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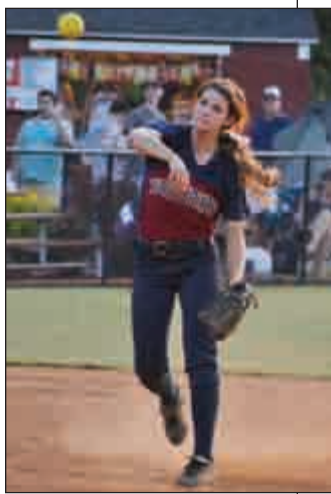
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**SPORTS:**  
County rivals clash on the softball diamond **19**



**IN NEWS:**  
CCSD plans to start four new charter schools **23**



**SPECIAL VISIT:**  
Twin Towers flag stopped in Cherokee **14**

INSIDE

CALENDARS	26-27
CLASSIFIEDS	28
CROSSWORD	24
NEWS	23
OPINION	6
SOAPBOX	7
SPORTS	19

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## Gone, but not forgotten

BY JANET PELLETIER  
janetp@ledgernews.com

### A Canton family recounts 9/11, the day they lost their matriarch

Kaitlyn Hayes turned 16 Thursday.

If it were up to her grandmother, the Creekview High School junior would have had a New York-style Sweet 16 to celebrate. She always spoiled her granddaughter. They shared a special bond. It started seconds after she was born, as doctors placed little Kaitlyn into Terry Munson's arms, before her own mother and father.

"She's here, but she's not physically here," Kaitlyn said, as she sat in the living room of her Canton home, which she shares with her 10-year-old brother, Patrick, mother, Christine Munson-Hayes, and father, Scott Hayes.

"We just feel we have a 24-hour-a-day guardian angel over us," Munson-Hayes said.

Terry Munson, 54, was one of the nearly 3,000 people killed on Sept. 11, 2001. She was working on the 92nd floor of the South Tower in the World Trade Center when a second plane hit between the 77th and 85th floors and changed her family's world forever.

Munson-Hayes still remembers every detail vividly, as she described the day's events in an accent that's reminiscent of her upbringing in Broad Channel, a

borough of Queens. She was in the shower, starting her morning in Houston, Texas, where she had moved 20 years ago, when her phone rang.

"My first, natural instinct was it was my mother because my mother's the only one who calls me when I'm in the shower," she said. "I grabbed the phone to tell her I'd call her back, and it was my cousin and she said that there had been an accident at the trade center."

She scrambled to call her mother, but the circuits were busy. Two minutes went by, no answer. Finally, she had reached her.

"I finally got her and I asked her what was going on," she said. "We were getting bits and pieces; I had 'Good Morning America' on. While we were on the phone, she was just telling me, 'It's a small plane. They don't want us to go downstairs because they don't want us out of the building; it's a debris field in the courtyard down below. We're just staying put.'"

Terry Munson told her she had time to call her own mother, who was 88, to let her know she was OK

and would still see her for dinner when she got home from work. But as Munson-Hayes held the line with her mother, she began to hear screaming in background. Munson was part of the secretarial staff of Aon Corporation, an insurance company.

"It was panic, and I said, 'What the heck is going on?' and she said, 'We're being evacuated,'" Munson-Hayes said. "I told her, 'Be careful,' and as I started to say 'I love you,' I heard an explosion and the line went dead. And when I turned around, I saw on the TV that the second plane had hit."

#### THE SEARCH BEGINS

As defeating as the image was that she had just seen come across her television, Munson-Hayes used her emergency techniques she'd gleaned from her years as a New York City police officer (from 1987-1991, she was stationed at the Coney Island precinct). Kaitlyn, who was 6, was picked up at school by her father.

The school had called, saying Kaitlyn was hysterical, inexplicably, because she had not yet been told what happened. She was asking for her nanny. Patrick, just 9 months old, rocked in his baby swing.

Munson-Hayes had one false hope on Sept. 11, as she was able to get in touch with a co-worker

of her mother's that evening, who said she thought she had made it out.

"When the first tower was hit, they were sitting together having coffee and the fireball had come right up behind my mom's back," she said. "My mom was maybe 10 feet from the window where her desk was and, when the fireball came up, they all jumped forward, grabbed their bags and ran for the staircase."

SEE MATRIARCH, PAGE 10



PHOTOS BY JANET PELLETIER | LEDGER-NEWS

**TOP, CENTER:** Christine Munson-Hayes and her children, Patrick, 10, and Kaitlyn, who turned 16 Thursday, keep their mother and grandmother's memory alive with a special room dedicated to her in their home. **ABOVE:** Munson-Hayes holds a wooden urn that was given to surviving family members of the nearly 3,000 people killed on 9/11, which contains remnants of the World Trade Center.

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Students at Woodstock Elementary learn about the 9/11 tragedy.

CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS

# The children of 2001

Kids born during the year of 9/11 learn about what happened that day and the changes the events caused

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS  
carolynmathews@ledgernews.com

The world has changed in millions of ways as a result of 9/11 – but to Cherokee County fourth-graders, born in 2001 and 2002, this is the world they know.

For the past few weeks, leading up to the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy at the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa., local elementary schools have geared lessons to bring meaning to children just old enough to begin to fathom what happened the year they were born.

"It's hard for the kids to understand the magnitude of what happened that day," said Principal Kelly Jo Page of Knox Elementary. "It's still hard for us to wrap our minds around it."

Woodstock fourth-grade teacher Marquita Hallman led a lesson a few weeks ago, bringing her students back to the time in which they were born. They spoke of big movies in 2001 and 2002, "Shrek," and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone;" popular music, Britney Spears and Avril Lavigne; rising sports stars, Lance Armstrong and Dale Earnhardt Jr. They discussed the price of a

loaf of bread, \$1.72; and a gallon of gasoline, \$1.26.

They also talked about tragedy and terrorism. Some of the children had seen at home the recent news reports about the killing of Osama bin Laden. The questions the students had for their teacher were ones of thoughtful innocence:

"Did they do it on purpose?"  
"Do they have a new leader now?"  
"Why did the people on the flight stop the hijackers?"  
"Why did they choose the U.S.?"  
"China has the same things and they are bigger."  
"Why the Twin Towers?"

Hallman fielded the questions, trying to answer in ways 10-year-olds can understand.

"Terrorism," she said, "is an act of violence to spread fear and bring attention to a political cause."

As to whether it was on purpose, Hallman said, "Yes, it was."

As to why the people on United Airlines Flight 93 over Shanksville decided to overtake the hijackers, "They probably knew they were going to die anyway. It is said that the plane was headed toward Washington, D.C., perhaps intended to crash into

the Capitol," she said.

Hallman told the students the Twin Towers probably were chosen as a target because they were a prominent and easily recognized symbol of the New York City skyline, and they would have the biggest impact, like the Pentagon and the U.S. Capitol.

"They were trying to make our country not as strong," she explained.

Hallman told the students about her remembrance of 9/11.

"I was working here at Woodstock Elementary, but it was the old school, where Chattahoochee Tech is now," she said. "I remember being stunned, seeing it on TV during my planning period."

Hallman said when she left school and drove home, "Flags were everywhere. One was draped off the bridge at Highway 92."

The fourth-graders at Woodstock, as well as the ones at Knox, were read a book, which was written shortly after 9/11 by a first-grade class at Masterson Elementary School, in Kennett, Mo.

"The book was written in the district I grew up going to school in," Page said, who noted that, as principal of Hickory Flat Elementary in 2001, she bought copies of the book for her entire staff, including Christy Bowling, who is now the Woodstock ES principal.

SEE CHILDREN, PAGE 16

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# Local resident remembers fallen family member

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
jessicaw@ledgernews.com

As the dust settled and rescue teams painstakingly excavated the debris for survivors, Cherokee resident Lorri-Ann Brogdon received a call that would change her family's life forever.

Her cousin, Lt. Michael Healey, a New York City firefighter assigned to Squad 41 out of the Bronx Borough, perished in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

He was 43. "You think of a firefighter dying in the line of duty, not terrorism," said Brogdon, who is known locally for her role in Cherokee Thanksgiving. "He was helping, though, and doing exactly what he wanted to be doing at the time. He died doing what he loved, which is one consolation."

Healey, who Brogdon described as having a comedic personality, was an 18-year veteran with the New York Fire Department.

"We grew up together up in New York," Brogdon said, adding, as long as she could remember, her cousin had always dreamed of donning firefighter garb. "It is just what he always wanted to do. He always wanted to be a firefighter in the city."

Healey's then 34-year-old brother, Brian, followed in his brother's footsteps and also joined the FDNY. He since has retired.

Healey was a brother, a husband and a father; however, he also was a hero who gave the ultimate sacrifice 9/11 while doing what he loved most.

Just before 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, Squad 41 was dispatched as a first responder to a report of a commercial aircraft crashing into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Brogdon recalled the morning as if it were yesterday.

"We were watching it at work. I worked at a chemical plant in Georgia at the time," she said.

Within seconds of the first alarm sounding, Healey and his fraternal brothers, firefighters Bobby Hamilton, Bruce VanHine, Tommy Cullen, Mike Lyons and Greg Sikorsky jumped aboard

Squad 41's engine and headed to Lower Manhattan.

"We immediately got on the phone because we have three firefighter cousins — Brian, Michael and Steve (who is on the other side of the family). We just started calling around to try and figure out who was where and if they were OK," Brogdon said.

With shards of glass plummeting to the ground around their feet and fireballs falling onto their helmets, Squad 41 fought their way through the debris and started looking for survivors.

Only 15 minutes after responding to the scene and assuming their task, a second commercial aircraft slammed into the South Tower, sparking a mammoth mutual aid response from 30 surrounding cities and counties.

At this moment, Brogdon, along with the rest of the country, stood still. She knew this was no accident.

"We were all in shock because growing up there, we had watched the towers get built. So, to see them coming down was just unfathomable, just horrible," she said.

The entire country shook in fear at 10 a.m. when the South Tower collapsed on top of hundreds of rescue workers and swarms of people attempting to escape from the blazing building.

Thirty minutes later, the North Tower fell to the ground.

Nearly 3,000 people had their lives taken that Tuesday, 343 of whom were firefighters.

Healey was one of the brave who never returned home.

"We were unable to locate Michael," Brogdon recalled. "I kept talking to my aunt, and she said, 'Just keep checking back.' It just didn't go well."

While Brogdon said 9/11 was "fuzzy by choice," she remembered repeatedly calling around trying to locate her cousin.

"We just knew. Nobody had heard from him, none of his guys had heard from him," she said. "We all did the yellow ribbon around the trees and hoped for the best, but, unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be."

A memorial service was held for Healey on Nov. 11, 2001.

Although her cousin's life was unjustly taken a decade ago, Brogdon said Healey's memory

is alive and well in their family. "Facebook has helped a lot because all of the brothers, sisters and cousins keep in touch, and we are always talking about it," she said.

Around the anniversary of 9/11 every year, Brogdon said the family also tries to perform service work to honor Healey.

"This year, my sister's family, myself and my son are helping down in Kennesaw Mountain to put out flags for each of the victims," she said.

One of Healey's two sisters, Eileen Lang, who is an artist, will be hosting an exhibit this year in Pennsylvania with her nephew to honor his memory.

"Instead of focusing on the loss, we try to focus on the positive and moving forward like, 'Look what we have accomplished since this has happened,'" she said.

Healey's sacrifice also is memorialized on www.libertyunites.tv, as well as other dedication sites. Many comments are posted from anonymous individuals paying their respect to the fallen hero.

"People are still commenting 10 years later. It is really interesting the impact that 9/11 had. He was one of 343 firefighters and not one of them has been forgotten," she said. "Everyone greatly misses him. His bravery will never be forgotten."

Healey's name also will be featured in the reflection pool, which is located in the footprint of the South Tower, where his life was cut short.

The National September 11 Memorial, a tribute and honor to those who lost their lives, will open to victims' families on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. The public is invited the following day.

Healey left behind his wife, Theresa, and their three children, Michael Jr., 27, Katie, 25, and Matthew, 22, who were 17, 15, and 12, respectively, at the time of their father's passing.

"He had been married for several years," Brogdon said, adding the Healeys were high school sweethearts. "(He) and his wife had met in high school, and they started dating in high school. So they were married for 20 years."

Brogdon said the family continues to work at making their beloved hero proud by aspiring to be better individuals.



Healey

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# Local deputy to speak at 9/11 event

## Sanchez guarded police commissioner during attacks

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
jessicaw@ledgernews.com

Sept. 11, 2001, was a day America stood still, as many witnessed two commercial airliners piloted by radical terrorists crash into the World Trade Center towers and another plane skid at high speed into the Pentagon.

A fourth hijacked commercial airline, Flight 93, was thought to be targeting the U.S. Capitol. While diverted by brave passengers, Flight 93 ultimately crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa., pushing the death toll up to nearly 3,000.

This tragic day in American history also was a day Cherokee County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Sanchez remembers vividly, as he was at the helm of saving lives on the crowded streets of Lower Manhattan.

Although Sanchez currently is a deputy under Sheriff Roger Garrison, assigned to the jail, he started his career with the New York Police Department in 1984.

He retired from NYPD three years after the attacks.

During more than two decades spent serving alongside New York City's finest, Sanchez quickly rose in the ranks, working on various units, including the NYPD Highway Patrol and the District Attorney's Detective Squad.

By 2001, Sanchez was charged with dignitary protection, as he was assigned as a confidential aide to ex-Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik.

"Our (Sanchez and his partner's) primary responsibility was dignitary protection,"

Sanchez said. "We were in charge of his protection and day-to-day operations. We were with him 24/7 and aided him in any of his needs. We also handled confidential investigations and matters with other dignitaries."

On Sept. 11, 2001, Sanchez went to work like any other day; however, he would soon learn it was not an ordinary Tuesday.

According to Sanchez, his partner advised Kerik, who was in his inner office at One Police Plaza, of a plane crashing into the North Tower around 9 a.m.

The police commissioner first suspected it was just a small propeller plane.

"He was quickly advised the matter was much more serious, that it was a jetliner, not a propeller plane," Sanchez said.

When the second plane crashed into the South Tower, roughly 15 minutes after the first plane hit the North Tower, Sanchez said intelligence still had not yet been gathered regarding the incidents.

"Commissioner Kerik believed we were being attacked and that we might be at war. If you think about it, he was right on both terms," he said.

As havoc struck in New York City, Sanchez said he did not have time to stop and think about what was happening.

"My first response was one of disbelief, but that quickly disappeared; things were happening so fast and lives were at stake," he said. "We had to respond and try to save as many lives as possible without knowing who or why we were being attacked."

Sanchez' main concern was Kerik's safety.

"My assignment that day was the same as every other day we were with (Kerik) — his safety was my primary concern. But, so many things were done. As conditions changed ... we did whatever we had to do or what he needed us to do," he said. "We spent most of the day at Ground Zero with Mayor (Rudy) Giuliani and trying to establish a new command center."

In a moment of chaos, Sanchez said watching people unite made him feel proud to be an American.

"During and after the attacks, people banded together and were very patriotic. They were willing to help others without even thinking about it," he said. "I remember restaurant owners near the towers opened their restaurants

and were feeding the rescuers at no cost. The West Side Highway was closed down, and as the rescuers traveled to Ground Zero, people would stand there with signs and cheer them."

Lauding his actions during 9/11, NYPD promoted Sanchez to detective second grade.

"Being a part of the effort means more to me than any promotion or award," he said.

During his career with the NYPD, Sanchez was bestowed 10 commendations and was a member of the department's Honor Legion.

His most cherished accolade, however, is a breast bar he received after the attacks.

"The NYPD issued a Department Unit Citation breast bar for members of the department to wear in remembrance of that tragic day and all those who lost their lives, to honor their memories and their heroic actions. They

made the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "In my opinion, they were the real and only heroes."

In hopes of keeping the memory of 9/11 victims alive, Sanchez said he wrote a letter to the Cherokee County sheriff, requesting to wear the breast bar on his uniform.

