

FREE

February 6, 2008
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Woodstock, GA

THIS WEEK

THE CHEROKEE

LEDGER-NEWS

The Leading
Voice of
Cherokee
County



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Sebring goes to Etowah **1B**



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Woodstock cop investigated for alleged rape

BY ERIKA NELDNER
erikaneldner@ledgernews.com

A Woodstock police officer is under investigation for allegedly raping a confidential informant.

The confidential informant alleges that one of the Woodstock Police Department's Drug Enforcement Unit officers raped her at the police department around 11 p.m. Jan. 28, according to a Cherokee County Sheriff's Office

incident report filed Jan. 31.

Police Chief Ric Moss said the officer is still on duty but his work has been limited.

"We've restricted some of his activities," Chief Moss said. "There is an investigation, but by virtue of the fact that it is an open investigation, no other comment at this time."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating the accusation.

"We are investigating allegations of sexual misconduct by a Woodstock police officer," GBI Spokesman John Bankhead said.

Bankhead said the agency would not release the officer's name as no charges were filed at press time.

"They're just allegations," Bankhead said. "We don't know if there is any validity to it. We are pursuing an investigation at the request of the district attorney

and the sheriff's office."

District Attorney Garry Moss said the GBI has been called in to investigate, but would not say who the officer under investigation is or confirm the allegations.

"I can confirm that there has been a request for their (GBI) assistance to do an investigation into a matter involving a Woodstock Police Department officer," Garry Moss said.

SEE OFFICER, PAGE 15A

Putting a good word in



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS

TOP: A beaming Josh Lee, a sixth-grader at R.M. Moore, realizes he has won the county spelling bee as runner-up Jay Freeman of Teasley Middle School claps for him. Both boys, along with Woodstock Middle School's Morgan Hecker, who took third, will go on to the regional meet next month.



LEFT: Free Home Elementary's Kimberly Lemons concentrates on the correct spelling of a word as Andi Dunn, of Little River, and Taylor Hamilton, of Avery Elementary, listen.

See article, Page 9A

Buchanan named Cherokee's first citizen

BY TOM BROOKS
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Longtime community leader and entrepreneur Wade Buchanan is the 2008 recipient of the Cherokee County First Citizen Award.

Buchanan, who served 16 years as a member of the Canton City Council, was presented the award during the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce's 37th annual meeting on Feb. 2 at Appalachian Technical College in Jasper.

A native of Inman, S.C., a community with textile mill roots similar to Canton, Buchanan has played a prominent – and behind-the-scenes – role in shaping modern Canton.

His family lived in Conyers for almost a decade before moving to Canton 37 years ago.

The co-owner of Canton-based poultry equipment maker Wadeken Industries, Buchanan is a former Chamber vice president and member of the Cherokee County Development Authority.

Wade and his wife, Peggy, have three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"I learned a lot from him," said Canton City Councilwoman JoEllen Wilson, who often sat next to Buchanan during his tenure on the city council, which ended in December.

SEE CITIZEN, PAGE 10A

Local delegation fights for swimming pools

EPD director, governor weigh conditions to make decision to close or keep pools open

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS
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The amount of water necessary to fill swimming pools across the state this summer amounts to just a drop in the bucket of the total amount of water that needs to be conserved in order to survive extreme drought conditions, local legislators say.

However, the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD) spokesperson, along with Gov. Sonny Perdue's office, says the decision regarding swimming pools will be made by EPD Director Carol Couch and the governor, following careful consideration of available water resources.

State Rep. Sean Jerguson, R-Woodstock, said legislators will attempt to override the decision by

legislation if Couch tries to shut pools down for the summer because of the drought.

Members of the Cherokee delegation introduced bills in the Legislature last week to prevent the EPD from closing down swimming pools this summer, saying the water it would save is not worth the harm it would cause by closing the pools.



Jerguson



Rogers

SEE POOLS, PAGE 10A

NOW REACHING MORE THAN **40,000 HOUSEHOLDS** IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

Holly Springs is first to narrow its city manager candidates to shortlist

BY ERIKA NELDNER
erikaneldner@ledgernews.com

Holly Springs officials narrowed their city manager candidate pool down to two last week, however, one pulled his application during his Feb. 4 interview.

The two candidates selected were Canton's interim city manager, Rob Logan, and Alpharetta's assistant city administrator, Robert Rokovitz.

Logan notified the Ledger-News of his decision following his interview with city officials. He said he also applied for the city manager position with Canton and decided to keep his application there.

