

Cochran...continued from page 1A

and 43 of 51 for the game. Cochran sank her first 15 attempts and then four more after the 16th attempt was just a bit short, bouncing off the front of the rim.

Cochran's 19 successful free throws surpass the known single game school record under full court rules of 17 held by first cousins Amy Allen (Silvey) and John Allen with Amy having reached that total in 20 attempts as a freshman against Commerce during the 1983 season and John sinking a perfect 17 for 17

against Banks County during his senior 2000 season.

Margie Gibson (Hooper) continues to hold the overall known school record of 24 free throws made in 29 attempts against Toccoa Falls under the old stationery half court rules in effect for girls through the 1970 season.

Other Lady Indians contributing heavily to the red hot free throw shooting were Gabby Arencibia and Stephanie Patton—each with 7 for 8 accuracy and Lindsay Patton who was a per-

fect 6 for 6. In fact, kudos are extended to Stephanie Patton for 11 for 12 accuracy at the foul line in her first two varsity games when including Friday night's Rabun County contest. It's unlikely that many freshmen begin their careers with 91.7 percent accuracy in as many as 12 attempts at the foul line.

The Lady Indians were in action Tuesday night against the Highlands, NC Lady Highlanders. Game results were not available at press time.



Eryn Cochran is fouled again during the Lady Indians' match up with Dawson County. She was fouled so hard at one point, her head hitting the floor made the loudest thud at the Ford Phillips Center. Cochran set a new school mark by connecting on 19 free throws. Photo/James Reese

YHC...continued from page 1A

itself completely in line with the policies and procedures of the NCAA and develop Division II schedules for its teams. Following the College's first year as a candidate for membership, the NCAA's membership committee will send representatives to campus to review and evaluate YHC's progress, and will then make a recommendation to move Young Harris College to the next level of the membership process.

"The next step for Young Harris College is to immediately begin work to complete the process for membership in the Peach Belt Conference, which is one of the strongest and most prestigious Division II conferences in the country," said Dunn, who successfully transitioned North Georgia College & State University to NCAA Division II and Peach Belt Conference membership prior to arriving at YHC in 2010.

"Young Harris College will be the only private college in Georgia in the esteemed Peach Belt Conference," he said.

Current Peach Belt

Conference members include Armstrong Atlantic State University, Augusta State University, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Flagler College, Francis Marion University, Georgia College & State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Lander University, University of Montevallo, North Georgia College & State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the University of South Carolina at Aiken.

"Many individuals worked long and hard to make this happen, but President Cox should be the person most recognized for her vision, commitment and support during this process," Dunn said.

During the 2010-2011 season, YHC competed as an independent school against other four-year institutions. Prior to that transition, Mountain Lion athletic teams were among the finest in the National Junior College Athletic Association. The Mountain Lions claimed the 2006 NJCAA national championship in women's soccer, the same

season head coach Kathy Brown was named national Coach of the Year. In 2007, head coach Rick Robinson led Young Harris College's baseball team to the Junior College World Series.

In addition, Young Harris College student-athletes have gone on to earn individual acclaim. Six former YHC baseball players have made it to the Major Leagues, with three currently playing: outfielder Nick Markakis of the Baltimore Orioles, right-handed pitcher Cory Gearrin of the Atlanta Braves and outfielder Charlie Blackmon of the Colorado Rockies. Markakis and Bryson Smith, a 2011 draft pick by the Cincinnati Reds, both earned the title of national junior college player of the year honors during their YHC careers.

Blackmon has been a hot topic of trade discussions between the Rockies and the Braves in recent weeks.

Many other former Mountain Lions have played professionally or have gone on to play at the highest collegiate levels in their respective sports.

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deals, including negotiating a Point of Service agreement for county employees' health insurance.

Health insurance premium costs were projected to climb 36 percent, but with the new POS agreement, actual premiums declined by 15 percent.

The county also reduced spending through personnel attrition in the Towns County Recreation Department; the Towns County Board of Health agreed to

split one of the full-time positions in Environmental Health with Union County to account for additional savings.

"Because of a number of state budget cuts to their portion of Health Department funding the Health Department budget is still in trouble, even though the employees are still on furlough days," Commissioner Kendall said. "We will continue to look for ways to preserve our Health Department."

Honored...continued from page 1A

night?"
Indeed, Towns County Firefighter Jonathan Wilson was in the room. Wilson was selected for his outstanding contributions in saving human life, protecting property and preventing injuries in the line of duty.

"We appreciate your service and I know the County does," said Legg.

Towns County Paramedic James Shirley was honored for dedication to the preservation of human life in emergency conditions.

"It's a great honor for us to present this award," Legg said. "Would James Shirley please come forward?"

Wilson, accompanied by Towns County Fire Chief Mitch Floyd, and Shirley, accompanied by Towns County Emergency Services Director Ricky Mathis accepted the awards with little fan fare.