"He graciously allowed me to wear it on my Cherokee County uniform. It means a lot to me to be able to wear it. I have great, great respect for him and will always be grateful," he said.

Although he witnessed an American tragedy, Sanchez said his point of view on the world has not changed.

"We all want the same things in life, but there are people who are extremists, and if you're not in agreement with what they believe, you are their enemy," he said. "We are all in this together. It is not just law enforcement, we all have to be vigilant. On the other point, as my wife always tells me, 'You have to enjoy life.'"

Sanchez will recall this tragic day at the county's Patriot Day Remembrance event.

When Sanchez agreed to speak at Monday's event, Cherokee County Fire Chief Raymond Gunnin said it was a distinct honor, as this was a one-time arrangement.

"Because it is the 10th anniversary, he said he would speak about it at our ceremony and never speak about it again," he said.

The remembrance event will be held Sept. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., at the Public Safety Memorial, located between the Justice Center and the Historic Court house in downtown Canton.



Sanchez

**'My first response was one of disbelief, but that quickly disappeared; things were happening so fast and lives were at stake. We had to respond and try to save as many lives as possible without knowing who or why we were being attacked.'**

**Deputy Michael Sanchez**  
Recounting the morning of 9/11

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# A little piece of N.Y. in Cherokee

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
jessicaw@ledgernews.com

A decade after the terrorist attacks on America, Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services has received a piece of metal; a fragment which signifies strength, pride and remembrance, as it was pulled from the rubble where the World Trade Center towers once stood.

The Holly Springs Volunteer Fire Department also has its own piece of steel from the Twin Towers. "It's a piece of high beam that actually was in the World Trade Center," said Cherokee Fire Chief Raymond Gunnin, of the piece headquarters recently received.

The portion of American pride will be on display at Cherokee County Fire-ES' new training center, once completed in a few years.

For now, it is in safekeeping at headquarters on Univeter Road.

While Gunnin is honored to have a fragment of the former towers, he said the department's journey in obtaining it was not an easy venture.

"We sent off for a piece of metal to go into our training center because in our training center, we want to put a little museum," he said, noting vintage firefighting equipment also will be on display.

Plans for a mosaic floor, which will read "343" in memory of the firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11, has been designed, too.

"We (plan) to set the piece of metal right there with the 343," Gunnin said.

After sending its request to the Port Authority for a piece of metal pulled from the debris, Gunnin said several months went by before Cherokee Fire-ES received anything.

When the department finally received a package from the Port Authority, Gunnin said he was shocked.

"It looked like a crushed beer can or something," he said. "It looked like a real flimsy piece of metal that you could hold in one hand."

Gunnin said the department had bigger expectations, especially since the plan was to showcase it.

After penning another letter to the Port Authority, Gunnin said he indicated the department's goal and mapped out the design for the museum.

"We never heard anything back from them, and we didn't think we would hear anything," he said.



TIM CAVENDER | SPECIAL  
A child from the Boys & Girls Club in Canton salutes a piece of metal, which was pulled from Ground Zero. Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services obtained it from the Port Authority.

The county's fire chief said he had almost given up hope on receiving a keepsake portion of the former towers until the National 9/11 Flag Tour made a quick stop in Cherokee County July 28.

Because Gunnin and a majority of Fire-ES personnel were busy planning the national flag's stop at the Boys & Girls Club, located across from headquarters, no one noticed several FedEx packages sitting outside of the department's offices.

SEE PIECE, PAGE 11

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## CHEROKEE VOICE

**ISSUE:** The 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is this Sunday.  
**QUESTION:** Where were you when 9/11/01 happened?



"I was living in Phoenix at the time, so it was three hours back. I was getting ready for work."

Jennifer Cox  
Canton



"I was at KSU in between classes. Everybody was trying to find a TV. And then the whole place shut down, and they told everybody to go home."

Jeff Henley  
Canton



"I was at work. Somebody heard it on the radio."

Charles Guisinger  
Holly Springs



"I was at Hilton Head Island on the tennis court. My daughter came and got us, and we watched the coverage on TV."

Dan Kiser  
Woodstock



"I was at Kennesaw State in class. Someone came in and told us. He was from New York."

Teresa Flowers  
Marietta



"I was home watching CNN when it happened. I watched the second plane go into the World Trade Center."

Tony Marshall  
Woodstock



Pictured is the New York City skyline, in a photo I took on Sept. 3, 2001.

## It's not just another day

On Sept. 3, 2001, I stood atop the Empire State Building and looked southwest at the breathtaking view of the Manhattan skyline, featuring the World Trade Center towers.

I had heard about them before and had seen them on TV and in print, but nothing did them justice like the sight from 1,050 feet in the air. It was beautiful. It was mesmerizing.

Labor Day weekend 2001 was my first trip to New York in my life. I had always wanted to go: So much to see, so much to do.

That summer, I joined my now-husband's family for a trip to visit their relatives on Long Island, N.Y., where my in-laws grew up.

On Labor Day, I was ecstatic. I couldn't wait to see the big city. With limited amount of time, we made an executive decision: We would take the Long Island Railroad into Penn Station. From there, we would head north and see the Empire State Building, Central Park and Times Square.

We would sightsee from Penn Station, south, on our next trip: Visiting the Financial District, Little Italy, Soho and the World Trade Center.

But we would never get the chance to see, in person, the staples of the New York City skyline.

Eight days later, I lay asleep in my apartment. The phone's blaring ring to my sleeping ears jarred me awake.

"Turn on the TV!" my now-father-in-law said.

I looked at the clock; it was 8:57 a.m. The horror of what I was looking at sank in. Feeling helpless, I cried.

All of those people, I thought, had to make it out. They just had to.

Then six minutes later, I watched as United Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower.

With hope in my heart, I prayed. I prayed that the rescue workers would get there in time to help everyone in distress. I prayed that most of the people in the towers would make it out alive. I prayed for God to lay his healing hand on those who lost a loved one.

At 9:59 a.m., I watched as 2 WTC (South Tower) came crumbling to the ground.

My sense of hope was crushed.

All of those people, with spouses, parents, children and grandchildren; all of those people who just got up and went to work like any other day.

All of those people who would never get the chance to see another day.

It was Sept. 11, 2001. And even 10 years later, the images of people fleeing, covered in dust, shielding their faces to breathe, bleeding, carrying others to safety and those massive structures crashing to the ground are still emblazoned in my mind ... like it was yesterday.

A lot has happened since that tragic day. We have continued on with our lives. We have graduated from college, married, had children, changed jobs. Nationally, we've started two wars;

captured Saddam Hussein; killed Osama bin Laden.

We've watched our economy arguably hit rock bottom.

We've seen businesses come and go; we've seen some endure the Great Recession.

We've seen a royal wedding and the last space shuttle launch.

A lot has happened in the last 10 years, but we still haven't forgotten what a group of radical terrorists did when they took the lives of almost 3,000 people. We have not forgotten how they trained in our flight schools, lived as our neighbors, and took over our airspace as they embarked on a suicide mission ordered by one of the most diabolical men to ever walk this Earth.

And we have not forgotten the valiant passengers on United Flight 93, who risked their lives to save our nation's Capitol building and the lives of others. We have not forgotten the heroes who risked their lives climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center towers to save anyone they could.

And we have not forgotten the families and the children who have lived without a mother or father, a brother or sister, son or daughter.

As we observe this 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, let us continue to remember what happened that Tuesday morning and honor those who lost their lives that day and those who have given their lives in the fights against the radical terrorist group that attacked us.

Because it's up to us to keep Sept. 11 from becoming just another day on the calendar.

In 10, 20 and 30 years from now, let us be able to say, we still have not forgotten.



DIALOGUE

Erika  
Neldner

**CHEROKEEANS** By Mario Luque 9/7/11

**Americans will NEVER forget 9/11/01... including our heroes!**

## THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS

Publisher  
**DAVE CAUGHMAN**

Managing Editor  
**ERIKA NELDNER**

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Phone (770) 928-0706 • Fax (770) 928-3152  
Send e-mail to: [editor@ledgernews.com](mailto:editor@ledgernews.com)  
Write us at P.O. Box 2369, Woodstock, GA 30188-1379



Disclaimer: The views expressed on the Opinion page are not necessarily the views of the publisher or the staff of the Cherokee Ledger-News

LETTERS

# We all were united

Dear Editor,

I was in Washington, D.C., for a business trip on 9/11. I was watching CNN when the second plane hit 2 WTC (South Tower).

As I left my hotel to go to my meeting, I heard sirens all over the city. When I arrived at the meeting, I learned the Pentagon had been hit. We were just three blocks from the White House.

We spent most of the meeting time talking to our offices and loved ones. A friend with a car drove me to my hotel to gather my belongings. I will always remember that the Hilton did not charge me for the extra day despite the fact that I did not

check out until 5 p.m.

The streets of Washington, D.C. were completely empty except for us and the Humvees full of soldiers with automatic weapons. My friend drove me to the hotel where a co-worker with a rental car was attending another meeting. A third co-worker joined us, and we left D.C. to drive back to the Atlanta airport at 5 a.m. on the morning of the 12th.

We could see the smoke still pouring out of the Pentagon by moonlight as we left. I spent the next year reading the "Portraits of Grief" in the New York Times. I felt I owed it to the people who died that day to know who they were.

For awhile, we were all united as Americans ... not white Americans, African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Democrats or Republicans.

We were just Americans. That was the only good that came out of the day but, unfortunately, it did not last, and the divisiveness of politics has returned in full force.

I think we learned that day just how much we are hated in other parts of the world for our freedom and our wealth.

It is a lesson I don't think we will ever forget.

Jan Lewis  
Canton

# Reflection is key

Dear Editor,

With the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaching, I have started to reflect on that day, and what it really means to me as an American citizen. It is a day that will be forever engrained in my mind.

It was the event that changed our country as we knew it.

To me, it is not just a time to reflect on the innocent lives that were so brutally taken, but a day to remember our young men and women, who today still are fighting.

On Sept. 11, when I see the flag waving in the wind, I think of the firefighter who never made it home, the stockbroker who thought it was going to be just another day. I wonder what the person sitting at her desk was thinking when she saw the plane headed for her window. I remember how strangers bonded together to help one another. I

think of the mother who will never hear her son utter the words "Hi Mom," and of the daughter who will walk down the aisle of marriage without her father by her side. I think of the soldier who is deployed overseas who has yet to see his firstborn child, and of the mother who grieves the loss of her son, a Marine killed in action.

I reflect on the lives not only lost in the bombings, but of the 4,477 soldiers who have been killed and the tens of thousands of soldiers who have been wounded since the war prompted by the 9/11 attacks.

When I think of that day and the days shortly after, I remember driving around town and seeing homes and businesses proudly displaying the American flag for the first time.

I remember how people who previously were not so patriotic suddenly found pride in being an American. It was a day that was

fueled by hatred, and a moment in time when I realized that for the rest of my life, my country would no longer live in peace.

Since that day everything about our lives has changed except for one thing, our innate ability as Americans to forget. Many of those homes and businesses no longer fly the American flag, and many people don't show the patriotism they once proudly displayed. But on Sept. 11, it will soon resurface, for some but not all.

For me, Sept. 11 is a day filled with a range of emotions, but mainly it is a day of reflection. It is day to reflect on both what our country was and where we are now, 10 years later.

For all of us, it should be a day to remember, that we should never forget.

Darleen Prem  
Woodstock

# Our government shouldn't forget

Dear Editor,

We are almost three years into Obama's presidency as we approach the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America.

As America faces this horrible date in our history, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and three of his

cohorts still are being fed, clothed and cared for as our community-organizer-in-chief and his chief embarrassment of Attorney General Eric Holder decline to bring to trial these worthless mass murderers.

However, this administration can take all the time and effort

fighting Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer and ignoring Americans that want to secure our border.

I hope Obama doesn't have to walk and chew gum as he bounces down the steps from Air Force One.

Charles M. Dean  
Woodstock

# The mind of a child in 2001

Dear Editor,

We turn on our television, only to find, we have been targeted, Lives on the line. Airplanes have been hijacked, buildings been crashing, fires long lasted, people still crying. We see firsthand what hate

can do, tear apart friends and families too. They may fade our happiness, or how we felt safe, but one thing they can't fade is what that will replace. We will be stronger, be more brave, For they have awakened the giant.

It's judgment day!

Kelli Shipman  
Age: 13 (in September 2001)

(Editor's Note: While looking back at the Ledger-News coverage of Sept. 11, 2001, this letter to the editor written by a Dean Rusk Middle School student in 2001 was found, and the Ledger-News staff thought it was worth sharing again.)

## Tell Cherokee what you think.

Letters to the Editor may be submitted by fax to (770) 928-3152, by e-mail to editor@ledgernews.com, or by mail to 103 E. Main St., Woodstock, GA 30188. All letters must be typed and include a phone number to verify authenticity. We reserve the right to reject publication. We reserve the right to edit for libel and brevity. The Ledger-News will publish as many letters as possible. The editor and publisher reserve the right to publish a sampling of letters that reflect an accurate representation of letters submitted on the same subject when there are too many to publish. The content and accuracy of all information contained in a letter to the editor is the responsibility of the letter-writer.

SOAPBOX

• Does anyone know who you call to get a pothole fixed in a neighborhood?

• If we have a budget problem in excess of \$6 million in the Cherokee County School District, then why did administrators and principals get brand new iPads and iPhones?

• Mayor Donnie Henriques should focus on his mayoral duties and not the proposed education sales tax (extension).

• Why would you move into a neighborhood if you have no intention of following the covenants? Do your neighbors who actually care about the living conditions a favor and move out.

• If you're proud to be an American, please fly the American flag.

• The city of Holly Springs' happy world of spending has caught up with them. They are going to raise our taxes. Good luck taxpayers.

• Parents, just a reminder: if you are driving your child to school, please move all the way forward in the car line and have your child prepared to exit your vehicle, as there is a flow of cars behind you waiting in the line.

• Silly, silly me. I thought no one could be worse than Jimmy Carter.

• To Haley and Cassie: our name is on the mailbox, please call, as we would like to thank you for helping in our emergency and for bringing flowers.

• In regards to the letter, "More money won't solve the problem," his comparison to a family to our debt ceiling problem is like saying a family whose income has dropped because of lack of work or because pay has been cut should not try to find another job or find another way to bring in more money to pay the bills you have made.

• Can we please get new restaurants instead of just building (fast food) restaurants around the corner from each other?

• If you have old jewelry you're trying to sell, please don't go to the first person. My daughter went to the first place, and they said they would give her \$400; then she went to the next one, and they said they'd give her \$600. She went to the third one, and they gave her \$3,000.

• If the eight-week vacation rationale is to hold water, tell me why is it the Northerners have higher SAT scores and do better on the tests than Southerners and the Northerners don't go back to school until after Labor Day?

• Now that the city is wasting taxpayer money to edge my yard, are they going to waste more taxpayer money and cut it for me?

• I hope someone will put a drive-thru between Waleska and Canton. It would just be wonderful.

• Praise the Lord, for He is worthy.

• Thank you county commissioners for finally acknowledging what we employees and seniors have been trying to tell you. What a shame for those who have already been affected.

• Cherokee County schools have scheduled school activities on our fall break either because they forgot or ignored the fact that they promised everyone that there would be no school functions during the school breaks.

• All the world is a circus, the clowns are here to make us laugh.

• Since 2007, food stamp dependency has gone up 74 percent. Our entitlement class is raising entitlement kids. Just wait 10 years, everyone is going to want something for nothing.

• I have a suggestion for the county commissioners: take the \$7 million they have designated for the Canton Etowah Park, go over to Univeter Road on the acre

they've already bought with the recreation money, (build) Canton Dizzy Dean a ball complex out there and let Canton do whatever they want — a doggie park, a boat launch, whatever. But, use the money we voted on for our kids to build the park on Univeter Road.

• About the Hickory Log Creek Reservoir: if they sell it, are we going to get a cut in our water bill? Because they've steadily raised it since they started building that reservoir in the city of Canton.

