

Gabby is a Saint...continued from page 1A

we've had great post players, but we haven't had big or tall post players to complement her.

"When she gets in college, she will have big, strong post players to go with her and complement her game," he said. "The game speeds up — just like going from middle school to JV to varsity and varsity to college. The game speeds up each step."

The Lady Saints have a rich tradition in women's basketball, including narrowly missing a national championship when they finished second in the nation in NAIA after just a 60-58 loss to Southwestern Oklahoma during a 27-4 season

in 1987. They then had an incredible 10-year run from 1997 through 2006 under Coach Burson when they won 267 games for a winning average during that time frame of 26.7 wins per season.

Arencibia becomes the second 2012 Lady Indian senior to sign to play basketball at the collegiate level, following the lead of Lindsay Patton, one of several Lady Indians in attendance at the signing ceremony last Wednesday in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Patton signed prior to the season to play at Point University in West Point, Georgia, beginning next year.

Arencibia said moving

on from Towns County won't mean she won't remember where she came from.

"I will miss my teammates the most," she said. "We are like a big family and it will be hard not seeing them on a weekly basis."

"Also, as much as I hate to admit it, I will miss the one and only Jim Melton," she said. "He really has helped me over the years to become a better player as well as a better person. I wouldn't have the opportunity to play for North Georgia if it wasn't for him. So I thank him for everything he has done for me."

Herald Staff Writer James Reese contributed to this story

Tennis...continued from page 1A

Monday's Region 8 Tennis Tournament at Young Harris College. The defeat ended a string of state play-off appearances by the Lady Indians.

The Lady Indians lost 3-2 to Prince Avenue Christian in the one-and-done single elimination tournament.

"We were an underdog going into this tournament," TCHS Tennis Coach Shannon Floyd said. "We were playing a team that had already beaten us this year 3-2. It sounds close being 3-2, but in the three singles matches, they put it on us

pretty good."

In First Singles, Kristie McConnell went down 6-0, 6-0; in Second Singles, Christa Hamill went down 6-0, 6-0; in Third Singles, Maria Constantino went down 6-0, 6-2.

The Lady Indians prevailed in the Double's Competition with Kayla Olin and Eryn Cochran leading the way with a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

Likewise, Courtney Farmer and Gabby Arcencibia followed with a 6-0, 6-0 victory.

Unfortunately, the end result means the Lady Indians are staying home in-

stead of taking their annual trip to the state playoffs.

The Lady Indians were young in tennis experience this season.

"Last year we were real strong, but graduated five seniors," Coach Floyd said. "This year, is been a learning process for our girls."

"It's hard to compete when you play some of the private schools or these boarding schools; they've got kids who have grown up with rackets in their hands. We brought back quite a few players this year, but experience is a factor."

Opposed...continued from page 1A

referendum begins July 9th, and already, frustration and staunch opposition to the proposal is reaching its utmost potential.

Towns County Fire Board members, Clint Hobbs, Bud Dyer, Marty Roberts, Hugh Howell and Bubba Reese proclaimed that the proposed tax would cause dire straits for residents with few or no results in return.

"Be it resolved that the Towns County Fire Board is unanimously opposed to House Bill 277 (Transportation Improvement Act). We believe that transportation funding to be voted on July 31, 2012 to impose an additional tax on the citizens of Towns County will return little in the way of infrastructure improvements and will impose unnecessary financial hardship on our citizens as items including food, beverages, electricity, heating fuel and clothing are not exempt from the tax."

Mountain (Retired) Seniors believe that should the proposed tax be approved region-wide, an 8 percent sales tax will have no benefit whatsoever for Towns County or

its residents.

"The Mountain Seniors Group, whose members are retired senior citizens and make up more than half of this community, is opposed to an increase in sales tax that would exempt from this tax the sole beneficiaries of the increased revenue," Mountain Seniors member Shirley Stallings said.

"The hardship will be placed on working families, the unemployed and people living on fixed incomes," Stallings said. "The target area of benefits is Metro Atlanta and the burden of support comes from the small outlying communities statewide. The Mountain Seniors Groups resolves to oppose this tax and do whatever necessary to defeat this unfair levy on average taxpayers."

The Towns County Democratic Party also approved a resolution opposing the proposed tax. They called the proposed tax an unfair tax burden being placed on homemakers at the grocery checkout counter, families trying to maintain a balanced family budget and a pain for families trying to keep a supply of heating fuel and

over the counter medications for their family.

"The Towns County Democratic Party believes that this additional tax on our citizens will result in little infrastructure needs or improvements in Towns County," the resolution read. "The Towns County Democratic Party believes this will impose unnecessary financial hardships on our citizens, including necessities of life — food, electricity, home heating fuel, clothing and non-prescription medicines are not exempt from the tax."

The proposed tax also has drawn the ire of Tea Party members and Republicans alike.

