minutes to play and a 16-point lead, it looked like a Region championship was in the making, but the wheel fell off the wagon and over the cliff it went. The visitors muscled their way in the paint for two, to close the gap to 45-32 before Patton hit a lay-up and converted the 3-point play to make the score 48-32 Towns.

The Wolverines out hustled a couple of Indians in the paint, took it the distance and soon it was 48-36. They converted the take-away and drew the foul. Howell missed the charity shot. Soon afterward Walls nailed a jump shot, to lift Towns to a 50-36 lead.

Soles took the ball away under the Indian basket, made the dash to the glass and converted the foul shot, to close the gap to 50-39. The Lady Indians' shooting had gotten as cold as the under side of the pillow.

The Lady Wolverines' David made a living picking Indian pockets all night as she made six steals. Soon, Prince

had picked away at the lead to make it 50-43. Conrad added a trey through a pack of Wolverines, to give the Lady Indians a 53-43 lead. That's when the scoring stopped for the Lady Indians. Despite two straight blocks at the 1:20 mark in the final quarter, Prince hit a trey then followed with a steal to make it 53-48. With 61 ticks left, and the scoreboard sitting at 53-50, a Wolverine full court press drew a foul but the Lady Indians failed to convert at the line. The visitors tipped it out of bounds, but on a wild pass, the Lady Indians threw it away. With 22.8 seconds left, Soles iced a deep trey to knot the score at 53-53. The Indians got picked on an inbounds pass and a lay-up by David and subsequent free throw conversion by Howell gave the huge come-back championship win to the Prince Avenue Lady Wolverines, 56-53.

Both teams now advance to the Class A state tournament.

Conrad paced the Lady Indians with 15 points followed by Moss with 12, Arencibia with 10, Bleckley with 9, Walls with 4 and Patton with 3.

STAR Student...from page 1A

a surprise pick as Black's STAR Teacher.

"Alecia works very hard; she's truly dedicated to these kids," Perren said. "She's dedicated, not only to the brightest, but every student she encounters. She covers the gambit. She works so hard, she's very well prepared.

"She's just a joy to have on staff," he said. "She was a great choice for STAR Teacher."

Black, who wants to become an engineer, was scheduled to be honored along with Frizzell and the school's "Wall of Fame" students on Tuesday night at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds by the Towns County Lions Club during

Honors Night. Dr. Richard Behrens, the school system's superintendent, was scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

"Thomas is a great kid," Dr. Behrens said. "He's really done Towns County proud. Our SAT scores are still high. We're a small school and that's very hard to do.

"One student can have a bad day and that can really throw your test scores off. It's not like having 200 or 300 students all taking the SAT," Dr. Behrens said.

"I'm proud of all these students for their academic achievements," Dr. Behrens said. "And I can't say enough good things about Alecia."

CRCT scores...from page 1A

concern; and Severe concern.

Eighty percent of Georgia's elementary and middle schools fell into the "Clear" category; 10 percent fell into "Minimal concern;" 6 percent fell into "Moderate concern;" and 4 percent fell into the "Severe concern" category.

The majority of schools that fell into the "Severe concern" category were identified as being in the metro Atlanta area.

Gainesville Elementary School in Hall County also was cited as being in the "Severe concern" category. Lumpkin County Middle School was cited for "Moderate concern."

During erasure analysis authorized by GOSA, Towns County Schools got an 'A.' Neither the elementary school nor the middle school was flagged for concerns that answers on the local standardized tests had been changed from wrong to right.

The results of the statewide analysis of CRCT assessments have sparked a state Department of Education and criminal investigation of the test results for schools flagged for "Severe concern."

Towns County schools scored a "clear" with zero percent of its tests flagged for possible cheating, analysis conducted by GOSA, state records show.

The CRCT is a standardized assessment administered to students in grades 1-8 in Georgia. It is designed to measure how well students at each grade level have acquired the knowledge and skills within the Georgia Performance Standards.

CRCT results are used to determine whether schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Goodall...from page 1A

rica, Dr. Goodall's journey has been one of wonder.

"It was a time of discovery...everything was new," she notes about her experiences with the chimps, "and being the first Westerner to be living among them, seeing it all for the first time."

During the 1960s, the idea of a woman being successful in a career was almost unheard of.

Goodall is best known for her study of chimpanzee social and family life. She began studying the chimpanzee way of life in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania in 1960. Single-handedly, she changed all perceptions of apes in the humanistic society. She defined social groups of chimpanzees, notably, their interaction with each other and with humans. Through her research, it was learned that chimpanzees, long thought to be vegetarians, actually enjoyed hunting and eating meat.

