

# Arencibia...continued from page 1A

treys as a freshman, 88 as a sophomore, 107 as a junior, and 69 during this season prior to the Commerce game last week for a total of 288 entering that game and needing six more to break the known statewide record of 293 accumulated by Ashley Watts of Butler High School of Augusta. Watts actually established her record during her senior year of 2011 after surpassing the 263 established by Haley Chambers of Cherokee High School of Canton just a year prior to that in 2010.

To be complete, Laura Higgason of McIntosh High School in Peachtree City also passed Chambers during the 2011 season, finishing her career with 265 treys, good now for third place behind Arencibia and Watts. Arencibia's total of 219 treys in just three years entering the 2012 season actually would have been sufficient for the sixth highest career total in girls play through the 2011 season without including her current total for this year.

As for Arencibia's overall standing with boys included, Arencibia would place fifth in the state based on the information available on the referenced website. Andrew Houts of Dade County, the brother of former University of Georgia star Ashley Houts and a former high school teammate of Young Harris College Mountain Lion Andrew

Reid, held the state record for boys of 405 made through the 2010 season and entering this season but there must be an asterisk placed by that total.

Rabun County Wildcat Tanner Plemmons, who played with distinction in two games against the Indians this year, had 296 treys entering this season and there would seem to be an excellent chance that he has passed Houts with a brilliant current season. With Plemmons and Arencibia being the only Top 103-point career leaders among boys and girls still active entering this season, Gabby would continue to hold the fifth overall spot no matter how many treys Plemmons makes this year. With Plemmons and Houts currently holding the top two spots, Frank Davis of East Hall is third overall with 345 career treys made through the 2006 season and Chad Reeves of Dade County fourth with 325 through the 2005 season with Arencibia fifth and counting at 295 entering this week's region tournament play.

It's interesting to note that Russ Gregg, currently fifth on the boys' state career treys list with 262 treys through the 1996 season, is the son of current Commerce Lady Tigers Head Coach Rex Gregg who made the on-the-court announcement of Arencibia's accomplishment at the

game last week. Coach Gregg good naturedly escorted Arencibia to her bench after making the announcement as if to suggest she had seen enough action on this night. She played a limited amount of time after that, sinking just one additional trey for a career total of 295 entering this week's Region 8-A tournament.

The list of personal accomplishments and accolades for Gabby Arencibia is very long and continuing to increase during this, her senior season for the Lady Indians. Of even greater significance than personal accomplishments, Arencibia has had a tremendous impact on the success of her Lady Indian teams. They have a combined 94-21 four year record through that final regular season game at Commerce last Tuesday, including a stunning 53-3 mark in regular season play against Region 8A opponents with the only losses being to Social Circle during the 2009 season and to Hebron Christian Academy and Athens Academy during the 2010 season.

Sincere congratulations are extended to Gabby Arencibia from this reporter and the Towns County Herald for this record of statewide significance and best wishes are extended for the remainder of her high school career and on into the future.

# Melton...continued from page 1A

record is a bit deceptive when considering a 20-51 start while developing a strong program during his first three years and a 5-19 rebuilding final season with a very young team.

Eller's tenure as Lady Indians' head coach was a curious one. The 1969 Lady Indians season brought about a late need for a coach with no one readily available to assume the role. Eller had shown no more than a passing interest for the most part in sports activity in prior years, more likely serving in the concession stand than being in the stands for basketball games before graduating from TCHS in 1963. He further had little athletic experience beyond mostly individual requirements in physical education in college and serving as an elementary basketball coach the prior year.

When approached by then TCHS Principal Curtis Chappell about coaching the girls during the 1969 season, his response was that he didn't know anything about coaching high school basketball. Chappell recalled years later that he had told Eller

that the girls had uniforms and would probably win about four games if he were the coach and about four if someone else took the job and that they would get someone else to do it after a year.