• I taught in Cherokee County for over 20 years, and I never saw a child who lost any time learning by starting school in early September. That is not true. That is the argument they use for children starting school early.

• In response to the Bill McNiff's letter, the Republican party wants free market. Education is not about free markets; it should not be a business. Public education has served us well.

• If you want to hear the whippoorwills, meadowlarks and crickets at night, turn off your TV and your air-conditioning or just go outside and listen. You'll hear the whippoorwills all the time.

• To those complaining about the school calendar: a lot of us like the school calendar as it is, love having a vacation in February when everyone else isn't there, and the school board should leave the calendar as it is.

• The city of Woodstock spent millions of dollars on not one, but two, offices for themselves. Now, they are shocked that they are short on money. A fool and his money soon go separate ways.

• What's with the extra school buses running up and down Bells Ferry Road? I see 15-20 of them every day and never anyone on them.

• The number to the Sons of the Confederate Soldiers is (800) 697-6884.

• For all the people complaining about the ATVs at Rope Mill Park, doing supposedly \$20,000 in damages: That is ridiculous. Four-wheelers have been there many, many years before the park was there. Everyone quit complaining and let us ride.

• Woodstock, mother may I raise taxes? No, you may not. Enough is enough. Thank you very much.

• Why is there not a green turn arrow in front of Liberty Elementary? It is impossible to take a left there on a green light in the mornings.

• I would like to know who is the person responsible for destroying the uniformity of Britley Park subdivision? It looked good once.

• Volunteering at my daughter's school makes me feel so good. If you have time, volunteer at your child's school. I bet you'll feel better too.

• Thank you girls at the McDonald's in Towne Lake Saturday morning, when I got sick and you sat with me until I felt better.

**The Soapbox is intended to engage light-hearted conversation and engender the humorous side of life.**

**Lengthy opinions should be addressed in a letter to the editor.**

**The Ledger-News reserves the right not to publish Soapbox items based on libel or other considerations the editor and publisher deem valid. Comments may be edited for brevity. Please keep comments as brief as possible.**

**To submit a Soapbox, call (770) 928-1055.**

# American Heroes Air Show to highlight weekend events

BY JANET PELLETIER  
janetp@ledgernews.com

Though 9/11 is a somber anniversary, met with grief, reflection and sorrow, one Cherokee event this weekend aims to show support for heroes of the skies, as helicopters from military, law enforcement, fire, private emergency medical service and electronic news-gathering operators will be on hand for the public to see.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the American Heroes Air Show will be held at Heritage Park in Canton. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the park, located at 326 Riverstone Pkwy. The show is supported locally by the Atlanta Helicopter Pilots Association and American EuroCopter. Nationally, the show is also being held in Los Angeles, Austin, Seattle and Denver.

Mike Grier, a sergeant with the Criminal Investigations Division of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, is the volunteer event organizer. He said they're expecting 3,000 to 5,000 people to come throughout the day, and is hopeful they will get an even bigger turnout with this year being the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

"We're showcasing a variety of helicopters, and you get to meet the crews and learn how a helicopter's used in different aspects of public events, like public safety, news gathering, and it's also a career opportunity to learn about flying, or public safety or military careers or nonprofits — getting involved and making a difference in the community," Grier said.

He said the event serves as a way to salute the men and women who put their lives on the line every day, protecting Americans on their home soil or overseas.



SPECIAL

Children and adults check out a military helicopter during last year's American Heroes Air Show at Heritage Park. This year, the show will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, featuring helicopters from military, law enforcement, fire, private emergency medical service and electronic news-gathering operations.

"To basically show that no matter how hard we get hit, we're still going to fight back," he said.

About 50 people also will become U.S. citizens that day, as there will be a naturalization ceremony held at the event, around 10 a.m.

"We will also have Angel Flight out there, which is a nonprofit organization that helps patients in need fly to different places in the United States to get treatment," he said. "Woodstock police will be there, city of Canton, Holly Springs police, Canton fire, Cherokee fire, the Save the Kids, the Air Force, Marine Corps and Army recruiters."

Grier added that there will be a wide selection of helicopters for people to climb in and check out. Rides and demonstrations

also are planned.

"It will be fun for all ages," he said. "If the state patrol can do it, we'll probably do some type of demonstration with helicopters. So, come out. It's fun and it's free."

In addition to the event itself, parking also is free.

For information, visit [www.heroes-airshow/canton](http://www.heroes-airshow/canton).

For more events planned for this weekend as a remembrance to Sept. 11, 2001, see Page 9.

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### State



**Sen. Chip Rogers**  
Capitol (404) 463-1378

[chip@senatorchiprogers.com](mailto:chip@senatorchiprogers.com)



**Sen. Jack Murphy**  
Capitol (404) 656-7127

[jack.murphy@senate.ga.gov](mailto:jack.murphy@senate.ga.gov)



**Rep. Charlice Byrd**  
Capitol (404) 656-0298  
Cell (404) 557-2218

[charlicebyrd@gmail.com](mailto:charlicebyrd@gmail.com)



**Rep. Calvin Hill**  
Capitol (404) 656-0129  
Cell (770) 712-2879

[calvin.hill@house.ga.gov](mailto:calvin.hill@house.ga.gov)



**Rep. Sean Jerguson**  
Capitol (404) 656-0287

[sean.jerguson@house.ga.gov](mailto:sean.jerguson@house.ga.gov)



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Capitol (404) 656-5132  
Office (770) 844-6768

[mark.hamilton@house.ga.gov](mailto:mark.hamilton@house.ga.gov)

### Canton



**Ward 1 Pat Tanner**  
(678) 382-2130  
[patanner@canton-georgia.com](mailto:patanner@canton-georgia.com)



**Ward 1 Bob Rush**  
(770) 345-6610  
[bob.rush@canton-georgia.com](mailto:bob.rush@canton-georgia.com)



**Ward 2 Bill Bryan**  
(770) 704-1500  
[bill.bryan@canton-georgia.com](mailto:bill.bryan@canton-georgia.com)



**Ward 2 Jack Goodwin**  
(770) 704-1500  
[jackg@canton-georgia.com](mailto:jackg@canton-georgia.com)



**Ward 3 John Beresford**  
(404) 402-6730  
[john.beresford@canton-georgia.com](mailto:john.beresford@canton-georgia.com)



**Ward 3 Amelia Rose**  
(770) 704-1500  
[Amelia.rose@canton-georgia.com](mailto:Amelia.rose@canton-georgia.com)



**Mayor Gene Hobgood**  
(770) 704-1500  
[geneh@canton-georgia.com](mailto:geneh@canton-georgia.com)

### School Board



**Post 1 Robert Wofford**  
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[robert.wofford@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:robert.wofford@cherokee.k12.ga.us)



**Post 2 Mike Chapman**  
[mike.chapman@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:mike.chapman@cherokee.k12.ga.us)



**Post 3 Michael Geist**  
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[Michael.geist@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:Michael.geist@cherokee.k12.ga.us)



**Post 4 Janet Read**  
(770) 516-1444  
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**Post 7 Kim Cochran**  
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[kimgcochran@gmail.com](mailto:kimgcochran@gmail.com)

### Holly Springs



**Karen Barnett**  
(770) 345-5536  
[kbarnett@hollyspringsga.us](mailto:kbarnett@hollyspringsga.us)



**Jeremy Smith**  
(770) 345-5536  
[jsmith@hollyspringsga.us](mailto:jsmith@hollyspringsga.us)



**Dee Phillips**  
(770) 345-5536  
[dphillips@hollyspringsga.us](mailto:dphillips@hollyspringsga.us)



**Kyle Whitaker**  
(770) 345-5536  
[kwhitaker@hollyspringsga.us](mailto:kwhitaker@hollyspringsga.us)



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[hjohnston@cherokeega.com](mailto:hjohnston@cherokeega.com)



**Post 2 Jim Hubbard**  
(678) 493-6000  
[jhubbard@cherokeega.com](mailto:jhubbard@cherokeega.com)



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## Woodstock 9-11 Day of Remembrance 2011



**Sunday, September 11th • 2:00 pm**

**The Park at City Center** (formerly Downtown City Park)



Please join us as we remember the 10th Anniversary of those lost, as well as the service men & women who continue to fight for our freedom.

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# Canton, Woodstock plan to hold memorials for the fallen

BY JANET PELLETIER  
janetp@ledgernews.com

Cannon Park in Canton will be blanketed with thousands of flags displaying Old Glory this weekend, in remembrance of the day the nation fell under attack.

The 32-inch American flags will represent people killed in Lower Manhattan, at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa.

Lori Pesta, who is president of Salute to Our Veterans, said this is the inaugural year of the event, which she said will become annual.

"Volunteers here in Cherokee County are planting 3,000 flags in Cannon Park," Pesta said. "We have 50 volunteers to help us with that. They have registered from all over the county."

They include junior ROTC cadets, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, veterans



Pesta

and citizens.

As part of the remembrance of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, a ceremony will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, on the Cherokee County Justice Center steps, 90 North St., also in downtown Canton.

"It will be a short, community-strengthening type ceremony," Pesta said. "We're going to have bagpipes and bugles, but we're not having any political figures or anything like that. It's all about the community."

The ceremony also will include a moment of prayer, presentation of the colors and testimonials.

The city of Woodstock and the Woodstock Jaycees will again hold its yearly remembrance in

**'It will be a short, community-strengthening-type ceremony.'**

Lori Pesta

On the plans for the Canton event

The Park at City Center (formerly Downtown City Park), located on Arnold Mill Road.

This year's memorial tribute will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Stacy Walls, vice president of community development and management development for the Jaycees, said special 10th anniversary Sept. 11 lapel pins will be given out as supplies last.

"It's going to be a beautiful ceremony," she said.

Plans still are being organized for a guest speaker, but part of the program will include words from Woodstock Mayor Donnie Henriques, Fire Chief Dave Soumas and Police Chief David Bores.

"We will have a vocalist and pianist from the Kings Academy choir — they'll be doing the music. They're awesome," Walls said. "They'll do 'Amazing Grace.' And we will have someone do a reading."

The local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts also will be on hand.

## Firefighters to be honored next week

Paying tribute to the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and United Flight 93, which crashed in the woods of a Pennsylvania countryside, Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services will honor its firefighters during the week of Sept. 11.

Volunteer Coordinator Dr. James E. Kilgore said

Fire-ES will hold an observance on Monday, Sept. 12, at 8:30 a.m. at the Justice Center in Canton.

Fire-ES officials ask residents to "never forget the bravery of all those who sacrificed their lives in attempting to rescue others in those tragedies."

For more information, contact Kilgore at (770) 479-3669.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### CHURCH SERVICES

Hillside United Methodist Church, 4474 Towne Lake Pkwy., Woodstock, will host a community-wide Service of Prayer, Remembrance, and Hope as the congregation remembers the horrific events that took place 10 years ago. A mass choir from local churches and schools will be present to lead the service. Make plans to attend and feel free to invite others from the community. The service will be held Sunday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Celebration Hall. Visit [www.hillsideumc.org](http://www.hillsideumc.org), for information.

The Heart of Worship Ministries is hosting a special night of wor-

ship to honor and bless the U.S. military and their families with a special Psalm 91 Service on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. at The Source Worship Center, 207 Marvin Land Lane, Canton. For information, call Pastor Lance Halick at (678) 910-8631 or go to [www.theheartofworshipministries.org](http://www.theheartofworshipministries.org). Childcare is provided.

### FUNDRAISER

Ball Ground Elementary School PTA is hosting the 2nd Annual Run to Remember in Ball Ground on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 8 a.m. The event is a 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run to benefit the school as well as the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The cost is \$20 prior to race day or \$25

on race day. Registration forms can be picked up at the school or e-mailed to any interested participants. E-mail Lucy Pence with any questions at [g8rfutbol@yahoo.com](mailto:g8rfutbol@yahoo.com).



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City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department

## MATRIARCH: Family keeps her memory alive

FROM PAGE 1

Munson, as told to her daughter by the co-worker, took charge and tried to calm people down.

It wasn't until three days later, Munson-Hayes would be able to board a flight to New York, as all flights had been grounded. One of the first things she did was call her friends in the police force to head down to Ground Zero to find her mom, as well as scouring area hospitals and filing a missing persons report.

But her search would become a losing battle.

"After about a week, the daughter part was holding out, but the training that I had as a police officer kicked in and told me that reality was, she wasn't alive," she said. "I verbally said it on my birthday that following March. I looked at my husband and said, 'I know she's dead because no matter where my mom is, the year before she was in the middle of nowhere on a cruise and she called me on my birthday; she would always call.'"

Over the years, the family has received sets of her remains in the form of bone fragments that are released as officials continue to sift through massive amounts of the rubble, gathered in 2002. One such release a few years ago the family buried at sea off of a Disney boat, because Terry Munson loved the water and Mickey Mouse. Kaitlyn, Patrick and their mother will leave Friday to pick up a fifth set of remains, while they also will attend the 10th anniversary memorial for the victims' families in Manhattan.

"The kids decided this time we're going to get an urn and hang onto them," Munson-Hayes said. "My daughter decided when I die, she'll put them in with me."

### THE FAMILY BOND

Though her grandmother had only been in her life for six short years, she made her mark, Kaitlyn said.

"It took a long time to adjust because every morning, she would call me before school and every afternoon," she said. "I wasn't even allowed to talk to my mom before I talked to her. Until I got home and Mom told me, I didn't believe it. I just thought Mom and Nanny are on a vacation for a couple days."

"My daughter said to me, go find my grandmother and bring her home," Munson-Hayes said. "Your kid asks you to do something, and you try to do almost everything. And that was about the hardest thing, to come back



JANET PELLETIER | LEDGER-NEWS

A lasting message is inscribed on a stone marker in the Hayes' memorial garden in their front yard to Terry Munson, who worked on the 92nd floor of the South Tower.

and look at her and tell her that I couldn't find her, and we have to assume that she's gone."

Patrick has learned about the person his grandmother was through his family. Kaitlyn said she would show him pictures of her holding him after he was born, acknowledging it's been a struggle because he didn't have the chance they did to have a connection with her.

"I would just like to meet her again in real life, instead of my mom and sister telling me about her and showing me pictures," Patrick said.

Munson-Hayes said she could especially use her mother's wisdom now as she plans a celebration in New York for Kaitlyn's 16th birthday.

"To realize that she's going to be 16 years old, that's when the reality hits," she said. "Now trying to pick a Sweet 16 for her, the first thing I want to do is call my mom and say, 'What do you think of this? Is this a good idea or is this tacky? What do I do?'"

Munson-Hayes and her daughter have made the trip to every anniversary in New York, except for one, taking in the progress for the new National September 11 Memorial and Museum, which will be formally dedicated on Sunday. This year, Patrick will be coming along for the first time.

Two years ago, Kaitlyn was chosen as a name reader for the 8th anniversary memorial. The minute she got up to the podium, it started pouring.

After reading a dozen names, she finished by saying a word about her grandmother.

"The minute she said my mother's name and gave a message, it stopped," Munson-Hayes said. "She looked at me and she said,

'Did you see what she did to me? She just dumped a bucket of water on me from the skies.' And we were laughing."

This year carries a couple of milestones. In addition to it being the 10th anniversary, in the past year, Americans rejoiced over the news of Osama bin Laden's death.

"It was a very nice moment," Munson-Hayes said. "I would love to shake the hand of the gentleman that did it, and I'm so grateful to that whole team. I don't know if it was closure, or satisfaction."

Kaitlyn agreed.

"Just knowing that, not that it can't happen again, but it won't happen by him," she said.

There are many ways the family keeps Terry Munson's memory alive.

There is a room dedicated to her next to the foyer of their home, filled with some of her furniture from her New York home and personal mementos, such as the Hummel dolls she collected. Outside their home is a memorial garden, with a stone that reads, "No farewell words were spoken. No time to say goodbye. You were gone before we knew it. And only God knows why."

"I talk to her twice a day," Munson-Hayes said. "I get up in the morning and I say, 'Good morning.' At the end of the night I say, 'Goodnight.'"

