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formation about who the person is and their contact information," said TCMS Principal Darren Berrong. "It's a fantastic idea."

The robotic concept the team developed was operated on a course designed to mimic parts of the human body and had to be built and programmed by the team to complete as many of the 14 specific tasks as it could in less than two and a half minutes in order to score points.

The team's research presentation, entitled *iMemory* was a skit about how they wanted to invent an app for the *iPhone* to be used by persons with Alzheimer's disease. Their presentation skit explaining how the app would be used to provide daily reminders, memory stimulation games, phone contact information, photo memories with captions, and GPS location capabilities to Alzheimer's disease patients and their families was warmly received by the two science judges.

Austin, the lead strategist for the team led the team presentation of the technical aspects of the robot. The judges for the technical presentation asked detailed questions about how the robot operated, why the

students had chosen the particular chassis and attachments designs and builds, how they had used sensors, and their strategy for combining the programming of the tasks and order selected for the robot to accomplish the different tasks.

That project now lands them a spot in the State Championship competition held Jan. 29 at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Berrong said on Monday.

"It's my understanding that Google now wants to know more about the project so they can take it from the conception stage to an actual working and physical stage," Berrong said. "Everything the team has done so far has been totally conceptual. It's my understanding after talking with the team today, they've purchased an android telephone and they're going to try and make their conceptual project into a reality."

"It's been an amazing journey and it's still going," Berrong said.

Berrong said the five students and their leader are an extraordinary group.

"Last summer when Jo Ray Van Vliet sent me an e-mail and wanted to bring this program to the

school, we got excited about it and thought it was something we could build on," he said. "We had no expectations of winning anything; we thought if we got to go and compete it would be good for the kids."

"They went to their first competition and I get a phone call that we won first overall. I was ecstatic about that and now we've won a Super Regional and we've got a shot at a state championship," he said. "There were 40 teams represented in that Super Regional and we came out on top of 39 other schools. That's pretty impressive. It's my understanding there were three Super Regionals in Georgia, roughly 40 schools in each one."

"Now, the top 16 teams in the state will compete for the state championship," he said. "I really believe we've got an excellent chance to win the state championship. I'm just blown away and I shouldn't have thought they would do anything less than first place."

Monday night, the group's achievements were recognized by the Towns County Board of Education, as they showed off the two trophies they've already added to the TCMS trophy case.

## Leadership GA info request

Leadership GA is requesting 90 area information bags for their members coming to this area. They will be meeting at the Brasstown Valley Resort starting January 26.

This is a Leadership Development Program for business leaders from all over the State of Georgia. You can get more information about them at [www.leadershipgeorgia.com](http://www.leadershipgeorgia.com).

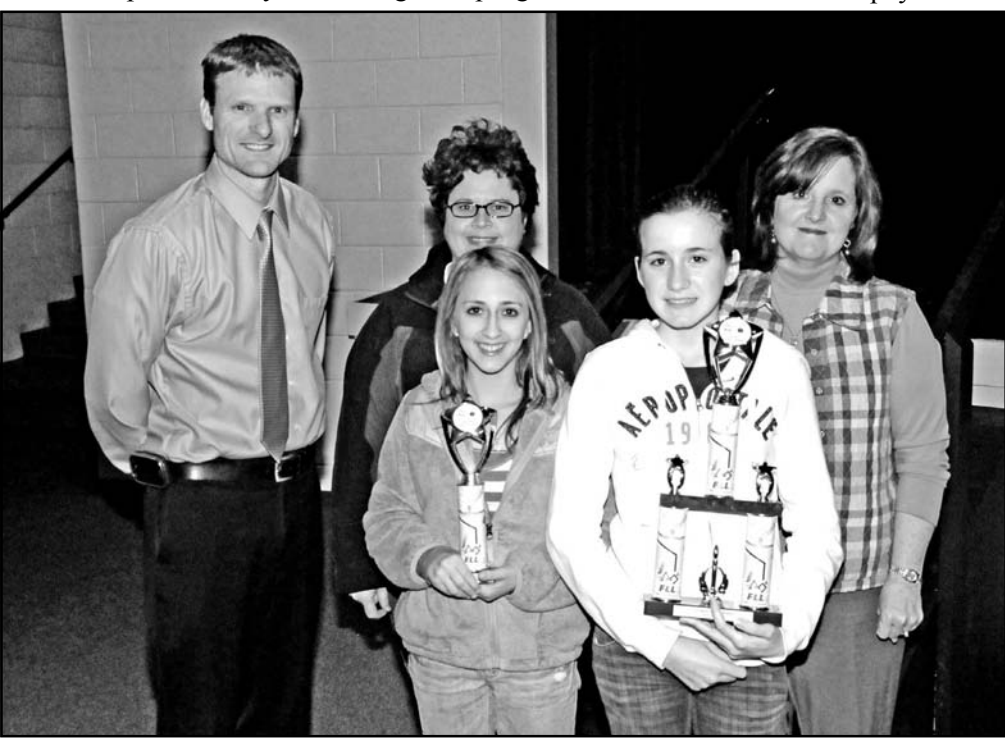
If you are interested in promoting your business to this organization, please have your info to the Chamber Office by Monday, January 24 and we will add it to the information about the area that the Chamber will be giving them. T(Jan19,J2)SH

## TC Board of Health meetings

The Towns County Board of Health will meet on the following dates in 2011: Thursday, January 27 at 9:30 AM; Thursday, April 28 at 9:30 AM; Thursday, July 28 at 9:30 AM; Thursday, October 27 at 9:30 AM. Meeting location: Towns County 911 Conference Room. T(Jan19,H1)SH

## S.A.F.E Board meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of S.A.F.E. (Support in Abusive Family Emergencies, Inc.) will be Tuesday, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Call 706-379-1901 for location. NT(Jan19,A2)SH



Mia Manto, center, and Danielle Diehl, hold the two first place trophies won by the TCMS Robotics Team as TCMS Principal Darren Berrong, and BOE members Donna Hedden and Emily Phillips look on following Monday night's BOE meeting. Photo/James Reese

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days prior to Christmas Break due to snow and ice on secondary roads. The Towns County Board of Education approved making up those days, after making up a missed meeting due to the frozen precipitation.

Students have already made up two of those days,

Monday, and having come back a day early from Christmas Break.

The BOE already has approved an amended 2010-11 school calendar to include two other school dates of Feb. 21, President's Day, and March 14 as days school will be in session.

Last week, students missed the entire week and came in two hours late on Monday to avoid the potential of early morning sleet.

If it's any consolation to the Atlanta television market, the school system lost power and most students were sitting in the dark with ample time to reflect.

## Lions Club December meeting



Lion Jim Eubanks entertains Towns County Lions.

At the December meeting of the Towns County Lions Club, members and guests were entertained by Lion Jim Eubanks. Jim is a member of the Andrews Lions Club and is active in many church groups. In this area, he might be better known as "The Magic Man".

Jim has entertained many people throughout the years at the Georgia Mountain Fair.

He amazed us with his magic and tricks, teaching us all how to tell age by using a tape measure. He made objects disappear and reappear; he seemed to be able to read minds and could change the denomination of money before our eyes. Obviously, Jim did not share the secret of his abilities with us! If you want to be amused and amazed, visit Jim at Booth #54 at the Georgia Mountain Fair this summer. T(Jan19,J1)SH

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