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

ers, 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.'

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

1997 through 2006 under Coach Burson when they won 267 games for a winning average during that season.

Arencibia becomes the second 2012 Lady Indian hate to admit it, I will miss senior to sign to play basketball at the collegiate level, following the lead of Lindsay Patton, one of several The Lady Saints have Lady Indians in attendance player as well as a better at the signing ceremony last person. I wouldn't have the Wednesday in the Bill P. Kendall Gymnasium. Patton Georgia if it wasn't for him. signed prior to the season to So I thank him for everyplay at Point University in thing he has done for me." West Point, Georgia, beginning next year.

Arencibia said moving to this story

incredible 10-year run from 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 time frame of 26.7 wins per it will be hard not seeing them on a weekly basis.

'Also, as much as I the one and only Jim Melton," she said. "He reyears to become a better opportunity to play for North

Herald Staff Writer James Reese contributed

Bankers' Hour...continued from page 1A

we've had great post play- in 1987. They then had an on from Towns County won't the tale of Ulysses and significant others, as on the event, which covers Cornwallis Banks and his de- well as the extended famscendants - yes, most defi- ily - several cousins, and nitely including Buford and the family reunion was

> nings and through the sweat ily tree lacked a few incredible life for his family crowds on Saturday at and himself.

U.C. Banks' greatest giving to others as you have scendants. been given.

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

Throw in the spouses 100 bank employees to put

Beatrice and their offspring. complete – completely From humble begin- foolhardy. Clearly, the famof his brow, U.C. Banks branches, much to the deworked hard and made an light of two capacity Anderson Music Hall.

The purely fictitious ally has helped me over the attribute most assuredly is event (Lord help us if the remembered as reaching out Banks family really exists) to his community and teach- was a delight for almost ing his children, grandchil- 6,000 visitors, who fell in the that true wealth comes from U.C. Banks' hilarious de-

> The show featured 26 members of the United Community Bank family and extended family members, including UCB

> The event helps support the bank's charities ing communities.

The show takes about

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 Hiawassee UCB family.

UCB CEO Jimmy dren and great grandchildren Music Hall floor laughing at Tallent told the crowds that he was humbled by the efforts of the bank's employees to make the show a suc-

> "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.

Tennis...continued from page 1A

Monday's Region 8 Tennis pretty good." Tournament at Young Harended a string of state playoff appearances by the Lady Indians.

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 Farmer playing a team that had already beaten us this year 3-2. It sounds close being 3-2,

ris College. The defeat McConnell went down 6-0, 6-0; in Second Singles, were young in tennis expe-Christa Hamill went down rience this season. 6-0, 6-0; in Third Singles, The Lady Indians lost Maria Constantino went real strong, but graduated down 6-0, 6-2.

> vailed in the Double's Com- learning process for our petition with Kayla Olin and Eryn Cochran leading the way with a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

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

Unfortunately, the end but in the three singles result means the Lady Indimatches, they put it on us ans are staying home in- experience is a factor."

stead of taking their annual In First Singles, Kristie trip to the state playoffs.

The Lady Indians

"Last year we we're five seniors," Coach Floyd The Lady Indians pre-said. "This year, is been a

> "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

Opposed...continued from page 1A

referendum begins July 9th, its residents. and already, frustration and proposal is reaching its utmost potential.

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.

Board is unanimously opposed to House Bill 277 pose unnecessary financial hardship on our citifood, 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

"The Mountain Sestaunch opposition to the niors Group, whose members are retired senior citi- Democratic Party believes zens and make up more that this additional tax on our Towns County Fire than half of this commu-citizens will result in little innity, is opposed to an in- frastructure needs or imcrease 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 "Be it resolved that placed on working families, the Towns County Fire the unemployed and people living on fixed incomes," Stallings said. "The target exempt from the tax." (Transportation Improve- area of benefits is Metro ment Act). We believe that Atlanta and the burden of has drawn the ire of Tea transportation funding to support comes from the Party members and Repubbe voted on July 31, 2012 small outlying communities licans alike. to impose an additional tax statewide. The Mountain on the citizens of Towns Seniors Groups resolves to out to the polls (early vot-County will return little in oppose this tax and do whating begins July 9th) and help the way of infrastructure ever necessary to defeat defeat this unfair tax inimprovements and will im- this unfair levy on average crease being placed upon taxpayers."

The Towns County zens as items including Democratic Party also approved a resolution opposing the proposed tax. They Kendall said that with the called the proposed tax an Towns County Food Panunfair tax burden being try already feeding on avplaced on homemakers at erage 350 families per the grocery checkout week, the added tax burcounter, families trying to—den created by the promaintain a balanced fam- posed tax hike will only ily budget and a pain for cause demand for food have no benefit whatso- families trying to keep a staples to increase over the

over the counter medications for their family.