On Terry Munson's birthday, the family buys a cake and balloons, writing a message on one and sending it off into the sky. At Christmas, her stocking is hung over the fireplace. And every year, the children get a Christmas present from her.

"We just keep her alive," Munson-Hayes said.



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# PIECE: Fire-ES will treasure 9/11 relic

FROM PAGE 5

"The boxes were stacked up in the corner, and nobody paid any attention to them," he said. "Well, when everything got calmed down, somebody decided to go through the packages."

What was discovered would impact Fire-ES forever.

"On the very bottom was a big box, and somebody opened it up to find a piece of steel from the World Trade Center," he said. "It had arrived on the same day that the flag was stopping in the county. We had a big surprise that day, and it was just amazing how it all worked out."

Luckily, the unidentified Fire-ES personnel looked through the packages in the nick of time, giving firefighters the opportunity to bring the piece of high beam to the Boys & Girls Club, where the flag had made a quick layover before traveling to Ellijay. During the short event, several children, many of whom were too young to remember 9/11 or weren't even born yet, saluted the flag and touched the piece of metal.

Gunnin said it was a remark-



After folding the National 9/11 Flag, two U.S. Army soldiers hold Old Glory above a piece of metal from the former World Trade Center towers. The metal high beam will be placed in Cherokee Fire-ES's new training center alongside a mosaic, which will read "343" in honor of the firefighters who lost their lives.

JESSICA WAGNER | LEDGER-NEWS

able day for the county, an event he called a "God factor."

# Public safety to participate in 9/11 events

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
jessicaw@ledgernews.com

Simultaneous to surrounding cities hosting Sept. 11, 2001, commemorative events, local public safety agencies also plan to honor the fallen.

The city of Woodstock's police and fire departments will attend the Woodstock 9/11 Day of Remembrance 2011, an event hosted by the Woodstock Jaycees and the city on Sunday, Sept. 11, at 2 p.m.

"We will be at the city park in downtown with the Woodstock Jaycees, hosting a memorial service," said Fire Chief Dave Soumas.

Ofc. Brittany Duncan, public information officer for the Woodstock Police Department, said officers also would be participating in the Jaycee's event as a way to pay respect to those whose lives were taken and those who continue to fight for freedom.



Duncan

The Holly Springs Police Department will attend The American Heroes Air Show at Heritage Park on Saturday, Sept. 10.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., public safety officials will showcase helicopters and explain how general aviation is used in public safety, as well as national defense.

Joining forces to support 9/11 victims, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services and the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners will host Patriot Day Remembrance Monday, Sept. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

According to Lt. Jay Baker, public information officer with the sheriff's office, the event will be held at the Public Safety Memorial, located between the Justice Center and the Historic Courthouse in downtown Canton.

In addition to hearing from Deputy Michael Sanchez, who served as a confidential aide to the NYPD police commissioner during 9/11, Baker said there would be a special patriotic musical salute performance by the Cherokee Community Choral.

Candy Worthy, public information officer for the Canton Police Department, said a 21-gun salute is intended for the Patriot Day Remembrance event.



Worthy

For Worthy, Sept. 11 was once a day she and her family celebrated, as it is her only sister's birthday; however, it is now a time for mourning, as her father passed away only 11 days prior to the radical terrorist attacks.

"Just when we thought our lives were turned upside down, 9/11 happened and we were all

in shock," she said. "I was so far away in college in Alabama, but felt the same pain as the people of New York felt grieving their loved ones. I remember being in one of my criminal justice classes at Jacksonville State University when a student ran in saying that a plane had hit the Twin Towers. The thought of a terrorist attack never crossed my mind, or anyone's until the second plane hit the (second) tower."

After visiting Ground Zero in 2003, Worthy said some people seemed to acquire a sense of strength from just being there; a feeling the local law enforcement hopes to bring to the county at the Patriot Day Remembrance event.

Tim Cavender, Cherokee Fire-ES director of public affairs, said the piece of World Trade Center metal the department recently was bestowed also would be on display, and County Fire Chief Raymond Gunnin said the department plans to lay wreaths at Cannon Park with Salute to Our Veterans.



Cavender

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# Local faith communities focus on Cherokee's soldiers, first responders

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS  
carolynmathews@ledgernews.com

Several Cherokee pastors agree that one of the lasting messages of the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy is it has taught Americans not to take for granted those who protect their freedoms and provide emergency assistance. They all said time will be taken during the upcoming Sept. 11 services to thank those who put their lives on the line for the public's safety. The pastors also voiced an underlying message of the 9/11 remembrance. Evil is not dead.

The Rev. Dr. Lucas Pina, pastor of Sixes Presbyterian Church, said his congregation's Sept. 11 service will begin with a special moment to thank local emergency medical workers, fire, police and military.

"We are still living that tragedy and the consequences of it," Pina said. "Look at the ways things have changed; the airport, security measures."

But, he said, the event itself was so bad that it was countered with good things that came out of it.

"There was a time when we took first responders sort of for granted," he said. "This event allowed us to see them with different eyes. Now, we see the sacrifices they are willing to make, sometimes their lives, to save people. We also see the huge amount of people who volunteer to help."

Pina said the 9/11 tragedy brought about connection between people and even agencies within the government. "They had to work together." He also noted that the tragedy brought about greater communication between faiths and a greater understanding of Islam and its complexities.

Dr. George Anderson, senior pastor of First Baptist Church Canton, said the 11 a.m. service on Sept. 11 will be "Hero Day." Special guests, he said, will be Cherokee County and Canton firefighters, police and emergency workers, as well as members of the local National Guard unit.

"We thought this would be a good time to say thank you," Anderson said. "One of the most important things we can do to remember those who sacrificed their lives is to pay tribute to them and to those who serve us



CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, in Woodstock, has a memorial dedicated to the victims of Sept. 11, 2001. This year, the parish Knights of Columbus organization will hold a full dress ceremony in memory of 9/11. Pictured around the memorial are parishioner and veteran Army Col. Frank Varljen, Father Larry Niese, pastor; and Army Pvt. Hannah Wilson. Wilson, stationed at Fort Stewart, recently completed basic training. Her unit, which is made up of high-security military police, is set to be deployed to Afghanistan before year-end.

now. We owe so much to people who are willing to protect our lives and our freedom."

At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, in Towne Lake, members are participating in a nine-month worship and sermon series entitled, "God's Story. Our Story," which is designed to help individuals better see their own stories with scripture. On Sept. 11, said the Rev. Paul Baumgartner, senior pastor, study will be devoted

to Genesis, Chapter 3, which details stories of sin against God and neighbors. They deal with Adam and Eve's original sin, Cain's sin against his brother, the wickedness of humanity and the flood, and the Tower of Babel.

"We are reminded in these stories that there are other wills and purposes at work in the world besides God's."

SEE CHURCHES, PAGE 13

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# CHURCHES: Are you ready to be a hero?

FROM PAGE 12

"Evil and humanity also exert wills and purposes," Baumgartner said. "Obviously, these themes were clearly played out in the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. And, so, as preacher for that Sunday, which is the 10th anniversary, I am sure that I will reference the tragic day and the national anniversary observance."

While an evil was committed, Baumgartner said, Christians must acknowledge that, they too, are sinful, and shouldn't use the opportunity to be self-righteous.

"While we continue as a nation at war, we must continuously pray for our president and government leaders, as well as leaders throughout the world, that God might give them wisdom and hearts for peace," he said.

Father Larry Niese, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, in Woodstock, agreed.

"The anniversary of 9/11 is a reminder to all of us that sin has entered the world and there is a need for redemption," Niese said. The parish will hold a ceremony that Sunday, led by the Knights of Columbus Council 11768, in "fourth-degree" full regalia. The ceremony will be held around the church's 9/11 monument, which

proclaims the United States, "One Nation Under God." It was built by parishioners shortly after the 9/11 tragedy. The monument, which stands outside the church, was dedicated on the first anniversary of the tragedy in memory of the victims and

**'Any day can begin as a normal day, and it can end up in catastrophe. All of us may be called upon to be heroes. Are we ready for that?'**

**David Kight**  
Pastor, Cornerstone Community Church

families of 9/11 and "Those Who Died in Defense of Freedom."

The Rev. Sam Hamby, pastor of Waleska United Methodist Church, said the coming Sept. 11 Sunday is the annual FAN (Friends, Acquaintances and Neighbors) Sunday, where members celebrate the local community, fall sports teams, etc.

"We're taking a fun day and, yet, bringing back the remem-

brance that we have freedom in this country, and the freedom we have in Christ," Hamby said. "The sermon will be based on John Wesley's three rules for Christian living: do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. The 9/11 tragedy, birthed out of an evil response to life, stands in stark contrast to Christian living."

Pastor David Kight, of Cornerstone Community Church, in Woodstock, said feelings still bombard him when he thinks about 9/11.

"I saw the second plane go into the towers," Kight said. "When I saw it, I was stunned. We see things like that in movies and on TV, and we can struggle with knowing what's real."

Kight said 9/11 reminded citizens that real evil does exist and that Americans are not immune.

"There are no walls tall enough and no fences strong enough to keep real evil out," he said.

Kight said his sermon will focus on heroes.

"Any day can begin as a normal day, and it can end up in catastrophe," he said. "All of us may be called upon to be heroes. Are we ready for that?"

# Etowah High School shares plans for remembrance activities

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Etowah High School Principal Keith Ball and a teacher committee are planning a school-wide program in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

They are inviting parents, students, business leaders and community members to partner with the school to plan and successfully carry out the day's events. Part of the remembrance will be the display of a field of flags in the Alumni Plaza in front of the auditorium. The flags will pay tribute to those who died on 9/11 in the terrorist attacks (Pennsylvania, World Trade Center and Pentagon).

Kris McKeeth and Susan McElhannon of The Etowah Foundation are supporting the project; and Maj. Scott Sanders, Chief Stephanie Powell and the school Air Force Junior ROTC designed the display and will install it as well.

On Sept. 7, students will watch

a 10-minute video that includes video footage and stills from 9/11 and incorporates interviews with teachers and a firefighter who either were directly affected that day or realized the impact that day would have on the rest of their lives.

Teachers will help lead discussion and answer student questions, and students are encouraged to discuss 9/11 with their parents for the follow-up lesson on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

On Sept. 9, prior to the home-opener football game, all Etowah teachers/staff who have served in the U.S. military will be treated to a meal. Prior to kick-off, military staff and any audience members who have prior (or active) military service will be asked to stand and be recognized. Additionally, the school police officers and local firefighters will be recognized for their service. The local fire department will be bringing a ladder truck to hoist an American flag.

Additionally, the chorus will be singing the national anthem live that night while AFJROTC presents colors and the flag.

On Sept. 14, students turn in any follow-up questions/discussions they might have. Students will be encouraged to discuss what impact they might have on their community to better it as a result of 9/11. Students will be introduced to the concept of community service by encouraging students to each commit to an hour of community service and their services will be recorded to create a "chain" of change. The chain links will be displayed for all to see Etowah's students' commitment to change and bettering their community, and in turn their world and themselves.

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TIM CAVENDER | SPECIAL

During an impromptu visit, the Boys & Girls Club, located on Univeter Road, in Canton, grabbed hold of a piece of history. The National 9/11 Flag, which is symbolic of Americans' empowerment, made a quick stop in Cherokee County while en route to Ellijay July 28.

## WTC flag made impromptu visit

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
[jessicaw@ledgernews.com](mailto:jessicaw@ledgernews.com)

As a tattered and torn American flag poked through the rubble near Ground Zero on Sept. 11, 2001, the country knew it had been knocked down, but not defeated.

Christened as the Star-Spangled Banner of this generation, the 30-foot flag represents the spirit Americans are now rebuilding one stitch at a time.

Traveling en route to Ellijay as part of The New York Says Thank You Foundation's National 9/11 Flag Tour, Cherokee County experienced the flag's strength when it stopped at the Boys &

Girls Club in Canton just over a month ago.

The visit was completely unforeseen, according to Cherokee Fire and Emergency Services Fire Chief Raymond Gunnin.

"We got notified about three or four days before it came," he said. "All we thought was that since it was coming up (Interstate) 575, we would just put trucks on the overpasses and just watch it come through."

The plans changed on the morning of July 28.

"On the morning it was coming, we got a call from a guy in Gilmer County that we knew," Gunnin said, noting Gilmer County originally was set to host the tour. "He said 'Hey, we can get it to stop in the county (Cherokee) if you want us to.'"

Fire-ES jumped on the offer.

In addition to obtaining a spot on the tour, Gunnin said the department also was bestowed a piece from one of the former World Trade Center towers, which was delivered by the Port Authority moments before the flag arrived.

"We were just blown away," Gunnin said of the afternoon. "Two artifacts that we had no

idea were coming both arrived on the same day."

Prior to starting a tour around the country, the National 9/11 Flag first needed some tender, loving care, which tornado survivors from the small town of Greensburg, Kan., were happy to deliver in 2008.

They were tasked with stitching the flag back together.

Since then, more than 200 million Americans, including soldiers, World War II veterans and politicians, have sutured the battered flag, too.

Using retired flags from all 50 states, including Georgia, Arkansas, Hawaii, New Jersey, Indiana and Wisconsin, the 9/11 Old Glory has begun transforming from battered to beautiful.

The National 9/11 Flag was brought to Atlanta on Jan. 14 for a stitching ceremony at the King Center. With 9-inch by 18-inch red stripes taken from flags retired by the Atlanta Area Council Boy Scouts of America and the King Center, more than 90 individuals assisted in sewing the flag.

These two fragments are located roughly 6 feet from the right end of the flag.


SEE FLAG, PAGE 15

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TIM CAVENDER | SPECIAL

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services Fire Chief Raymond Gunnin and Training Officer Lt. Robbie Kennedy, who is one of 10 lead instructors for the Georgia Smoke Diver Association, kneel as they lower the National 9/11 Flag for members of the Boys & Girls Club, located in Canton, to see.



JESSICA WAGNER | LEDGER-NEWS

With the help of Cherokee County residents, two U.S. Army soldiers fold the National 9/11 Flag, which made a quick stop in the county while on its way to Gilmer County.

## FLAG: Mended, it is restored to glory

FROM PAGE 14

According to the national tour's Web site, a piece of the flag President Abraham Lincoln was laid out following a lethal shot at Ford's Theatre also has been sewed into the 9/11 flag.

Since 2008, the National 9/11 Flag has been gingerly transported across the country for repairs, and to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the national flag tour was inception.

"The National 9/11 Flag Tour is to display this historic flag at leading venues nationwide, to

**'The National 9/11 Flag Tour is to display this historic flag at leading venues nationwide, to empower local service heroes in all 50 states ... and to inspire 300 million Americans with the flag's rich visual history ... to deepen our sense of citizenship and national pride ...'**

empower local service heroes in all 50 states with the privilege of stitching the flag back to its original 13-stripe format, and to inspire 300 million Americans with the flag's rich visual history in order to deepen our sense of citizenship and national pride and bolster the spirit of volunteerism on the 9/11 anniversary and year-round," as worded on the tour's Web site.

Gunnin called touching the flag, as well as receiving a piece of metal, "a God factor."

"It was amazing to see that flag," he said. "It really touched us."

The fire chief, who has accepted an early retirement incentive offered by the Board of Commissioners, said moments like July 28 are aspects of the fire department he will cherish.

"It's the camaraderie (I'll miss)," he said.

Once the tour of America is complete, the National 9/11 Flag will find a proper resting spot as part of the National September 11 Memorial Museum, which is a tribute to the nearly 3,000 people killed during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Flight 93 and the Pentagon, as well as those who were killed in the 1993

bombing at the former towers.

Architecturally designed to mirror the footprints of both towers, the museum will feature two of the country's largest man-made waterfalls.

The names of those who lost their lives will be featured in the reflection pools.

The memorial museum, which is located at the site of the former World Trade Center, officially opens to victims' families Sunday, Sept. 11, and to the public Sept. 12.