Holly Springs Mayor Tim Downing said the city will continue with its interview process with other candidates, but officials could go back to the drawing board if Rokovitz isn't chosen.

"The city won't make any rash decisions," Downing said, adding there are more applications to review, if needed. "We have the ability to go back to the well, if we don't choose the existing candidate."

The city council is expected to vote on the position Feb. 21, which is a rescheduled meeting due to President's Day. The work session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the regular meeting is set to start at 7 p.m. at the municipal building at 3235 Holly Springs Parkway.

The law requires that candidates be announced two weeks before the scheduled vote, and timing is

why the city council wanted to make a decision in February.

"We want to have (a city manager) on board by April 1," Downing said. "We also want to allow the candidate at least 30 days to provide a notice."

Rokovitz's duties as Alpharetta's assistant city administrator are to act as the city administrator, or city manager, in that director's absence, according to his resume. He worked with Alpharetta's \$52 million budget and assisted in the presentation to the city council last year, and he also oversees human resources for the city and acts as the public information officer.

Rokovitz is a 1994 graduate of Kennesaw State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in public and social sciences. He earned his master's of public administration from KSU in 1998.

Holly Springs started its national advertising in January when Tony Griffin resigned to return to his hometown of Chicago to go into the private sector. Downing has been serving as the interim city manager, and Police Chief Ken Ball has been serving as the interim assistant city manager.

Canton and Woodstock are also looking for someone to run day-to-day operations.

Canton was left without a full-time city manager when Bill Werner left the city in mid-2007, which former Mayor Cecil Pruett cited as a mutual separation.

Mayor Gene Hobgood said the city will most likely use resources

including the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Municipal Association to aid in finding the city some qualified candidates.

"We want to make sure we do a due diligent search," Hobgood said. "We'll be going out fairly quickly."

Woodstock officials hired the Mercer Group for about \$20,000 to conduct a search for qualified candidates. The city hopes to have a city manager announced by Feb. 25.

"We'll have one selected I'm sure," said Mayor Donnie Henriques. "I feel pretty confident. Hopefully that person can start by the end of March."

The Mercer Group guarantees a qualified candidate that stays for a year, or they'll start over.

City officials have scheduled several meetings with the search firm. The semi-finalists were narrowed down Jan. 18, and other executive session meetings are set for Feb. 8, Feb. 9 and Feb. 11.

A social is planned for Feb. 8 at the community center, but Henriques said that is still an executive session meeting.

The top three candidates are expected to be narrowed down during an executive session Feb. 11, but the city council will announce the top three in regular session.

Woodstock's city manager, Jim Gleason, left the city in November for a job with the International City-County Managers Association.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Sewer line rupture causes sewage leak

An 8-inch sewer line ruptured in Woodstock, resulting in a sewage spill of 4,800 gallons last week.

The Pine Hill gravity line cracked and caved in, dumping the raw sewage into Noonday Creek the afternoon of Jan. 25. Workers plugged an upstream manhole, cut out the broken

pipe and installed a new pipe. The spill was contained and rectified by early evening Jan. 25.

Cherokee Historical Society names new board members

The Cherokee County Historical Society has announced new additions to its board of directors.

Joining the historical society board for 2008 will be Joan Ahrens, Scott Evans and Karen

Smithwick. In addition, Carla Barnes will serve as the new vice president for the upcoming year.

The remaining members of the board for 2008 will be Marcia J. Mosher, president; Jim Harris, treasurer; Kathy Day; Eric Ballinger; Dennis Burnette; Joanie Castleberry; Hazel Cochran; Mary Johnston; Patsy Kononen; Mark Moore; Linda Statham; Anna Ross Twitchell; and Wanda Roach.

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Robertson files for campaign money

BY TOM BROOKS
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Former Cherokee County Chief Magistrate Judge Charles Robertson, who was ordered removed from the bench almost four years ago by the Georgia Supreme Court, has taken a preliminary step toward seeking a return to the elective office.

Robertson filed a document in late January with the Cherokee County elections and registration office showing his intent to collect campaign contributions for this year's contest for the judgeship as a Republican candidate.

Robertson served as chief magistrate for three years before the state's highest court ordered him removed from the judgeship. The high court ruled in 2004 that Robertson's military court-martial convictions between 1978 and 1980 were "analogous" to felonies and that he lied about his past when signing up for the 2000 magistrate election contest.