Wilson nodded his head and smiled with appreciation upon the receipt of his award. Shirley just smiled and had a few words to say.

"Saving lives is what we train for," he said. "It means something to us if we can give someone the benefit of a few more minutes advantage before they receive medical treatment at a hospital."

Commissioner Kendall also said that he used a conservative portion of the county's operations reserves to offset potential budget issues.

The Towns County Board of Education and the cities of Hiawassee and Young Harris also avoided a millage rate increase for their 2012 respective budgets, keeping Towns County residents in line with being among the lowest tax rates in the state.

"We think in terms of seconds," he said. "Seconds save lives."

Towns County EMS averages about 2,000 calls a year; Towns County Fire Services average more than 1,400 calls to service. The majority of the calls are related to medical emergencies.

It's dedicated public servants like Wilson and Shirley that save lives, Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall, Chief Floyd and Director Mathis each thanked Wilson and Shirley for their dedicated service as they returned to duty on this day.

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that live in our community.

As many of you already know, I've never met a stranger. Each day I meet a new friend here in Towns County, whether at a restaurant, the grocery store, the Courthouse, the Library or at the newspaper office. Heck, I've made a friend or two at the Post Office.

I understand that we live in the midst of lean economic times. But, you have to understand, I grew up in lean economic times. I was the youngest of six children and living in a household that included nine people — my Granny Potts lived with us.

We didn't know we were poor because we were self sufficient. We grew our own food, we hunted and fished. We survived — I'm living proof.

Jobs were scarce back then, but we made it. Daddy and Mama put six kids through public school and each and every one of us went to college.

We made our Daddy proud — he finished the 10th grade, but he had six high school graduates and those same six went to college.

The secret to that success: our community cared about its youth. My brother and sisters and I were the products of our community.

That's exactly what the key behind Towns County's success is today; we know that our best investment is our children.

That's why we as a newspaper try to bring you the best Towns County has to offer. That's why you read about the successes of our local sports teams, our students in the classroom and the people who make up this vibrant community.

Runoff...continued from page 1A

is the former director of the Georgia Future Farmers of America.

Austin took the Nov. 8th vote in Towns County with 571 votes to Wilkinson's 224 votes. Overall, Austin finished with 43.3 percent of the vote to Wilkinson's 39.2 percent. Three others were eliminated during the Nov. 8th General Election.

Marine Corps League Christmas Toy Collection Sites

Drop off your new, unwrapped toys for The Unicoi Detachment 783 Marine Corps League Christmas Toy Collection for Children at the following locations:

In Hiawassee - Antique Mall; Army Navy Garrison 66; Bear Meadows Grill; Black Tie & Tails; Brasstown Manor; Brasstown Valley Golf Course; Brothers Restaurant; Century 21 Scenic Realty; Charlotte Ledford Realty; Chophouse Of Hiawassee; Cinemas 6; Daniel's Steakhouse; Dollar General - Hiawassee; Dollar General - Young Harris; Fun

A sampling of our news coverage:

We celebrate Hilda Thomason for bringing so many events to our community. We celebrate Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall for making tough decisions in tough times and seeing us through this woeful economic climate. We celebrate Sheriff Chris Clinton, for not only making our community safe, but for contributing to the enrichment of our local youth. We celebrate Cecil Dye for making sure the Towns County Courthouse is run efficiently and professionally and being the upstanding individual that he always is; we celebrate David Rogers for being the wise man that he is as he oversees the Probate Judge's Office; we celebrate Bruce Rogers for doing a tough job during tough times — it's not easy being tax commissioner and we understand that.

We celebrate our judges David Barrett, Lynn Alderman and Murphy Miller. We celebrate our District Attorney Jeff Langley.

We celebrate Emily Phillips, Mike Anderson, Jerry Taylor, Larry Kimsey and Donna Hedden as they oversee the education of our youth.

We celebrate Mayor Barbara Mathis and the Hiawassee City Council; we celebrate Mayor Andrea Gibby and the Young Harris City Council, both are working to make each community a brighter place for residents to call home.

We celebrate our educators, deputies, volunteer firefighters, paramedics, 911 operators and all county employees.

We celebrate Chamber President Candace Lee and Tourism Director Jane Holland for having the best interests of our community at heart as they represent Towns County in a dutiful manner.

We celebrate the Towns County Lions Club — a truly giving organization. Speaking of the Lions Club, we'll surely miss Lion Leonard McConnell who recently passed away. Leonard, you're a good soul and now you're watching down on all of Towns County. Put in a good word for us.

We celebrate our businesses — you continue to weather the current economic storm and you still give back to the community in many creative ways. From fireworks to giving out candy on the square, to helping a friend, you have our best interests at heart.

We celebrate our churches for keeping us all spiritually on track. We also celebrate our churches for being there for folks when hard times hit and continue to wreak havoc. You continue to give back every day.

We celebrate the most efficient Food Pantry in the United States of America — the Towns County Food Pantry continues to be part of the strongest backbone our community has ever seen.