In 1977, Goodall estab-

lished the Jane Goodall Institute, which supports the Gombe Stream National Park research, and she is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. The institute is widely recognized for innovative, community-centered conservation movement programs in Africa and a global youth program, Roots & Shoots, which currently has more than 10,000 groups in over 100 countries. Young Harris College recently founded a Roots & Shoots chapter on campus.

Today, Goodall devotes virtually all of her time to advocacy on behalf of chimpanzees and the environment.

The evening was an inspiring one, causing whispers of empowerment from guests leaving the facility. Each and every person in attendance came away from the night with a little more wisdom about life and nature and a better understanding about chimpanzee noises.

SPLOST...from page 1A

lieve that whether or not this issue moves forward is at the will of the people of Towns County."

Hiawasse Mayor Barbara Mathis was extremely supportive of a 1 cent sales tax referendum to fund important projects that include expansion of the city's water and sewer facilities.

"We also need a new water tank or we're soon going to run out of water," she said. "I think Commissioner Kendall is on the right track asking residents to support a SPLOST referendum."

Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby was undecided about a SPLOST referendum. She cited the lack of opportunity to discuss the issue with her city council members.

The Towns County Homeowners Association has come out in favor of a SPLOST to fund much overdue capital improvement projects. It's estimated that over a six-year time frame, the county can collect an estimated \$12 million for capital improvements.

"During the past four years residents representing various groups and organizations have requested that voters be given an opportunity to decide this issue, and that the proceeds of a SPLOST be used to upgrade the infrastructure and other needs facing the county and cities," Kendall told the group.

In Hiawasse, the City Council has had a moratorium in place for more than two years on sewer hook-ups outside the city limits. If a SPLOST is approved, the county will contribute \$400,000 of SPLOST funds to upgrade the city's waste water treatment plant. Without a SPLOST the sewer problem, the sewer moratorium and economic development in the county is without a solution, Kendall said.

Also on the proposed projects list, acquiring property and developing a park and recreational fields, Kendall said.

"This is a great need and a top priority," Kendall said. "In some instances our children have to leave the county to find practice fields."

Roads and bridges also rank high on the list of needs. "Since the economic downturn, the county has reduced the number of Towns County Road Department employees from 16 to the present nine workers," he said.

These workers maintain approximately 400 miles of county roads, Kendall said.

"This includes mowing right of ways, cleaning ditches, clearing fallen trees, graveling and scraping gravel roads, re-capping and patching pavement, and removing ice and snow," he said. "The

SPLOST would help provide equipment and materials for repairing and upgrading the road system."

Other capital projects include the purchase of fire department equipment and fire hydrants.

"One fire hydrant will cover 2,000 feet, 1,000 feet in each direction and homes owners will save a substantial amount on their fire insurance," Kendall said. "Ambulances for Towns County Emergency Medical Services would be purchased by SPLOST instead of with property tax dollars.

"We must have good dependable ambulances. A breakdown in a faulty ambulance could cost a life in delaying time getting to the hospital. Minutes and seconds save lives in some emergencies."

Other potential projects include \$100,000 to match a \$900,000 state grant to upgrade the library in Hiawasse. The county already has committed \$100,000 in funding from property tax dollars to match the state grant.

"This \$100,000 from the general fund would be replaced by SPLOST dollars with some funding going to upgrade the equipment and Young Harris library," Kendall said.

Kendall also would like to take a more than \$500,000 financial burden off property taxpayers by utilizing SPLOST proceeds to fund the remaining payments on the Towns County Detention Center - \$488,478 to complete payments on the jail and a \$40,000 fencing project recommended by the Towns County Grand Jury.

Kendall cited the potential for jobs creation through upgrades in infrastructure, sewer and expansion of the county's Industrial Park.

"If there is no SPLOST some of the projects would have to be funded by property tax and some would have to remain on hold," Kendall said.

Kendall believes that taxpayers could see a \$2 million burden lifted from their shoulders over the course of the proposed SPLOST.

"I envision being able to cut the millage rate by a half-mill," he said. "A successful SPLOST would shift the tax burden from taxpayers to a more balanced load from sales tax."

A high percentage of the SPLOST would be paid by nonresidents and tourists visiting the county during the warmer months, or peak tourist season, Kendall said.

Hiawasse City Council member Joan Crothers told the group that SPLOST is the fairest means of tax collection.

"It's time to move ahead," Crothers said. "Are we going to sit here and do nothing? I think we should move forward."