**'It was amazing to see that flag. It really touched us.'**

**Raymond Gunnin**  
Cherokee County fire chief

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## CHILDREN: Students honor heroes of 9/11 and today



LEFT: Knox Elementary fourth-graders work on a giant flag, which will hang in the hallway to display their reasons for being proud to be Americans.

RIGHT: McCallum Baker, a fourth-grader at Knox Elementary, brought a hard hat and security badges his father wore in the aftermath of 9/11 during recovery at Ground Zero.

PHOTOS BY CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS



FROM PAGE 2

The book is entitled, "September 12: We Knew Everything Would Be All Right."

At Knox Elementary, students made a giant flag to hang in the hallway.

On the stars and stripes were each child's reasons why they are thankful and proud to be Americans.

"I am proud to be an American because it is a free country, and we get to do a lot of things and it is my home," wrote Brandon Rutkowski.

"I am proud to be an American because we have human rights. We get to go to church, and you can vote for who you want for president," said Claire Rohrer.

"I'm proud to be an American because I am a free person. We can go wherever we want. I am happy because we are protected," said Matt Page.

Students at Knox also made "freedom bracelets," constructed of red, white and blue beads,

with yellow ones on either side in memory of victims of 9/11.

Student McCallum Baker brought a Verizon hard hat and security badges that his father wore while working at the World Trade Center Ground Zero site during the recovery effort.

Donna Frye's resource students made a large flag out of their handprints to send to Frye's nephew, stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

At Avery Elementary, fourth-grade social studies teacher, Jessica Pierce, worked with her students on a timeline from 9/11 to the present, with the goal of helping students realize how the current events of the past 10 years have been shaped by 9/11. The students also studied the role of the U.S. military since 9/11.

Teachers agreed the subject of 9/11 is not an easy one to teach.

"This is something very devastating that affects us forever," Hallman said. "We try to focus on the positives; on remembering our heroes."

RIGHT: Amanda McGrave, a fourth-grader at Avery Elementary, shows her 10-year American Hero timeline. Amanda was born Sept. 10, 2001. Her father, a commercial airline pilot, was scheduled to fly to New York City on Sept. 11, but cancelled the flight because of her arrival.



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# A lesson in the last 10 years



CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS

Drew Langston, a Knox fourth-grader, displays a "freedom bracelet" he is making.

RIGHT: Donna Frye's resource class at Knox Elementary made a flag with their handprint cutouts to send to Frye's nephew, a soldier in Iraq.

CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS



LEFT: Avery Elementary fourth-graders prepared timelines showing the 10-year response of the military and Homeland Security that was triggered by 9/11. Pictured, from left, with their timelines above them on the wall, are: Audrey Rupert, Lily Grant, Alexis Boatright, Teagan Smith, Kristen Foote, Molly Baggett and Will Jobe.

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If you would like a pet question answered, email it to: kim@drweaver.org

Dr. Sherry Weaver is a veterinarian at Animal Hospital of Towne Lake. She graduated from the University of Georgia of Veterinary Medicine in 1992 where she was inducted into the Phi Zeta honor society. She opened the Animal Hospital of Towne Lake in 2000.

This advice is that of Dr. Weaver and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Ledger-News and/or its staff.

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## PREP VOLLEYBALL



BRANDON MICHEA | LEDGER-NEWS

Freshman Logan Page and the Sequoyah Lady Chiefs picked up a pair of victories Thursday, including a hard-fought three-game win over rival Etowah.

## Lady Chiefs slug out win over Eagles

BY BRANDON MICHEA  
[brandonm@ledgernews.com](mailto:brandonm@ledgernews.com)

In a game of momentum, the Sequoyah Lady Chiefs found theirs at the right time.

Tied at one-game apiece after rival Etowah dominated the latter-half of play in Game 2, the Lady Chiefs jumped out to an early lead in Game 3 and never lost control from there, escaping the Eagles' Nest with a 25-18, 16-25, 25-18 victory Thursday night in Woodstock.

"All we talked about (between Games 2 and 3) was how [Etowah] took the momentum from us in the second game because they were the ones doing the attacking," Sequoyah Head Coach John Edwards said. "We just needed to re-set ourselves, and, from point one, we needed to take back the momentum we had in Game 1."

And the Lady Chiefs did just that, jumping out to an 8-2 lead behind the service of Courtney O'Brien and Julia Clarke and a couple of monstrous kills by Carley Roberts.

From there, it was relatively smooth sailing, as Sequoyah extended its lead to as many as 11 points and did not allow the Lady Eagles to draw within less than seven until late in the game.

"The girls did an amazing job those first few points (of Game 3) of really focusing on what we needed to do to get our attacks," Edwards said.

Highlighted by her Game 3 surge, Roberts (four blocks), along with Katelyn Wienburg (11 digs), led the Lady Chiefs' attack with eight kills each. Haleigh Tewksbury added seven kills, Brittnee Jones pitched in four kills to go along with 2.5 blocks, and Maddi Smith had 10 digs. Key in setting up the attacks, O'Brien totaled 22 assists.

SEE SLUG, PAGE 21

## PREP SOFTBALL

# Straight dealing

## Eagles ride sophomore southpaw past rival Woodstock

BY BRANDON MICHEA  
[brandonm@ledgernews.com](mailto:brandonm@ledgernews.com)

In her 15-plus years of coaching, Tonya Sebring has never shied away from her philosophy of going with the "hot hand." And, while the Etowah head coach has plenty of options to choose from, she's apparently found the one she was looking for.

Taking a no-hitter into the bottom of the fifth, sophomore southpaw Bridgette Flaherty went the distance, allowing three hits and striking out eight to lead Sebring's Lady Eagles to a 6-0 victory over rival Woodstock on Aug. 27.

"Bridgette had a good day," Sebring said. "She was doing a great job locating her pitches and Rachel Murphy did a great job behind the plate handling her."

"We're fortunate to have some pitching depth, but my history shows that I throw the hot hand. It's always day-to-day, but, right now, Bridgette is doing a good job competing and understanding what we're trying to do with the hitters."

While Flaherty was taking care of business in the circle, juniors Allie Brown and Courtney Atkinson provided Etowah with plenty of support at the plate, as Brown finished the night 2-for-2 with two RBI, a walk and a run scored and Atkinson went 2-for-4 with a three-run double.

"They both came up big when we needed them to," Sebring said of her new 3-4 punch in the batting order. "Allie has usually been a consistent leadoff hitter for us, but [Kaitlyn Hughes] had a great weekend in the leadoff spot for us, so we decided to shake up the order a little bit."

And just as she did in tournament play over the previous weekend, Hughes got the Lady Eagles started early at Woodstock (6-4, 2-1 Region 5AAAAA), stroking a leadoff single in the first, before advancing to second on a ground-out by Sharlene Strother and scoring when Brown hammered a double down the left-field line for a 1-0 lead.

Etowah (7-7, 2-1) continued to pressure Lady Wolverines' ace Clare Botti in the frame, as Atkinson singled to put runners on the corners. But, Botti fielded a grounder back to the rubber and threw on to first for the second out of the inning and made it to the dugout without any further damage when she coaxed a grounder to short for the final out.

Unfortunately for Woodstock, the Lady Eagles' offense was not done, yet.

Following a perfect bottom of the first for Flaherty, MacKenzie Dille led off the top of the second with a single and Chelsi Palazzo drew a walk. Murphy then reached on an error to load the bases with



BRANDON MICHEA | LEDGER-NEWS

Sophomore Bridgette Flaherty has proven to be Etowah's hot hand in the early going, tossing a complete-game, three-hit shutout against Region 5AAAAA and county rival Woodstock on Aug. 30.

no outs, but Botti got the next two batters to hit into fielder's choice outs at home.

Almost out of the jam, Botti fired a wild pitch that allowed courtesy runner Jenna Ertel to score, before walking Brown to once again fill-up the bases. The bags,

however, did not stay loaded for long, as Atkinson smoked a double down the line in left, clearing the bases for a 5-0 Etowah advantage.

SEE DEALING, PAGE 20

## CRPA prepares for 22nd annual invitational

BY BRANDON MICHEA  
[brandonm@ledgernews.com](mailto:brandonm@ledgernews.com)

For the 22nd year in a row, the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Agency will welcome some of Georgia's top high school fast-pitch softball talent this weekend, hosting its annual Cherokee County Invitational, Sept. 9-10 at the Twin Creeks Softball Complex in Woodstock.

"We are very proud of the fact that this tournament has a long history of success and the tradition behind it," said CRPA Athletic Coordinator Camille Thomas,

who will serve as the tournament director. "One impressive fact is that 14 out of the previous 21 years the Cherokee County Invitational Champions have gone on to win or play for the GHSA State Championship in their respective classifications."

Among the teams scheduled to participate are four of the county's six programs, with Cherokee, Creekview, Sequoyah and Woodstock set for the local action. Etowah and River Ridge, meanwhile, are heading south for the Shaw Invitational in Columbus.

The four county squads help make up a

20-team field that features seven programs currently ranked in the state top-10s, including Class A No. 1 Gordon Lee, AA No. 10 Blessed Trinity, AAA's No. 8 Ringgold and No. 9 Eastside, AAAA's No. 5 Northwest Whitfield and No. 9 Whitewater, and AAAAA's No. 4 Mill Creek. The field is divided into four pools of five teams.

The opening night of action will include 20 contests, 15 at Twin Creeks and five at Weatherby Park off Worley Road in Canton.

SEE CRPA, PAGE 22

2011 PREP CROSS COUNTRY OUTLOOK

# River Ridge moves one step closer in year two

BY BRANDON MICHEA  
brandonm@ledgernews.com

The ice has been broken. Two years into its existence, the River Ridge Knights football program has 20 games under its belt, including a nine-game slate against varsity competition with just sophomores and freshmen last fall. But still a year away from competing in a region schedule, the Knights have work to do.

"We're getting better and better," River Ridge Head Coach Robert Braucht said. "The biggest thing is that the kids have been in our system, and they're getting a better feel of what the big picture looks like, not just their own roles. There's a lot more you can do as a team when everyone understands what's going on around them."

And with an offense that returns most of its starters from a season ago, the Knights expect to build on their scoring production that improved down the stretch of their inaugural varsity campaign. After averaging just 11 points per game in its first five varsity contests – all losses – River Ridge won two of its final four games, averaging 19 points per outing.

Back to run the offense is junior Jackson Weeg, whose nine varsity starts at quarterback

River Ridge Knights		
Head Coach: Robert Braucht		
Region 7AA (sub-region A)		
2010 Record: 2-7		
Date	Opponent	2010 Result
Aug. 26	Bye Week	
Sept. 2	vs Mount Pisgah	L 0-26
Sept. 9	at Temple	L 14-20
Sept. 16	vs. Model	L 21-52
Sept. 23	at Cross Keys	L 19-37
Sept. 30	at Gordon Lee	L 0-16
Oct. 7	vs. Lakeview Acad.	W 22-16
Oct. 14	vs. Towns County	L 7-14
Oct. 21	vs. Lanier	DNP
Oct. 28	vs. Social Circle	L 28-42
Nov. 4	at 7AA-B No. 7	W 21-14**

\*Denotes Region 7AAAA game  
\*\*Defeated Lakeview-Ft. Oglethorpe, 21-14

coming into the season are more than any other Cherokee County signal caller.

Weeg has a seasoned backfield to work with, as junior Austin Terrell and sophomore E.J. Ellis will start alongside the speedy Vince Njoku, who Braucht said will help the Knights stretch the field. Junior Will Redding also will see time in the backfield, though his talents will be utilized more on defense, where he starts at weak-side linebacker.

Making up Weeg's main receiving corps are juniors Nathan Tetley, Miguel Castillo and Wes Bearden, while juniors Devon Moree and Austin Bennett line

up as tight ends.

Providing the protection up front is a mix of experience and youth, with junior Alex Gee anchoring the line at center, junior tackle Mark Wood and sophomore guard J.D. Smith working the strong-side, and junior tackle Alex Miroshkin and sophomore guard Brandon Stephenson holding down the quick-side duties. Also working in on the line is sophomore James Egan.

"We've gotten a lot stronger," Braucht said of his horses up front. "The kids have worked a lot more and they've really progressed in their pass blocking, which should allow us more time to get the ball downfield."

"We want to be able to throw the ball, but if (our opponent) is not stopping the run game, we'll keep going with it and utilize what we have in the backfield."

Like the offense, the Knights' defense saw improvements over the second half of the 2010 season, dropping its points allowed per game from 30 over the first five games to 21.5 over the final four contests.

Anchoring the defense is a host of juniors at linebacker. Along with Redding, Ray Stevenson returns as the Mike-backer, Michael Agar steps in as the Sam-backer, and Chris Robinson moves from



BRANDON MICHEA | LEDGER-NEWS

As River Ridge enters its second season of varsity level football, junior quarterback Jackson Weeg looks to aid the Knights' growth toward region football play in 2012.

corner to rover.

Working up front are juniors Mason Liner, Shawn Smith and Austin Dilliard and sophomores Ben Music and Egan, while in the secondary, sophomore Steven Spears and speedy freshman Michael Lewis hold down the corners and Ellis sets up at safety.

"We're still young," Braucht said. "Like any coach, sometimes

I get caught up in the emotional side of things when kids are making mistakes, and I have to remind myself of that.

"We want to win games. That's what keeps everybody happy and motivated, but the most important thing for us is keep focused on the big picture. Come next year, we want to be ready to play region ball."

## DEALING: Lady Eagles cap week with 16-4 routing of region rival Marietta

FROM PAGE 19

That was more than enough support for Flaherty, who retired 13 of the first 15 batters she faced before Katie Gable broke up the no-hitter with a one-out single up the middle, though the Lady Eagles' added another insurance run in the bottom of the sixth when Brown sent a fly ball deep

enough into center field to score Palazzo (1-for-2, run) from third.

Adding to Etowah's offense, Hughes had a hit and two runs scored, and Strother had a hit and scored a run.

Lauren Perhson and Grace Botti also had one hit each for the Lady Wolverines.

"This was a huge win," said Sebring, whose squad went on to rout Marietta, 16-4, on Thursday for its fourth-straight victory since losing three in a row to top-10 ranked teams. "No. 1, because it's a region win and, No. 2, it's a rivalry. You just never know how a rivalry game is going to swing,

and I have to give credit to my girls. We had a pretty bad outing against Lassiter (Aug. 25) and didn't close the door on a chance to win there. So, we had to re-set and re-focus, and the girls have done a job good of doing that."

"As cliché as it sounds, we're really just taking things day to

day and trying to build on some of the early mistakes we're making and learn from them."

Jenna Ertel led the Lady Eagles against Marietta with three RBI. Hughes added a two-run homer.

Flaherty (two earned runs) got the win, while Palazzo worked two innings of scoreless relief.

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PREP ROUNDUP

# Woodstock tops River Ridge

BY BRANDON MICHEA  
brandonm@ledgernews.com

Coming off a pair of wins on Aug. 30, the Woodstock Lady Wolverines volleyball squad grabbed a third victory of the week to start off a home quad-meet on Thursday, upending their newest rival, River Ridge, 25-19, 25-18, but dropped a three-game decision to Sprayberry (20-25, 25-21, 18-25) in the nightcap.

"We started out a bit shaky (against River Ridge), but managed to pull out a strong win," Lady Wolverines' Head Coach Anita Dodd said. "I thought we played a much better match against Class AAAA No. 9 Sprayberry than we probably expected to. They have some solid hitters, but our defensive errors were made on the easier shots."

Highlighting Woodstock's effort, Sara Graf posted a team-high 19 kills to go along with 14 digs and Carissa Bell tallied 15 kills and 14 digs. Also adding to the punch, Cassady Thompson had 17 kills, Riley McBay finished with seven kills, Paige Trammell logged 30 digs and Abby Booz notched nine digs.

Prior to Thursday's split, the Lady Wolverines defeated AAAA No. 6 John's Creek in three and AAAA No. 8 West Forsyth, who

eliminated Woodstock from the state tournament in 2010, in two.