"The Towns County provements 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

The proposed tax also

"I urge you to come our citizens," Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall said.

Commissioner

Soccer...continued from page 1A

themselves with their backs win over Georgia Military to against the wall in an attempt advance to state competito make the Class A state tion. soccer playoffs for the second consecutive year.

remaining Conference up. Kaila Reece, Ali seed in Area 5.

One down, one to go. they face Georgia Military cer teams in the state, Hebron School, in a must win situa- Christian Academy, 9-0. tion, with a potential state berth on the line.

the potential to shutdown tue of the No. 4 seed out of their opponents as evidenced by the 4-0 shutout over

They had to win both a non-conference match provided the offense. On Friday, they were six goals in the effort.

Now, on Saturday, shutout by one of the best soc-

If they win Saturday, the Lady Indians have a shot The Lady Indians have at the state playoffs by vir-Area 5.

If they play like they Lakeview. They have now can play, they've got a won two out of their last shot. But teams are focusthree match ups and must ing on the Lady Indians'

primary offensive weapon, Faithe Robinson.

Highlands got nasty in Last week, they de- their attempt to shut feated Highlands, NC 3-0 in Robinson out of the goal department on April 10th. Earlier in the season, the Lady games to slide into the fourth Bleckley and Vanessa Eller Indians defeated Highlands 9-0, with Robinson scoring

> 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 playoff berth.

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

ever for Towns County or supply of heating fuel and next 10 years if approved. Vote No...continued from page 1A would force voters in each Towns County citizens that I corporations, the ones want-

county to support a tax increase even if they voted by a majority against it at the polls. It provides permanent exemptions for specific industries during the life of the referendum, Commissioner

Kendall said. Under the TSPLOST rules, counties are only allowed to share in 25 percent of the tax collected within their region of counties to be used within their

respective counties. Many view TSPLOST as a discriminatory tax pitting larger counties against smaller counties, with larger counties getting the bigger piece of the 75 percent slice of the pie that GDOT controls from the tax

collected. TSPLOST is very heavily weighted toward mass transit in urban areas and it redistributes wealth from poor counties to rich counties, almost by design, Commissioner Kendall said.

"Regional Roundtable members representing the 13 counties which make up the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission voted 25 to 1 to put a regional 1-cent sales tax on the July 31st, primary ballot," Commissioner Kendall said. "I was the lone no vote. I made a commitment to

would not support an 8-cent ing this tax increase, are the

"I stand by my promise,"

Commissioner Kendall said. Another reason: historic Woods Grove Baptist, located at 2224 North Highway 17, is threatened by a proposed 1.1 mile, five-lane highway connected to the regional projects approved by the Regional Roundtable for the Transportation Special Purpose Local

Option Sales Tax. For 106 years, Woods Grove Baptist Church has served the Towns County community.

Generations upon generations have attended the "the little White Church on the Lake.

The proposed project, which would become a reality if the regional TSPLOST is approved, also threatens a swath of businesses along North Highway 17 and a local

cemetery. calling a non-partisan meeting at the Towns County Senior Center Thursday on April 26th, at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of defeating the proposed 1-cent TSPLOST regional sales tax meeting is to discuss ways to

that will be voted on July 31st. Commissioner Kendall said that organizations and

very ones who will mostly use the roads, airports, mass transit and rail.

'They had their wellpaid lobbyists get themselves exempt from paying this tax and had it placed on the backs of citizens who have to purchase food, electricity, home heating propane, school supplies, clothing and all necessities of life," Commissioner Kendall said.

'To add insult to injury, Towns County citizens, with the largest percentage of seniors in the state, will have to pay this tax on medicine, medical supplies and medical equipment that they purchase," he said. "Some drugs and supplies that have a doctor's prescription will be exempt.'

Commissioner Kendall is calling all local political par-Commissioner Kendall is ties, Independents, TEA Party members, Republicans and Democrats – to join together to defeat the proposed 1-cent sales tax increase.

'The purpose of this inform citizens of the upcoming vote," Commissioner Kendall said.



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

uncan...continued from page 1A

Mountains," Georgia of the Towns County Herand professionally.

'Now, both papers enter a new era, one of co-career with the North land, SC, near Myrtle operation among the staff Georgia News in the mid- Beach, SC.

"Almost four years County is a different ex- Times in Gainesville where ago, Kenneth West gave perience than Union he covered the police beat, me the opportunity to re- County, but both commuturn to my beloved North nities are vibrant and exhilarating. I look forward Duncan said. "Being editor to the opportunity of working at both papers and proald has been a wonderful ducing the best newspaexperience, both personally, pers in the North Georgia region."

Duncan began his

as local and hometown as and the communities," 1980s. He later became a Duncan said. "Towns staff writer with The 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 Is-

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