Most of all, we celebrate you, our readers for making the Herald the most read newspaper in Towns County.

If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't have been in business for 83 years.

Times may be tough, but we wouldn't want to share those tough times with anyone else.

Runoffs are traditionally a low turnout affair. Austin was in Towns County on Nov. 10th to urge locals to come back out and vote on Dec. 6th. Whether local voters heed that message remains to be seen.

Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp said last week that absentee ballot requests for the

election will be allowed through Dec. 2. Absentee ballots must be returned to the county registrar's office by the close of polls on Election Day, Kemp said.

If we're lucky, we might get three days of early voting in this election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 6th

World; Georgia Vision Center; Hardees; Ingles Market #483; Mountain Realty; Radio Shack; Re/Max Hiawassee Realty; United Methodist Church; Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 7807; Windy Hill Convenience Store; and the Yacht Club (Boat House).
In Blairsville - Bi-Lo; Cadence Bank; Citizens South

Send books to U.S. troops

Collect and ship used books to troops, both abroad and in the U.S., to help them through tough times and let them know their service is appreciated.

Soldiers serving the U.S. military often lack access to books, which they need for leisure reading, developmental goals, reading to their children via web cam, recovering from emotional trauma and enduring separation from loved ones.

Operation Paperback www.operationpaperback.org/ is a non-profit organization that helps volunteers collect and ship books to troops, both abroad and in the U.S. You can use the organization's material to send books and show others how to do the same.

Register with operation Paperback at www.operationpaperback.org/help_register.php and follow the instructions to request addresses of troops overseas using the au-

tomated system. If you prefer to ship to domestic locations, such as veteran's facilities or Red Cross units, email Operation Paperback (information@operationpaperback.org). Also, if you have hardcover books you want to send, email Operation Paperback for those addresses.

Input the genres you have on hand (mysteries, westerns, etc.) and the system will generate a list of names of troops who are requesting those genres, along with their addresses. Please do not collect or send romance novels. Operation Paperback reports that our troops do not read them, and they are very disheartened when they receive them.

Label and ship your books according to directions given on the website. On average, a box of 20 paperbacks costs about \$5 to ship via Media Mail. NT(Nov23,23)BJ

Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club news

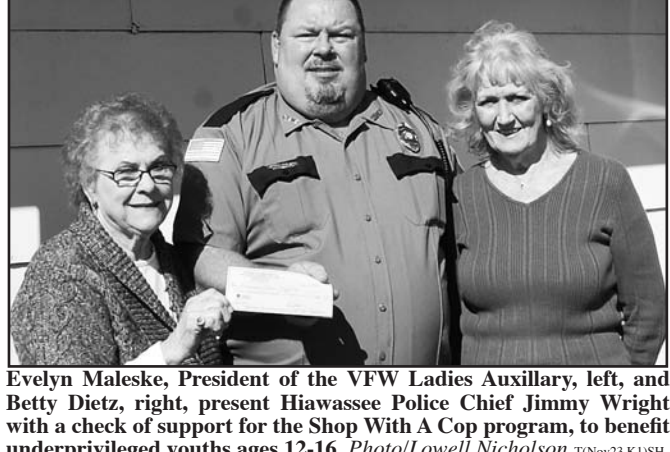
On Monday, November 14, thirteen tables participated in the Jean Myers charity game at All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, GA with the following results: First, NS, Jim Bell and Gwen Weaver; second, Marilyn Demers and Kitty Tomkinson; third, Dee Short and Dorothy Smith; fourth, Joyce Tyson and Marilyn Bulkley; fifth, Shirley Scrivner and Nina Van Gundy; and sixth, Susan Palmich and Debbie Foster.

EW, first, Jean Pittman and Barbara Mitchell; second, Joyce Geiger and Kathy Yost; third, Pat Quinn and Eleanor Rank; fourth, Irene Schoetker and Fran Egan; and fifth, Peter Cohn and Mike Knowles.

On Thursday, November 17, seven and one half tables played a Howell movement with the following results: First, Mike Knowles and Joyce Geiger; second, Joe and Joan Lane; third, Joan Neville and Betty Long; fourth, Jim Bell and Gwen Weaver; fifth, Mary Talbert and Frank Holland; sixth, Jim Shinholster and Lynn Melick; and seventh, Susan Palmich and Debbie Foster.

The club meets every Monday and Thursday at 1 p.m. and would welcome any interested bridge players to join in the fun. For more information, call Myrna at 828-389-8065. NT(Nov23,21)7EE

VFW Ladies Auxiliary supports Shop With A Cop



Evelyn Maleske, President of the VFW Ladies Auxillary, left, and Betty Dietz, right, present Hiawassee Police Chief Jimmy Wright with a check of support for the Shop With A Cop program, to benefit underprivileged youths ages 12-16. Photo/Lowell Nicholson. NT(Nov23,23)K18