"We are continuing to improve by playing good team that are pushing us to play at a higher level," said Dodd.

Pacing River Ridge's effort against Woodstock, Jessica Mlasaka had four kills and Ashley Casey and Rhiannon Meyrick picked up eight and six digs, respectively.

### Creekview downs a pair

Going on the road, the Creekview Lady Grizzlies swept through a pair of matches on Aug. 30, defeating Atlanta International 25-11, 25-23 and Centennial 25-19, 25-18.

Leading the way for the night, Caylee Salabarria had 29 assists and 10 digs, while Danielle Sweet tallied 16 kills and six blocks and Natalie Razov finished with 16 digs. Also adding to the team's success, Emily Lehman totaled 11 kills, nine digs and three aces, and Julia Dayoub had 12 kills and 10 digs.

Creekview was again on the road on Thursday, this time winning one of three matches, defeating Dunwoody (27-29, 25-23, 25-23) and falling to Class AAAA No. 6 John's Creek (25-19, 25-15) and Northview (25-15, 30-28).

Sweet totaled 20 kills, Razov

made 26 digs, Salabarria had 46 assists, Lehman finished with 16 kills, and Dayoub posted 16 kills, 18 digs and five aces.

"I thought we played well this week," Lady Grizzlies Head Coach Abby Jackson said. "The girls are really starting to play together as a team."

### SOFTBALL

#### River Ridge remains perfect in sub-region play

Ashley Evans (two RBI), Sara Bennetts (RBI) and Michelle Friesz (RBI) each finished 2-for-3 with a pair of runs scored, while freshman hurler Heather Williams tossed a no-hitter, striking out five, as the River Ridge Lady Knights dominated homestanding Armuchee, 12-0, in four innings on Thursday night.

The win improved the Lady Knights (6-4) to 5-0 in Region 7AA sub-region A, setting up the stage for tonight's 6 p.m. battle at Rockmart (9-1, 5-0).

Prior to Thursday's victory, River Ridge handed visiting Model a 7-4 defeat on Aug. 31.

In the win, Quinley Whitley drove in a pair of runs, Jessica Baker scored twice, and Jordan Livesay and Friesz each had a run scored and an RBI.

Emma Pope picked up the

victory in the circle, allowing two earned runs on six hits and striking out six.

#### Bailey paces Creekview

Continuing her early-season dominance, Creekview senior ace Tiffany Bailey hurled a one-hit shutout, striking out six, as her Lady Grizzlies used an 11-hit attack to defeat John's Creek, 9-0, in Region 7AAAA play, Aug. 30, in John's Creek.

Audrie Pryor paced the offense, going 4-for-4 with two doubles and a grand slam, while Sutton Appling (2-for-4), Ashley Chumbler, Holly Martin and Casee Disharoon drove in one run apiece.

Two days later, Bailey was at it again, this time allowing one earned run on four hits and four strikeouts to improve to 6-0 on the year with a 7-2 victory over region rival Lambert.

"She has really pitched well," Creekview Head Coach Chance Cain said of Bailey, who is 5-0 against region teams and has an ERA below 1.00. "She's pretty much been lights out in the circle for us this year, and has really just done a great job."

Offensively for the Lady Grizzlies (7-3 overall, 5-0 region), Tiffany Jordan went 2-for-3 with two runs and an RBI, Martin drove in two runs, Amber Herrington scored a pair of runs, and Layken Atkins, Chumbler

and Pryor posted one RBI each.

#### Cherokee rallies past Walton

Anna Rowe ripped a two-run double to right center, Kaitlyn Leftwich added an RBI single and Courtney Nations plated a run with a triple, as the Cherokee Lady Warriors blew up for five runs in the top of the seventh to defeat homestanding Walton, 5-3, on Aug. 31.

Going the distance in the circle, Savanna Dover earned the win, allowing two earned runs on five hits and striking out six.

Unfortunately for the Lady Warriors, it was Lassiter that did the rallying a day later.

After Cherokee took a 4-0 advantage behind a three-run fourth inning - highlighted by RBI base knocks by Leftwich and Abbey Weaver - the Lady Trojans scored four the bottom of the fourth and scored the game-winner in the seventh for a 5-4 victory.

Lauren Mullinax (2-for-3, two runs, triple) and Kelli McCormack each added an RBI for the Lady Warriors, and Bree Wells finished 3-for-4.

#### SHS splits region contests

The Lady Chiefs edged Cass, 3-2, on Aug. 30, but fell to Woodland, 5-1, on Thursday to move their season mark to 4-5 overall and 3-2 in Region 7AAAA.

## SLUG: Sequoyah, Etowah warm-up for rivalry bout with convincing wins over Marietta

FROM PAGE 19

Pacing Etowah's efforts, Jenna Wilt charted a match-high 12 kills, while Jenna Lea finished with 10 kills, Megan Emery had eight kills and Simmie Bray sparked the Lady Eagles' 18-7 run to end Game 2 with three of her four kills for the match. Setter Chelsey Brady had 23 assists.

In what proved to be a warm-up for their rivalry battle, neither Etowah or Sequoyah

had trouble disposing of Marietta, with the Lady Eagles dropping the Lady Blue Devils 25-13, 25-16 and the Lady Chiefs easing their way to a 25-19, 25-13 decision.

Wilt had 10 kills and Brady finished with 20 assists to lead Etowah to their win, while Wienbarg (six digs), Roberts, Jones and Tewksbury combined for 22 kills to pace a balanced Lady Chiefs' attack that was set-up by O'Brien's 21 assists. Smith led

Sequoyah in digs with seven, and Clarke finished with four digs and a pair of aces.

Prior to Thursday night's action, Sequoyah suffered a 25-15, 25-20, 22-25, 25-12 loss to AAAA No. 2 North Cobb on Aug. 30, while the Lady Eagles dropped a 18-25, 33-31, 26-24, 27-25 loss to AA/A No. 8 Westminster.

Leading the way for Sequoyah, Wienbarg had 15 kills and nine digs,

O'Brien posted 36 assists, Smith picked up 12 digs, Jones knocked down 11 kills to go along with five digs and four blocks, and Tewksbury finished with eight kills and a pair of blocks.

Etowah, meanwhile, was paced by a combined 20 kills from Wilt (three blocks) and Lea (four aces), nine kills from Emery, five aces by Allie Elson and 30 assists from Brady.

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# CRPA: Creekview to meet Cherokee on Friday at Weatherby Park

FROM PAGE 19

At Twin Creeks, Sequoyah, which is making its 21st appearance in the tournament, will battle Ringgold at 5 p.m. and Treutlen County at 6:45 p.m., while Woodstock faces Gilmer County at 5 p.m. and Northwest Whitfield at 8:30 p.m.

Creekview and Cherokee, meanwhile, will stay closer to home at Weatherby on Friday, with the Lady Grizzlies taking on Blessed Trinity at 5 p.m., before going head-to-head with rival Cherokee at 8:30 p.m. The Lady Warriors' open against East Hall at 6:45 p.m.

On Saturday, all 20 teams will make the drive to Twin Creeks to continue action within their respective pools. Once the four-game pool play schedules are complete, teams will advance into single elimination bracket

play, with the No. 1 seeds advancing to the four-team Gold Bracket, No. 2 seeds moving on to the Silver Bracket, No. 3 seeds battling in the Bronze Bracket, and the No. 4 and 5 seeds playing in consolation brackets. Championships will be decided at 7:30 p.m.

**22nd Annual Cherokee County Invitational**  
Sept. 9-10, Twin Creeks Softball Complex and Weatherby Park

**DIVISIONS**  
**POOL A:** Eastside, Gilmer Co., Mill Creek, NW Whitfield, Woodstock  
**POOL B:** Bowdon, Ringgold, Sequoyah, Treutlen Co., Whitewater  
**POOL C:** Blessed Trinity, Cass, Cherokee, Creekview, East Hall  
**POOL D:** Dalton, Gordon Lee, Harris Co., Marist, Woodland

**SCHEDULE**

**Fri., Sept. 9 (Twin Creeks)**  
**5 p.m.:** Sequoyah vs. Ringgold (Field 1); Whitewater vs. Bowdon (F2); Gordon Lee vs. Woodland (F3); Woodstock vs. Gilmer (F4); NW Whitfield vs. Mill Creek (F5)  
**6:45 p.m.:** Sequoyah vs. Treutlen Co. (F1); Whitewater vs. Ringgold (F2); Harris Co. vs. Woodland (F3); Marist vs. Dalton (F4); Eastside vs. Mill Creek (F5)  
**8:30 p.m.:** Treutlen Co. vs. Bowdon (F1); Woodstock vs. NW Whitfield (F2); Harris Co. vs. Marist (F3); Gordon Lee vs. Dalton (F4); Eastside vs. Gilmer Co. (F5)  
**Sat., Sept. 10 (Twin Creeks)**

**8:30 a.m.:** Cherokee vs. Blessed Trinity (F1); Gilmer vs. NW Whitfield (F2); Sequoyah vs. Whitewater (F3); Ringgold vs. Bowdon (F4); Marist vs. Woodland (F5)  
**10:15 a.m.:** Creekview vs. East Hall (F1); Eastside vs. NW Whitfield (F2); Woodstock vs. Mill Creek (F3); Harris Co. vs. Gordon Lee (F4); Dalton vs. Woodland (F5)  
**12:00 p.m.:** Creekview vs. Cass (F1); Blessed Trinity vs. East Hall (F2); Gilmer County vs. Mill Creek (F3); Marist vs. Gordon Lee (F4); Whitewater vs. Treutlen Co. (F5)  
**1:45 p.m.:** Cherokee vs. Cass (F1); Woodstock vs. Eastside (F2); Sequoyah vs. Bowdon (F3); Dalton vs. Harris Co. (F4); Ringgold vs. Treutlen Co. (F5)

**Gold Bracket**

**4:00 p.m.:** Pool A No. 1 vs. Pool D No. 1 (F1); Pool B1 vs. Pool C1 (F2)  
**7:30 p.m.:** Gold Championship (F1)  
**Silver Bracket**  
**4:00 p.m.:** Pool A2 vs. Pool D2 (F4); Pool B2 vs. Pool C2 (F4)  
**7:30 p.m.:** Silver Championship (F2)  
**Bronze Bracket**  
**4:00 p.m.:** Pool A3 vs. Pool D3 (F5)  
**5:45 p.m.:** Pool B3 vs. Pool C3 (F5)  
**7:30 p.m.:** Bronze Championship (F5)



BRANDON MICHAEL | LEDGER-NEWS

Senior Amber Herrington and the Creekview Lady Grizzlies (7-3) will face rival Cherokee, Cass, East Hall and AA No. 10 state-ranked Blessed Trinity in pool play.

**Consolation 1**

**5:45 p.m.:** Pool A4 vs. Pool D4 (F1); Pool B4 vs. Pool C4 (F2)  
**7:30 p.m.:** Consolation 1 Final (F3)  
**Consolation 2**  
**5:45 p.m.:** Pool A5 vs. Pool D5 (F3); Pool B5 vs. Pool C5 (F4)  
**7:30 p.m.:** Consolation 2 Final (F4)

**PREP CALENDAR**

**Sept. 8 – Softball:** Etowah at Walton (6:30 p.m.); Lassiter at Woodstock (5:55 p.m.); River Ridge at Pepperell (5:30 p.m.). **Volleyball:** Etowah, Kennesaw Mtn. at Woodstock (5 p.m.); Milton, River Ridge at Creekview (5 p.m.); Sequoyah, Lassiter at Harrison (6:30 p.m.).  
**Sept. 9 – Football (7:30 p.m.):** Cherokee at Mill Creek; Creekview at Lambert; Kell at Woodstock; NW Whitfield at Sequoyah; River Ridge at Temple; W. Forsyth at Etowah. **Softball:** Cherokee, Creekview, Sequoyah, Woodstock at Cherokee Invitational at Twin Creeks Softball Complex (5 p.m.); Etowah, River Ridge at Shaw Invitational (Columbus). **Volleyball:** Etowah at Glynn Academy tournament.  
**Sept. 10 – Competition Cheerleading:** Etowah, Woodstock at Creekview. **Cross Country:** Cherokee, Sequoyah at Covered Bridge Run (Roswell); Creekview, Etowah, Woodstock at Carrollton Invitational. **Softball:** Cherokee, Creekview, Sequoyah, Woodstock at Cherokee Invitational at Twin Creeks Softball Complex (5 p.m.); Etowah, River Ridge at Shaw Invitational (Columbus). **Volleyball:** Cherokee at Woodstock playdate (9 a.m.); Etowah at Glynn Academy tournament; Sequoyah at Georgia Challenge (9 a.m.).  
**Sept. 12 – Volleyball:** River Ridge at Woodland (5 p.m.)  
**Sept. 13 – Softball:** Chattahoochee at Creekview (5:55 p.m.); Cherokee at Etowah (5:55 p.m.); River Ridge at Coosa (5 p.m.); Walton at Woodstock (5:55 p.m.).  
**Volleyball:** Cass, Pope at Creekview (5:30 p.m.); River Ridge at Lovett (5 p.m.).  
**Sept. 14 – Softball:** Etowah at Sequoyah (7 p.m.); Woodland at Cherokee (5:55 p.m.); Woodstock at Harrison (7 p.m.).  
**Sept. 15 – Softball:** River Ridge at Etowah (5:30 p.m.); Wheeler at Cherokee (5:55 p.m.); Woodstock at Buford (6:30 p.m.). **Volleyball:** Cherokee, Woodstock at Kennesaw Mtn (5 p.m.); Creekview at Lambert (6 p.m.); River Ridge at N. Paulding (5:30 p.m.); Rome, Sprayberry at Sequoyah (5:30 p.m.).

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Source: BigResearch.com, July 2011

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**Location**

**Time**

<b>Sept. 13th</b>	The Chambers at City Center Downtown Woodstock	7:30am- Coffee 8-9:30am- Program
	Northside Hospital - Cherokee Conference Center at the Bluffs, Canton	4:30pm- Refreshments 5-6:30pm- Program
<b>Sept. 14th</b>	Northside Hospital - Cherokee Conference Center at the Bluffs, Canton	7:30am- Coffee 8-9:30am- Program
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John C. Peterson is the founder of The Peterson Group, a media and marketing firm established in 1995. The former president of a \$40 million newspaper company, he was also a member of the adjunct faculty at the University of Connecticut. He has worked with more than 300 newspapers and has over 20 years of experience planning and implementing business strategies and marketing programs for small to medium businesses and health care institutions throughout the country.

## Science, fine arts charters planned

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS  
carolynmathews@ledgernews.com

Cherokee County may soon have several charter schools for elementary school students to choose from, and even more schools are planned for secondary students in years to come.

The Cherokee County School District at its Sept. 1 school board meeting released a plan to consider opening a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy, as well as a Cherokee Fine Arts Academy, both as soon as next school year.

Future years, under the plan, would bring extensions of those programs, along with a new technical high school to the old Teasley Middle School site, as well as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Academy for high schoolers.

The proposal, developed by school system staff, which board members are considering, is called the Cherokee Academies Initiative.

The initiative was developed in response to Post 2 School Board Member Mike Chapman's request at the Aug. 18 board meeting for district staff to develop a concept for increased school choice within the school district.

The request has come on the heels of a years-long struggle regarding the consideration of Cherokee Charter Academy (CCA), which had requested to become a district school. The school, which was turned down by the school board, 4-3, now is operating as a Georgia "Special School," without the benefit of local funding. CCA is chartered through a nonprofit organization, but is operated by a for-profit company, Charter Schools USA.

SEE CHARTER, PAGE 25



Chapman

## Woodstock Fire expands mobility

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
jessicaw@ledgernews.com

From battling blazing heat to saving lives, firefighters pride themselves on juggling multiple hats, which is why implementing a bicycle unit came as no surprise to those at the Woodstock Fire Department.

