

## GOP...continued from page 1A

on having students "better prepared earlier."

Through the completion of AP courses, Superintendent Cox is hoping for many students to enter college with some credits already under their belts. However, the speech ended with some not-so promising news of the status of the current public school system in both the college and grade school sectors. QBE funds, the money that funds Georgia's K-12 public schools, are in short supply. That news doesn't bode well for public schools. The

funds have declined considerably since July of last year. However, the state did see a 1 percent rise in state revenues last month. It marks the first time state revenues have been in the black since November 2008.

Austin Scott, candidate for governor, was the last speaker of the evening. The candidate who "walked over a thousand miles on Georgia roads" said he is ready to go to bat for Georgians statewide on issues such as illegal immigration, education, and "reforming transport."

## Lady Indians No. 2 Region seed...from page 1A

their share of public schools that include Commerce City Schools, as well as Rabun and Fannin counties out of Class AA.

The only loss within the region came at the hands of Lakeview Academy, as the Lady Indians fell 2-3.

"That was a tough loss," Coach Floyd said. "If we had won that one, we would be playing the No. 4 seed in the region tournament."

The majority of tennis players attending private

schools have been playing nothing but tennis since their early childhood. The average public school player doesn't pick up a racket until their freshman year of high school.

"I don't get them until they're freshmen," Coach Floyd said. "I've got four juniors that have played for me for three years and they're strong. Experience makes a difference in this sport."

The Lady Indians are led by senior Doubles player

Kerri Abernathy. In fact, Abernathy is the only senior on the Ladies' team. Alexa Arencibia, Ginny Rhoades, Courtney Farmer, Kristie McConnell, Jordan Moats and Kristen Fuhs are the core of this solid group.

"They all bring something special to the table," Coach Floyd said. "We've got some girls that have really stepped up this year. It's because they see the girls that are ahead of them succeeding. I'm real proud of all of them."



Ginny Rhoades

## U.S. Navy Jet down in Fannin...continued from page 1A

burned about 15 acres.

Navy investigators were expected to arrive in the area on Tuesday morning. Navy planes based in Florida routinely conduct cross-country missions through Union County and the surrounding counties that make up North Georgia.

Officials stated the Florida-based plane just missed a house when it crashed. White said authorities had not confirmed whether the pilot was among those killed when the T-39N Sabreliner training jet went down. He said no one on the

ground was injured.

The twin-jet plane can carry two pilots and seven passengers, according to a U.S. Navy Web site.

Authorities had not determined as of 7 a.m. Tuesday what caused the aircraft to go down.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the agency is not investigating the U.S. military crash.

North American development of the Sabreliner combines two different roles, personnel transport and combat readiness training in the same aircraft.



## Locals support Deal...from page 1A

sioner form of government? One hundred percent of almost 100 people said yes. Actually, that question has been asked before.

This time, 75 percent of the almost 100 person poll said the multi-member commission should be a five person commission.

The top concerns among the almost 100 people polled is jobs/growth, taxes, public safety, water/sewer and recreation - in that order.

And 66 percent of the pollsters supported U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson for another six-year term.

When it comes to presidential candidates for 2012, Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee were the top choices.

Romney garnered 27 percent of the straw ballot and Huckabee pulled in 22 percent of the local vote.

It's a long way to 2012.

## Travis Tritt arrives at The Hall on Friday

By Jessica Keaton  
TOWNS COUNTY HERALD  
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Trouble is coming to Anderson Music Hall on Friday.

Travis Tritt's smash hit *T-R-O-U-B-L-E* that is.

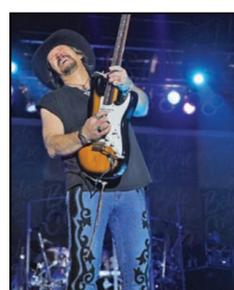
Tritt brings his legend and his magnificent voice to the Music Hall at 7 p.m.

The show has been one of the most anticipated local events in years.

The Grammy Award-winning Country Music performer has charted more than 30 singles on the U.S. Billboard charts, including five that reached No. 1. Tritt also has two Platinum albums to his credit, *Country Club* and *T-R-O-U-B-L-E*.

His second album, *It's All About To Change* yielded three Top 3 hits, *Anytime*, *The Whiskey Ain't Workin'*, and *Here's A Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)*.

Tritt's interest in music began at the age of 3 when his father James bought him his first guitar. The singer, songwriter and musician recorded his first demo in 1982 for Warner Brothers Records. He continued to hone his unique sound until he hit a home run in 1989 with *Country Club*, which



Travis Tritt

featured his first No. 1 hit, *Help Me Hold On*.

Tritt, who was born in Marietta an attended Sprayberry High School, also has been the inspiration of a special edition MacBook, which featured his likeness and included a free copy of his *The Storm* album with the purchase of the computer.

At the age of 29, he became one of the youngest performers ever to gain entry into the Grand Ole Opry. He's released 18 albums in his storied music career.

During his storied career, he's teamed with the likes of Ray Charles, Marty Stuart, George Jones, John Mellencamp and American Idol's Randy Jackson.

## Standoff...from page 1A

mote location in the Cherry Log area where he raped her. After the assault, Carringer took the victim back to her car in Marietta.

Detectives and an agent with the GBI continued the investigation and searched for Carringer in the Towns County area on Wednesday April 7.

They learned that Carringer had recently talked about suicide and was armed with multiple firearms during the attack on his victim. He was presumed to still be armed. An arrest warrant was obtained for Carringer by Gilmer County, charging him with the crime of rape.

He was listed as "wanted" on the National Crime Information Center computer and a regional "be on look out" (BOLO) for Carringer and his vehicle, a black Nissan Xterra, was issued.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, April 8, an officer with the Atlanta Police Department located Carringer's vehicle in a Buckhead area parking lot. When the officer approached the vehicle, Carringer

reportedly told the officer that the vehicle was "wired with explosives." The Atlanta officer called for back-up and standoff ensued.

According to Nicholson, during the standoff, officers heard a gunshot. It wasn't until the Atlanta Bomb Squad cleared the vehicle that officers found Carringer dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Gilmer County detectives and GBI agents traveled to Atlanta to process the vehicle for evidence from the Gilmer rape.

"Although the original rape case is pretty much closed with the death of Carringer, this case is far from over," Sheriff Nicholson said. "My agency will assist the GBI with trying to determine if Carringer has been responsible for any other related cases in the area. Carringer has been identified as the prime suspect in an attempted abduction of a 10-year-old girl at an Easter Egg hunt at a church in Montgomery, Ala., on Easter Sunday. We just don't feel, due to the manner in which Carringer carried out this crime, that this is the only thing he is responsible for."

*Al Summer is editor of the Times Courier in Ellijay. This story, which was contributed to by Towns County Herald Editor Charles Duncan, was published with permission from Times Courier in Ellijay.*