When Eller took an interest in the job, although winning just five games in each of his first two years, as evidenced by his attending coaching clinics, reading books by expert coaches about the sport, picking the brains of other successful coaches, and literally using occasional doses of logic unrelated to basketball in approaching the game, he became a very highly respected coach in a relatively brief period of time. As such, he was retained in the position for 19 years plus serving in an interim capacity in preseason practice and for two games six seasons after stepping down from the position.

Melton, on the other hand, had enjoyed a very successful basketball and baseball career for the Indians before graduating from TCHS in 1990 and

had served for three years as an assistant basketball coach under Lady Indians Head Coach Robbie Stancil. Stancil had a long and successful career at South Cobb and other metro Atlanta high schools, including a state Final Four appearance at South Cobb, prior to four years at TCHS through the 1998 season before leaving to take the head coach's job at Union County.

Both Eller and Melton would quickly tell anyone that any coach must have the benefit of a lot of excellent talent to have a successful career and both would also confirm that they have had the great fortune of having numerous outstanding basketball players under their care. When viewing their records, it is clear that both have exhibited a unique talent in elevating the talents of those players to the highest levels of accomplishments at one of the smallest public schools in Georgia. Congratulations to both for their successes on the basketball court and best wishes are extended for all of their future endeavors.

# Safety Tips...continued from page 1A

have heard of this. If your clothing catches fire stop, and drop to the ground, and roll. This is the best way to smother the flames. It is a good idea to cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs from smoke and flames.

ing often cause house fires. Be careful with any heat source. Never allow combustible materials to get too close to heat or flame. Always monitor any open flame and do not allow candles or other flames to go unattended.

tips. They are not meant to take the place of diligent planning on your part. They are offered as possible safety tips to help protect your family, and encourage you to have a proper fire safety plan. If you need help forming a plan, the Sheriff's Office will be glad to assist you.

6) Candles and cook-

These are just basic



A blaze in the 3000 block of Fodder Creek was quickly doused on Sunday thanks to one of the new fire hydrants installed by the voter-approved Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Photos/Marty Roberts

# Appointment...continued from page 1A

ons new development opportunities and partners with public and private initiatives to strengthen rural communities.

The GRDC is Gov. Deal's primary advisory board for rural issues. In addition, the GRDC serves as a clearinghouse for policies and initiatives affecting community and economic development in rural Georgia.

Commissioner Kendall joins Pat Graham the former mayor of Braselton; Richard Harrell, the chief financial of-

ficer for U.S. Enterprises, Inc.; Jason Winters, a Chattooga County commissioner; Dewey Robinson, the owner and operator of Robinson Motors in Bainbridge; Nancy Jones, chairperson of the Meriwether County Board of Commissioners; Matthew Cardella, a financial adviser with Edward Jones Investments in Hinesville; Bebe Heiskell, sole commissioner of Walker County; Gary Paulk, a fifth-generation farmer from Irwin

County and part owner of Muscadine Products Corp.; Dwayne Turner, owner and operator of ADT Development Co. Inc., a property development company in Cleveland; Charles "Buddy" Leger, co-owner and operator of Leger and Son, Inc., a watermelon production company; and William Jackson, Jr. a partner in Tile Center Inc., a tile and stone distribution company located in Augusta, Martinez, Statesboro and Greensboro.

# Willie...continued from page 1A

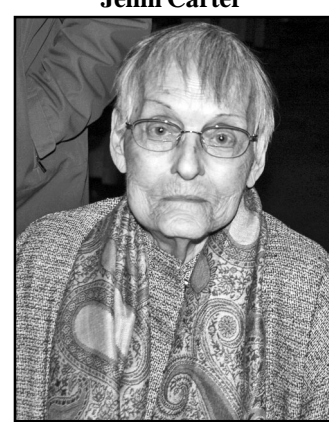
with Willie and his band as they stood, cheered, snapped photos, sang along with him, and danced at their seats hoping to be one of the lucky ones to catch an infamous Willie bandana as he wore them and threw them into the crowd. He performed some of his most well-known songs including *Always on My Mind*, *Momma, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys*, *Good Hearted Woman*, and the ever popular, *Georgia On My Mind*.