The unit, currently manned with eight firemen/paramedics to cover each of the three shifts, hit the trails and streets last month as a result of the fire department seeing an increase in injuries along the 6.5-mile bike trail in Olde Rope Mill Park.

"People are going down from everything from heart attacks to broken bones," said Woodstock Fire Chief Dave Soumas. "We had three calls in the last two weeks."

While the fire department is equipped with All-Terrain Vehicles meant to rescue injured bicyclists from the trail, there are places the ATVs are unable to maneuver.

Enter the bicycle unit.

"I know there are bike units on the police side, but this is about the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) side because we have been running so many calls," Soumas said, noting the department's two bikes were purchased at Out Spokin' Bicycles in downtown Woodstock.

Each bike is outfitted with headlights and a medical bag.

The unit, which is expected to have 19 members by October, will sport highly-visible yellow shirts and black pants/shorts.

According to the fire chief, when the fire department is dispatched to the bike trail, the bicycle unit will be a first responder in order to provide immediate care for the injured bicyclist.

Once the wounded or seriously injured person is brought to an area where the ATV can operate safely, they then will be transported to an awaiting ambulance, if necessary.

In addition to trail work, the fire department's bike unit also will attend Friday Night Live on the first Friday of every month, concerts in The Park at City Center, special events and parades.

"It is so an EMT/paramedic can be in the crowd," Soumas said.

Although the fire department knew it wanted to start a bicycle unit, Soumas said they questioned how the firefighters could be trained on trail riding, which is when Lt. Matt O'Keefe and Ofc. Brian Keane with the Woodstock Police Department stepped up to the plate.

A group of firefighters/paramedics was given hands-on training during a 16-hour training course, which began Aug. 15.

"The first part of the course was in the classroom. They learned about bike laws, maintenance, emergency repairs and attitude," Soumas said, noting firefighters needed to be approachable while on the bikes.

From the classroom, the firefighters went



JESSICA WAGNER | LEDGER-NEWS

Woodstock firefighter Carlos Fernandez finishes up the last few feet of a 6.5-mile bike trail in Olde Rope Mill Park. Fernandez is one of many firefighters heading up a bicycle unit at the Woodstock Fire Department. The unit will act as first responders to injured bicyclists on the trail.

into the parking lot and began manipulating their bikes around a cone course.

The group finished day three of training, with what Soumas called "Tour de Woodstock" since they rode 30 miles around the city.

Finally, on Aug. 18, the group hit the trails, starting at the beginner and intermediate levels of Blanket's Creek.

The training finished at Olde Rope Mill Park for a final 6.5-mile test.

"If they complete it, they pass the training," Soumas said.

Because accidents can happen even to the most advanced bicyclist, Soumas suggested everyone hitting the surrounding trails should have a cell phone handy on either their person or bike.

If an accident occurs, stay put because mov-

ing around will make pinpointing the location difficult on firefighters/paramedics.

"We are working with SORBA Woodstock right now to mark the trail with numbers," Soumas said, noting this would make finding a person's location easier, as they can just call out the last number they rode past. "We are even working with the Boy Scouts to see if we can put benches throughout the trails so people can relax."

The numbers and benches will be accessible through GPS coordination.

Since city heads are hoping to expand the Olde Rope Mill Park trail over time, Soumas said the Woodstock's park and recreation department also is considering putting a solar call box outside the canopy and running wires within for emergency call stations.

## Agency earns accreditation

BY JESSICA WAGNER  
jessicaw@ledgernews.com

Cherokee County Marshal Ray Waters might be stepping down from a post he has held just shy of two decades, but not before securing a prestigious status through the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP).

Waters accepted an early retirement incentive offered by the county.

State certification, which is a status only two marshal's offices statewide have acquired, represents significant profession achievement, while also recognizing the implementation of policies and procedures within the agency.

"It holds you to a higher standard, which ultimately will make you perform better," Waters said of state

certification. "It's a lot of work, but there is a lot of benefit to it, also."

The county's marshal's office was first bestowed state certification by GACP in 2008.

In order to be considered for the state certification three years ago, Waters said his office first had to submit an application to the association.

"They (GACP) send out 118 standards that we have to meet," he explained. "These standards deal with personnel matters, high liability situations, use of force and vehicle pursuits."

Once the department has complied with all of the standards, Waters said the marshal's office requested an on-site evaluation conducted by assessors selected by the GACP.

"They come into your agency, and

they look at every policy you have pertaining to certification," Waters said, noting his department's operation and reports, among other areas, were reviewed. "Basically, they look inside and out of your agency."

Following a day-and-a-half review of the Cherokee Marshal's Office in 2008, Waters said his agency was in compliance with the 118 standards and was awarded state certification, a recognition only Cherokee and Richmond counties have achieved, to date.

"There are only 34 marshal's offices in the state of Georgia, and only two are certified," he said. "It is a honor for us. There is less than 15 percent of all agencies in the state of Georgia that hold this certification."

SEE AGENCY, PAGE 27



SPECIAL

The Cherokee Marshal's Office recently was awarded state certification by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. At the July 19 Cherokee County Board of Commissioners meeting, Sheriff Roger Garrison presented Marshal Ray Waters and the marshal's office's certification manager, Jo-Ann Faverey (not pictured), with plaques commemorating the achievement. Pictured, from left, are: Commissioner Jason Nelms, Garrison, Chief Waters, Chairman L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens and Commissioner Harry Johnston.

# Woodstock hears amphitheater, park expansion plans

BY JANET PELLETIER  
janetp@ledgernews.com

Highly-anticipated plans for an expansion to the Park at City Center were unveiled recently.

Scott Gordon, with engineering and architectural firm Clark Patterson Lee, presented to the Woodstock City Council, on Aug. 22, drawings for an outdoor amphitheater as part of an expansion

to the park off Arnold Mill Road, where the city hosts its popular Summer Concert Series and other special events. If built, the \$2.2 million expansion would bring the total acreage from 1 to 3.3 acres.

"We've come a long way in the last year from when I presented the (first) drawing," Parks and Recreation Director Preston Pooser said, adding that he thinks the new venue will be a "game-changer" for downtown.

Gordon agreed, saying it could be Woodstock's version of the Georgia Dome or Turner Field.

The plans include a bandstand, greenroom for musical acts, concession area with storage, restrooms and multiple terraces. The civic lawn will accommodate 3,400 people and will be available year-round.

"We are more than doubling the size of the Park at City Center, in addition to adding restrooms,

which will both be used year-round," City Manager Jeff Moon said.

Gordon showed the council a rendering that depicted a permanent bandstand with two brick towers that matches the city's historical character. He said Woodstock's history as a cotton mill town, coupled with the brick façade on the Woodstock Downtown development, influenced the amphitheater's design.

"Acoustics is a large concern," Gordon said.

After studying various materials and how sound bounced off or was absorbed, he said a wood-paneled backing to the stage would be the best option. He said the city could carry out a sound study that would cost \$10,000-12,000, but he didn't think it was necessary, as his team felt confident about the design. Mayor Donnie Henriques agreed.

The amphitheater also will be friendly to those using wheelchairs or strollers.

"There will be handicap ramp access on all terraces," Gordon said, adding that he believes the venue could be a model for accommodating the disabled.

Part of the total price tag will be



CLARK PATTERSON LEE

Scott Gordon of Clark Patterson Lee, principal for the Park at City Center expansion and amphitheater, presented this rendering of the plans at the Woodstock City Council's Aug. 22 meeting.

an estimated \$20,000 in dirt that will have to be trucked in due to soil issues. He said the soil testing came back questionable where the old jail cells were (where City Hall used to be located), but they will lower the site 4 to 5 feet to balance it out. The existing gazebo in the park will be preserved and kept in the same location, although some structural improvements may need to be done to it.

Audio/visual screens and other equipment would be housed in the towers, and Gordon said LED light fixtures on posts would blanket the grounds.

Henriques said he was pleased with the designs, but advised Gordon to incorporate a fan circulation system to keep the performers cool, something he said has been an issue with the current Summer Concert Series.

Gordon said the project is on budget, and he "feels confident we are where we need to be." Acknowledging the city lost some time with its attempt to become the new host of the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, he added, they will attempt to complete the amphitheater by next summer, it may not be ready in time. The 2012 concert series will go on as planned, but, and a temporary stage could be set up if needed.

"We could have a price alternate to cover overtime for workers to see if it's worth it," he said.

Ward 2 Councilman Chris Casdia said, while the project looked "like a fantastic plan and you've left no stone unturned," he wondered if the city's considered scaling back the design to 60-70 percent of the cost.

"The stage is fantastic, but that's a big number," he said. "I'm just skeptical by nature. What's the fudge factor; with the overruns, is it going to be \$3 (million)?"

Henriques said he felt the cost was the same figure the city's been discussing over the past couple of years, and skimping on the project would be a mistake.

"This should be a showcase destination for the city of Woodstock. It should be more of an investment than expenditure," he said.

Ward 1 Councilman Randy Brewer said, while he understood Casdia's concern, he didn't want to see the city build the amphithe-

ater at a lower cost and regret two years down the road not adding all the amenities.

"Once you do that, you're going to have to live with it a long time," he said, adding that improvements would be costlier at a later date.

Agreeing with the mayor and Brewer, Ward 5 Councilman Bud Leonard said he felt the city was getting "a lot of bang for the buck."

When asked how he would scrap roughly a half million dollars out of the budget, Gordon said it would probably mean taking out the bandstand.

Pooser said the city is hoping to host 20 events a year at the new amphitheater, including the summer concerts.

The city's next steps are to bid the project out, and for Pooser, take a general site plan and see what businesses are interested in naming rights, sponsorships and pouring rights for soda and water. Moon said the bids for the project are expected to go before the council in November, with construction to get under way in December or January. The construction is estimated to take eight to nine months.

## COUNCIL APPROVES MILLAGE RATE HIKE

Also at the Aug. 22 meeting, the council voted 5-1 to approve advertising for a millage rate increase from 7.016 mills to 7.298 mills to help shore up a \$496,000 deficit in the budget.

A homeowner with a home valued last year at \$200,000, factoring in the average 7.65 percent decline in value, would pay \$539 in property taxes under the proposed millage rate increase. If the millage were kept the same, that homeowner would have paid \$518.

Chief Financial Officer Henry Bucci has said the change in the millage will pass on a tax decrease to property owners of 2.56 percent.

The city could increase the rate to 7.490 for it to not be considered a tax increase by the state due to a decline in the property tax digest for a third straight year.

SEE WOODSTOCK, PAGE 25



Bucci

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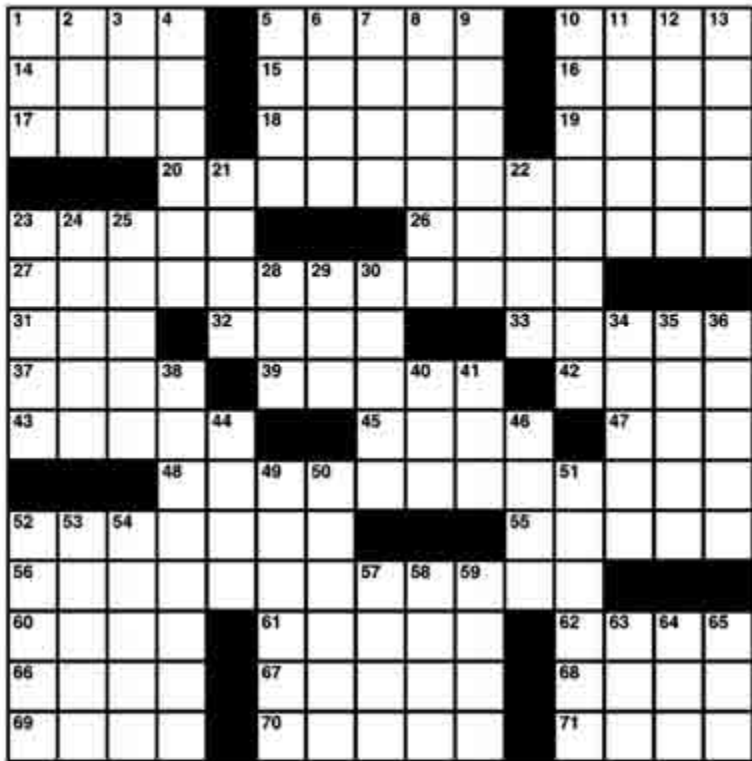
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## The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

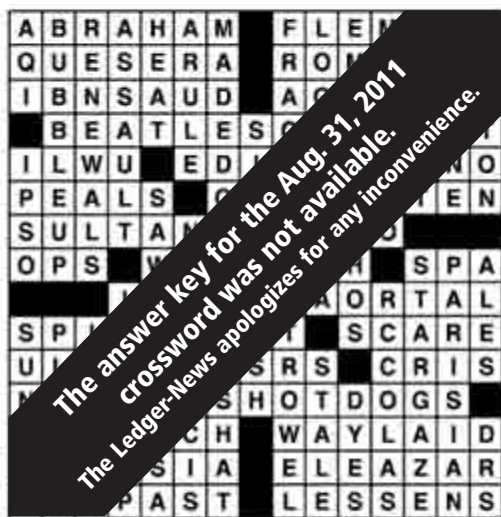
- ACROSS**
- 1 E.T. carriers, theoretically
  - 5 Fetch
  - 10 Last letters in London
  - 14 Calamine mineral
  - 15 Where one's name might go, on a form
  - 16 "Out of Africa" author Dinesen
  - 17 Composer Stravinsky
  - 18 Eight is enough for one
  - 19 Spitting sound
  - 20 1981 Fonda/Hepburn classic
  - 23 Mac maker
  - 26 "I Ching" readers
  - 27 2006 Bullock/Reeves romance
  - 31 Back talk
  - 32 "Hi-\_\_\_, Hi-Lo"
  - 33 Annual sports awards
  - 37 In re
  - 39 Designer Karan
  - 42 Donkey's need, in a party game
  - 43 Low on funds
  - 45 Winged peace symbol
  - 47 Director Ang or Spike
  - 48 1994 Streep/Bacon thriller
  - 52 Sleeve opening
  - 55 Puts in the mail
  - 56 2004 Kevin Spacey tribute (to Bobby Darin)
  - 60 Yankees superstar, familiarly
  - 61 "Old MacDonald" refrain
  - 62 New Zealander
  - 66 Mafia boss
  - 67 Dog's warning
  - 68 Michener novel, typically
  - 69 Tinkertoy alternative
  - 70 Playable on a VCR
  - 71 Do, re or mi



By Andrea Carla Michaels

- DOWN**
- 1 Israeli submachine gun
  - 2 Source of Eve's leaves
  - 3 Yoko from Tokyo
  - 4 Dead Sea find
  - 5 Web opinion piece
  - 6 Puerto
  - 7 Part of IMF: Abbr.
  - 8 Must
  - 9 French sponge cake
  - 10 Having the most pizzazz
  - 11 These, in Tijuana
  - 12 Intimidate
  - 13 Loses control on the ice
  - 21 Host Conan of NPR's "Talk of the Nation"
  - 22 Rudolph's is red
  - 23 Book of maps
  - 24 Engage in an online scam
  - 25 \_\_\_-Bismol
  - 28 Tease
  - 29 "Evil Woman" gp.
  - 30 Delhi tongue
  - 34 "Going Rogue" author Sarah
  - 35 Give way

### Weekly Puzzle Solved



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- 36 Musers' vehicles
- 38 Greek \_\_\_ Church
- 40 Oct. follower
- 41 D.C.'s Pennsylvania, e.g.
- 44 Suffix with tele- or Dance-A-
- 46 Celtic language
- 49 Firstborn
- 50 Light-sensitive eye part
- 51 Debilitate
- 52 Taken \_\_\_ surprised
- 53 Showed again
- 54 Mr. Magoo, e.g.
- 57 Jalopy
- 58 Galway's land
- 59 Word after "going twice ..."
- 63 NASDAQ debut
- 64 Dorothy Parker forte
- 65 Arctic pier material

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# WOODSTOCK: City looks to make tough cuts

FROM PAGE 23

Casdia said he was "not inclined to raise the millage rate," because he wanted to see what could be cut from the budget instead.