"I urge you to come out to the polls (early voting begins July 9th) and help defeat this unfair tax increase being placed upon our citizens," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

Commissioner Kendall said that with the Towns County Food Pantry already feeding on average 350 families per week, the added tax burden created by the proposed tax hike will only cause demand for food staples to increase over the next 10 years if approved.

Bankers' Hour...continued from page 1A

the tale of Ulysses Cornwallis Banks and his descendants — yes, most definitely including Buford and Beatrice and their offspring.

From humble beginnings and through the sweat of his brow, U.C. Banks worked hard and made an incredible life for his family and himself.

U.C. Banks' greatest attribute most assuredly is remembered as reaching out to his community and teaching his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren that true wealth comes from giving to others as you have been given.

Nine of the 11 Banks' siblings attended: Baxter, Bert, Betsy, Billy, Benny, Brent, Bryan, Buck and Bud. A 10th offspring, Barry was tentatively scheduled to visit from Nashville, while son Captain Bradley Banks, of the U.S. Army recently was deployed for his third tour of duty overseas.

Throw in the spouses

and significant others, as well as the extended family — several cousins, and the family reunion was complete — completely foolhardy. Clearly, the family tree lacked a few branches, much to the delight of two capacity crowds on Saturday at Anderson Music Hall.

The purely fictitious event (Lord help us if the Banks family really exists) was a delight for almost 6,000 visitors, who fell in the Music Hall floor laughing at U.C. Banks' hilarious descendants.

The show featured 26 members of the United Community Bank family and extended family members, including UCB Hiawasse mainstay, Janice Smith.

The event helps support the bank's charities throughout its many banking communities.

The show takes about 100 bank employees to put

on the event, which covers not only the performers, but backstage and ushering.

This year's talent included Smith, Chris Adams, Jack Cochran, Anna Goswick, Mike Infante, Jessica Johnson, Melissa Nanney, Bryan Sosenky, Greg Stephens, Kurtis Underwood, Freda Nicholson, Eric Collins and Kim Bridges of the Blairsville and Hiawasse UCB family.

UCB CEO Jimmy Tallent told the crowds that he was humbled by the efforts of the bank's employees to make the show a success.

"I am so proud of our bank family members who have worked tirelessly to bring this show to you," Tallent said. "But, our family is not limited to employees, it includes customers and everyone in our communities. Entertaining you is what makes this show rewarding and so much fun."



Beatrice Banks shares a moment with two of her best and brightest - Benny Banks (L) and Billy Banks (R), AKA Kurtis Underwood and Chris Adams. Photo/ James Reese.

Soccer...continued from page 1A

themselves with their backs against the wall in an attempt to make the Class A state soccer playoffs for the second consecutive year.

They had to win both remaining Conference games to slide into the fourth seed in Area 5.

One down, one to go.

Now, on Saturday, they face Georgia Military School, in a must win situation, with a potential state berth on the line.

The Lady Indians have the potential to shutdown their opponents as evidenced by the 4-0 shutout over Lakeview. They have now won two out of their last three match ups and must

win over Georgia Military to advance to state competition.

Last week, they defeated Highlands, NC 3-0 in a non-conference match up. Kaila Reece, Ali Bleckley and Vanessa Eller provided the offense.

On Friday, they were shutout by one of the best soccer teams in the state, Hebron Christian Academy, 9-0.

If they win Saturday, the Lady Indians have a shot at the state playoffs by virtue of the No. 4 seed out of Area 5.

If they play like they can play, they've got a shot. But teams are focusing on the Lady Indians'

primary offensive weapon, Faithe Robinson.

Highlands got nasty in their attempt to shut Robinson out of the goal department on April 10th. Earlier in the season, the Lady Indians defeated Highlands 9-0, with Robinson scoring six goals in the effort.

The Highlanders put the crunch on her during last week's contest. Expect Georgia Military to do the same.

Come out and support the Lady Indians in their attempt at a second state play-off berth.

Saturday's contest is at 1 p.m. at Frank McClure Stadium.



Alex Fagin's clutch play in goal for the Lady Indians has been crucial to the team's success in 2012. The Ladies defeated Lakeview on Monday, 4-0. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Duncan...continued from page 1A

as local and hometown as possible.

"Almost four years ago, Kenneth West gave me the opportunity to return to my beloved North Georgia Mountains," Duncan said. "Being editor of the Towns County Herald has been a wonderful experience, both personally, and professionally."

"Now, both papers enter a new era, one of cooperation among the staff

and the communities," Duncan said. "Towns County is a different experience than Union County, but both communities are vibrant and exhilarating. I look forward to the opportunity of working at both papers and producing the best newspapers in the North Georgia region."

Duncan began his career with the North Georgia News in the mid-

1980s. He later became a staff writer with The Times in Gainesville where he covered the police beat, federal and superior courts and local government. He spent several years with CNI News Service as a jack-of-all-trades reporter.

He also served as a government/environmental reporter with The Coastal Observer in Pawleys Island, SC, near Myrtle Beach, SC.