Many of the fans were disappointed because Security had been instructed that pictures were to be taken from the seats only. Security had their work cut out for them as excited fans tried to make their way to the aisles and stage only to be told to return to their seats. This rule applied to the staff of the Towns County Herald as well. No exceptions were made.

Among the fans interviewed, a few really stood out simply because of their circumstances. Lee and Lisa Wardlaw of Westminster, SC



Jenni Carter



Clarise Dillard

brought a poster they had made for Willie and were very excited when it was taken backstage to be given to him. Lisa has been a Willie fan "since the age of 14" and claims to know ev-

ery song he has ever sung. Her favorite is *Song for You*.

Jenni Carter of Alabama was there hoping to get an autograph for her daughter, 1st Class Airman Caitlin Carter who is stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas and could not be there in person. Her mother stated that she will be leaving soon for Korea. Her daughter is an avid fan of Nelson.

Possibly the dearest fan there was Clarise Dillard, 85, of Mineral Bluff. She was accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law, Charlene and John Singleton, also of Mineral Bluff. Her daughter said that her mother has been a fan of Willie's for more than 60 years and this is the first time she has ever seen him in concert. She also said that "this was all she wanted for Christmas."

The show was emceed by none other than Moby in the Morning, from WNGC Country 106.1, who generated great excitement and enthusiasm amongst the fans.

# An invitation from Mountain Education Center High School



If you are between the ages of 16 and 21 and are not enrolled in a traditional daytime high school, you should check out the program at Mountain Education Center High School. Why be among those with the highest unemployment rate, when a high school diploma can improve your chances of earning a living?

We believe at MEC, that every student can succeed and

## Regency Hospice events

The Grief Support I tqw" ykm" oggv" vjg" }tu" cpf" third Thursday of the month from 3:30 - 5 PM in the small conference room in United Community Bank.

Men's Coffee will meet vjg" }tu" cpf" vjkt" Vwufc{" qh" the month from 10-11:30 AM at Grinds 'n Glazes in Blairsville.

If you or someone you know has experienced the death of a loved one, you are invited to attend the grief support provided by the staff of Regency Hospice.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Colvert, Bereavement Counselor at 706-896-1251.

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## Local students named to Brenan Merit List

Some local area students were named to the Merit List for outstanding academic performance during the fall term of the 2011-12 academic year.

Devin Roberts from Blairsville, GA.

Carrie Gail Chapman from Blairsville, GA.

Merit List students must post a 3.5 grade point average with no grade lower than a "B" while carrying at least 12 to 14 semester hours of course work.

## MOAA monthly meeting

The Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the third Monday of each month at various area restaurants. All active duty, retired, and reserve military and public health ugtxkcg" qh" tegt" ctg" kpxkvgf" vq" attend.

For information please contact John Quinlan at 706-896-2430, or visit: www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

**BLAIRSVILLE CINEMA**

38 BACKYARD LANE, HWY. 515, NEXT TO THE BOWLING ALLEY  
WWW.BLAIRSVILLECINEMA.COM  
706-745-1000

**SHOW TIMES**  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**This Means War PG13**  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:10  
SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:10, 4:10, 6:50  
MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 4:00, 6:50

**The Woman in Black PG13**  
*ONE WEEK ONLY!* FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20  
SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:00, 4:10, 7:00  
MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 4:10, 7:00 *WEEK ONLY!*

**Journey 2: The Mysterious Island PG**  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 8:55  
SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY: 1:20, 3:50, 6:40  
MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 3:50, 6:40

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" 7HGf aZ " 4G488, 89E8[ C@e  
FOR GROUPS CALL 706-745-1001