Moon said there aren't ma-

ny places to cut, since capital projects are funded by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), and the city is going to need its employees to maintain the current

and future levels of service.

"All the easy cuts have been made over the last three years," he said. "We're going to have \$5 million in trails to come on line in the city in next couple of years," but would

have no staff to maintain it if workers were laid off.

For more action taken at the meeting, go to [www.ledgernews.com](http://www.ledgernews.com).

# CHARTER: Fine arts school slated for 2012-2013

FROM PAGE 23

Post 4 Board Member Janet Read said the initiative sounded wonderful, but wondered about the cost of implementation.

"We're not trying to create programs that spend dollars we don't have, but to reposition teachers and students to increase choices," said Superintendent Dr. Frank Petruzielo. He noted the district still will be "\$16 million in the hole" at the beginning of the next budget year; however, he said available class space, including using old buildings, can be considered. He said waivers from the state might allow the district flexibility, as well as new scheduling alternatives the state has envisioned, such as block scheduling, in certain cases.

Several other board members seemed pleased by the proposal.

"I'm incredibly excited," said Post 7 Board Member Kim Cochran, who has studied the Georgia School Board Association's vision for the future of Georgia education, which she presented to the board, and it unanimously approved Sept. 1. "This will involve the community in education, getting everyone possible involved."

Chapman said he would like to see as much parental participation in development of the academies as possible. "This also opens up the door for partnerships," he said.

The district would use STEM grant funding available through

its participation in Race To The Top to offer in 2012-2013 a STEM Academy, for grades 3 through 5, at elementary schools in designated geographic regions. The program would be expanded in future years to middle and high schools. Enrollment would be by application and documented academic achievement; if needed, a lottery system would be used. The academy would be staffed with existing school district personnel, who would hold Teach21 technology training. Examples of STEM programs elsewhere include courses in 3D modeling and design, computers, engineering

and robotics.

The Cherokee Fine Arts Academy would begin in 2012-2013 with third through sixth-graders interested in the program and would be expanded to a Performing and Visual Arts High School, located next to the Falany Performing Arts Center at Reinhardt University. Reinhardt has offered land for a classroom building, Petruzielo said.

The Cherokee Technical High School Academy is planned to open in August 2014 and would be operated in conjunction with Chattahoochee Technical College. Petruzielo explained the new

Teasley building would have to be completed and middle-schoolers moved before it could begin.

The original Teasley also would serve as the North Campus of Polaris Evening School.

The IB Academy would offer a prestigious IB diploma, Petruzielo said, as well as opportunity for students to earn college credit. A pre-IB program would be available at the middle school level.

Board members will further discuss the school district strategic plan, with incorporation of the Cherokee Academies Initiative, at the Oct. 20 school board work session.

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## CORRECTIONS

•Due to inaccurate information provided by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, the name of the accident victim ("Man killed in motorcycle crash" in the Aug. 31 edition) should have been Jerry Ray Chaffin. The sheriff's office also incorrectly provided the accident date, which actually occurred Aug. 27. Chaffin has left behind a wife and 10-year-old son. A memorial fund has been set up for his son, Ashton, at BB&T.

• In the Aug. 31 edition, the article "Canton approves reservoir bond change" misstated the vote regarding changes to the city's alcohol ordinance. The council voted 3-2, with Councilman Bob Rush and Councilwoman Pat Tanner dissenting, to approve the changes, as well as keep the alcohol to food ratio 60:40. Rush, who formed a committee to work on the changes, was advocating for a 50:50 ratio, which is in line with the state, to allow businesses to stay competitive.

The Ledger-News regrets the errors.

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**CHEROKEE SPOTLIGHT**

Spotlight items must be typed and submitted to The Cherokee Ledger-News the Wednesday before the desired publication date. Send items by fax to (770) 928-3152 or e-mail to editor@ledgernews.com. Please be sure to include the address of the event and a contact number. For the complete Spotlight calendar, go to www.ledgernews.com.

**FUNDRAISERS**

- The 2nd Annual Brain Tumor Foundation for Children Boat Ride, "Cruisin' for the Kids," will be held Sept. 10 at Victoria Harbour Marina on Lake Allatoona, 1000 Victoria Landing, Woodstock, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sign-up is from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The entry fee for the boat parade is \$25. Sponsorships are available. For more information, call Scott Adams at (770) 403-3661.
- River Ridge High School is hosting "Renaissance of River Ridge," Sept. 10 in the back parking lot near the football

field at the school located on Arnold Mill Road at Mill Creek Road. There will be a car, truck and bike show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be food from local vendors. Parking costs \$1.

- The Bradshaw Farm Women's Club is hosting a yard sale Sept. 9-10, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The charity house is located at 4087 Hickory Fairway Drive. All proceeds will benefit Cherokee County charities.

**BLOOD DRIVES**

- The American Red Cross is holding the following blood drives in Cherokee: **in Woodstock:** Sept. 9, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Walmart, 12182 Ga. 92.
- Heritage Presbyterian Church, 5323 Bells Ferry Road, Acworth, is hosting a blood drive Sept. 7, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Mission & Ministry Building. Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more and be in general good health. For more information

or to sign-up, contact the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or www.redcrossblood.org.

**TRAIL OF TEARS**

- The Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will hold its next meeting at the Bartow History Museum, 4 E. Church St., Cartersville, Sept. 10, at 10:30 a.m. For more information about the meeting contact Leslie Thomas via email at aeriehollow@ellijay.com or by phone at (770) 757-0931.

**GARDENING**

- The Cherokee County Master Gardeners and the Cherokee County are offering the following classes (classes are at 10 a.m., unless otherwise noted): "Fall and winter vegetable gardening," Sept. 10 at the Hickory Flat Library; "Gardening for all seasons: fall," Sept. 17 at the Ball Ground Library. For more information, call (770) 479-0418.

For the full Spotlight calendar, go to [www.ledgernews.com](http://www.ledgernews.com).

**CHEROKEE RELIGION**

Church News items must be typed and submitted to The Cherokee Ledger-News the Wednesday before publication date. Send items by fax to (770) 928-3152 or e-mail to editor@ledgernews.com. Please be sure to include the address of the event and a contact number. For the complete Religion calendar, go to www.ledgernews.com.

**FUNDRAISERS**

- Hillside United Methodist Church, 4474 Towne Lake Pkwy., Woodstock, will hold the Fall/Winter Children's Consignment Sale on Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a variety

of girls and boys clothing, toys, books, baby furniture and equipment. For more information, go to [www.hillsideumc.org](http://www.hillsideumc.org).

- Waleska First Baptist Church is sponsoring a golf tournament "Tee Up for Teens" set for Sept. 10 at Callahan Golf Links in Waleska. The four-person team scramble is \$75 per person, which includes lunch and prizes. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third top gross; longest drive; and closest to the pin. Hole-in-one prize opportunities include: new car, Callaway Razer Driver and a 3 and 5 wood, as well as a golf vacation for two. Lunch, registration and the driving range will open at noon; tee-off is at 1 p.m. Hole sponsor opportunities are available. All proceeds go to benefit youth mission trips and service projects. Rain or shine. For more information and registration form, contact Austin Bursmith at [bursmith@gmail.com](mailto:bursmith@gmail.com) or Meredith Hardt at [mhardt79@gmail.com](mailto:mhardt79@gmail.com).

**BIBLE STUDIES**

- Papa's Pantry, with two locations in Canton and Woodstock, hosts a weekly Bible study on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (770) 591-4730 (Woodstock) or (770) 479-9691 (Canton).
- Yawn's Books in downtown Canton, will host "That Girl's Bible Study," a marketplace ministry for women, on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. until November. For more information, call (678) 880-1922 or go to [www.yawnsbooks.com](http://www.yawnsbooks.com).
- A six-week Bible study will be held at Rock Springs Baptist Church, 1640 Rock Springs Lane, Woodstock, on Tuesday mornings from now through Oct. 11. Coffee and conversation will be at 9:30 a.m. with the Bible Study from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The study will be taught by Vernie Worley. For more information, call (678) 409-8082.

**CAREGIVING**

- The Stephen Ministry, a Christian support group for people in a crisis, provides one-on-one, confidential, same gender emotional and spiritual care. Call (770) 924-4777, ext. 123 for more information.

For the full Religion calendar, go to [www.ledgernews.com](http://www.ledgernews.com).

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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Arts & Entertainment items must be typed and submitted by noon the Wednesday before the desired publication date. Send entries to editor@ledgernews.com or fax them to (770) 928-3152. For the full A&E calendar, go to www.ledgernews.com.

**AUDITIONS**

The Elm Street Cultural Arts Village is hosting auditions for "A Christmas Carol," "The Little Drummer Boy" and "It's a Wonderful Life" Sept. 27-29 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Parts are for ages 8 through adults. Call (678) 494-4251 for an appointment. For more information, go to www.elmstreetarts.org.

The Cherokee Chorale will hold auditions for all parts on Sept. 11 at 3 p.m. in the chapel of the Canton First United Methodist Church, 930 Lower Scott Mill Road. No prepared material is required. The chorale presents three concerts each year; the next is the Christmas Concert, on Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. The chorale rehearses every Monday evening at the Canton FUMC from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call (678) 439-8625 or go to www.cherokeechorale.org.

**LIVE MUSIC**

As part of the Summer Concert Series, the city of Woodstock is hosting "The Return" on Sept. 10. The concert is free. No alcohol is allowed in The Park

at City Center. Concert-goers can bring chairs, blankets and picnics to enjoy the show. For more information, go to www.woodstockconcertseries.com.

The Canton Theatre is hosting several gospel acts. The Kingsmen will play Sept. 24; Brian Free and Assurance will play Nov. 18; and The Isaacs will perform Dec. 30. For more information, call (678) 861-4559.

**GALLERY**

Jabo's, 9820 Ga. 92, Woodstock, is hosting an art show and sidewalk sale Sept. 11, from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call (678) 324-8004.

**ON STAGE**

The Elm Street Players present "Charlotte's Web," an adaptation of the novel by E. B. White, at the City Center Auditorium, 8534 Main St., Woodstock. Showtimes are Sept. 9 and Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sept. 10, Sept. 11, Sept. 17 and Sept. 18 at 3 p.m. All tickets cost \$9. Daytime school performances are available by special arrangement. For more information, call (678) 494-4251 or go to www.elmstreetarts.org.

Woodstock High School Drama presents "Just Another High School Play," by Bryan Starchman on Oct. 13-15 at 7:30 p.m. at the WHS auditorium. It's opening night. The director's missing, no one has rehearsed,

and all that is ready for the audience is a box of scripts and several actors who have no idea what's going on. What takes place next will take aim at every classic high school play ever done. Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for students. For more information, e-mail grant.sinclair@cherokee.k12.ga.us.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

The 32nd annual Pine Log Arts and Crafts Fair will be held at the historic Pine Log UMC Campground in Rydal. Area exhibitors include Jay Benzel, Triny Cline, Susie Carver, Patricia Caldwell-Turner and John Turner. Hours for the show are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sept. 10 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 11. For more information, call (770) 607-5350 or (770) 608-1285.

For the full A&E calendar, go to www.ledgernews.com.

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**AGENCY: Standards increased**

FROM PAGE 23

Waters said the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office holds not only a state certification, but also a national accreditation.

State certifications, however, only are good for a three-year period, and last July marked the office's renewal date.

"After those three years, you have to go through a recertification, which is a little bit different than the actual on-site (one)," he said.

Comparing the processes, Waters said, in 2008, the department was to show policies that match the 118 standards.

In recertification, the marshal's office not only had to provide policies, but proof the department is doing what it says it is doing.

Waters said the assessors looked through records, evidence files and court records, as well as officers' uniforms, training records, properly marked vehicles and communication equipment.

"I think we had nine non-com-

pliances, which means there was just something wrong with our documentation. We were able to fix them immediately; so, they were just minor," he said, noting the non-compliances were things such as typos found in the paperwork.

After two-and-a-half days, the marshal's office was again bestowed state certification.

Although the department's overall teamwork and dedication were essential in obtaining recertification, Waters touted certification manager Jo-Ann Faverey for the achievement.

"Going into the recertification, we felt good because I have a very, very good certification manager, who overlooks everything. She stays on top of the certification and is more or less the driving force of that program."

The marshal's office will face recertification in 2014, and Waters said the GACP has upped the standards from 118 to 125.

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**Homes Purchased In Cherokee**

<b>30004 (Alpharetta)</b> 120 Hopewell Chase Ct Buyer: Brenda Beasley File Date: 07/19/11 Sale Price: \$230,000	274 Trecastle Sq Buyer: John Sarallo File Date: 07/19/11 Sale Price: \$299,900	183 Laurel Way Buyer: Gregory Bertils File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$240,000
<b>30102 (Acworth)</b> 809 Tramore Rd Buyer: Michael Oduselu File Date: 07/21/11 Sale Price: \$291,800	250 Waterford Falls Dr Buyer: Lori Sellers File Date: 07/20/11 Sale Price: \$145,000	304 Rocky Creek Overlook Buyer: Read Blumberg File Date: 07/21/11 Sale Price: \$500,900
1998 Kellogg Creek Rd Buyer: Kindi Vanhentenryck File Date: 07/20/11 Sale Price: \$100,000	<b>30115 (Canton)</b> 207 Setters Rdg Buyer: Nadine Basta File Date: 07/21/11 Sale Price: \$237,500	244 Millstone Pkwy Buyer: Ronald Cowan File Date: 07/20/11 Sale Price: \$80,000
<b>30040 (Cumming)</b> 4720 Carver Ct Buyer: Ashley Colgrove File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$214,800	904 Ravenwood Way Buyer: Corey Carroll File Date: 07/21/11 Sale Price: \$300,000	127 Halesy Cir Buyer: John Gentry File Date: 07/18/11 Sale Price: \$211,000
<b>30114 (Canton)</b> 701 Creekwood Ln Buyer: Melissa Buercklin File Date: 07/20/11 Sale Price: \$208,000	7080 Blossomwood Dr Buyer: Lora Chattin File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$117,000	519 Bluff Ct Buyer: Suzanne Landers File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$92,000
428 Gold Xing Buyer: Brice Connell File Date: 07/15/11 Sale Price: \$212,500	115 Little Shoals Dr Buyer: Costin Dumitrescu File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$144,000	<b>30189 (Woodstock)</b> 837 Eagle Glen Xing Buyer: David Barker File Date: 07/20/11 Sale Price: \$115,000
501 Woodbrook Ln Buyer: Troy Dokken File Date: 07/20/11 Sale Price: \$197,000	1490 Toonigh Rd Buyer: Paul Horton File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$100,000	2121 Yorkshire Ct Buyer: James Brown File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$134,000
512 Bonneset Ct Buyer: Patricia Henssler File Date: 07/19/11 Sale Price: \$220,000	116 Glencedars Ln Buyer: Brent Coleman File Date: 07/27/11 Sale Price: \$470,000	503 Scenic Way Buyer: John Chandler File Date: 07/18/11 Sale Price: \$320,500
124 Generals Pl Buyer: William Hood File Date: 07/21/11 Sale Price: \$338,000	<b>30188 (Woodstock)</b> 108 Jay Wood Dr Buyer: Thomas Whigham File Date: 07/12/11 Sale Price: \$177,000	2056 Towne Lake Hls W Buyer: Mary Falciano File Date: 07/18/11 Sale Price: \$155,000
557 Laurel Canyon Pkwy Buyer: Elmer Prather File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$405,300	410 W Oaks Trl Buyer: Lucy Abney File Date: 07/21/11 Sale Price: \$109,000	519 Wallnut Hall Cv Buyer: Fengwen Wang File Date: 07/14/11 Sale Price: \$134,500

\*Information on home sales is based on deeds filed with the Cherokee County courthouse. Data is provided by HomeOwner Data Services, Inc. For more information, call 770-925-9000. Not all home sales are published each week due to space limitations.

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September 11, 2001

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