He wants to return to the magistrate court office he is credited with modernizing with computer systems and other upgrades, Robertson said in an e-mail statement he provided to the Ledger-News.

"I enjoyed the challenge of bringing private sector approaches to an inherently institutional office and was very successful at it," Robertson said, adding he would implement further improvements if he returns to the office.

Rather than appeal the Supreme Court's 2004 decision, Robertson stated, he "moved on." He is an attorney, author and Internet business developer, Robertson stated.

Robertson, then named Charles Sexton, received a bad conduct discharge from the U.S. Army for two convictions involving the sale of military property – including an infrared guided missile tracker – and possession of methamphetamine.

"The issue regarding my now 30-year-old drug possession conviction has been fully resolved," Robertson stated.

Chief Magistrate Ben Abney said last week that he is seeking reelection.

"I like it, and I think I'm doing a good job," Abney said.

Abney, who was an associate magistrate in the office before Robertson was removed, defeated Canton attorney Benson Chambers in the July 2004 Republican primary by a narrow margin, 50.05 percent of the vote to Chambers' 49.95 percent.

Chambers said last week he was undecided about whether or not he would run for the office this year.

The candidate qualifying period for the 2008 chief magistrate judge contest and other 2008 campaigns is April 28-May 2. The general primary election is scheduled for July 15 and the general election is slated for Nov. 4.

According to the Judicial Branch of Georgia's Web site, county magistrate courts in Georgia handle civil claims of up to \$15,000, allegations of county ordinance violations, preliminary hearings, bail hearings and other legal matters.

Robertson's brushes with military law authorities and interpretations of how he should have handled the issue when he first signed up to qualify for the 2000 campaign were cited as a central concern in the Supreme Court decision.

In the high court's April 19, 2004 ruling, the justices stated, "Judge Robertson falsely swore that he had not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude and that he had his rights restored at the time he completed the candidate affidavit."

Robertson had challenged the position that the military convictions were equal to felonies as the case against him was handled by the state Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC). In an October 2003 decision, the JQC recommended the judge's removal from office.

In the 2004 ruling, rendered shortly before the year's candidate qualifying period, the Supreme Court stated Robertson's "continued presence on the bench erodes the public's confidence in the judiciary and puts at risk the integrity of the judicial system of which he is a member."

That statement is a single sentence from a hefty court record built from numerous hearings and evidence on the case, Robertson stated.

The high court also stated in its ruling that there was "no evidence that Judge Robertson acted in a manner that discredited the court while in the performance of his judicial duties," Robertson said.

He is eligible to run for the judgeship, Robertson stated.

"I am running on my record of demonstrated performance," Robertson stated, adding Abney "has also done an excellent job."



Robertson

'Subprime' is word of the year

'Subprime' was voted 2007's Word of the Year by American Dialect Society. In its 18th annual "Word of the Year" vote, the American Dialect Society voted "subprime" as the word of the year. Subprime, according to a press release issued by the society, is an adjective used to describe a risky or less than ideal loan, mortgage, or investment.

Subprime was also winner of a

brand-new 2007 category for real estate words, a category that reflects the preoccupation of the press and public for the past year with a deepening mortgage crisis.

Presiding at the Jan. 4 voting session, held at the Hilton Chicago, was Professor Wayne Glowka, Dean of Arts and Humanities of Reinhardt College in Waleska, chair of the New Words Commit-

tee of the American Dialect Society. Glowka edits the column "Among the New Words" in the society's quarterly journal American Speech.

The words or phrases selected for Word of the Year do not have to be brand-new, he said, but they have to be newly prominent or notable in the past year, in the manner of Time Magazine's Person of the Year.

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Buce arrested on fraud charges

BY ERIKA NELDNER
erikaneldner@ledgernews.com

The owner of a now-defunct newspaper in Cherokee County was arrested last week for fraudulently charging clients' credit cards.

Connie Buce, 42, of Woodstock, former owner of the Cherokee Gazette, was charged with four counts of identity fraud and was released on a \$20,016 bond, said Sgt. Jay Baker, public information officer of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office.

Buce purchased the Cherokee Gazette newspaper under Come Monday Publishing LLC in late April 2007. The company went out of business in August 2007.

Buce is accused of using former Cherokee Gazette advertisers' credit cards after the newspaper went out of business.

Four police reports have been filed, but the authorities believe there are more victims who haven't reported. Police say Buce could be facing more charges.

The first victim to report a fraudulent charge said he was an advertiser with the Cherokee Gazette until it went out of business. He said, in early December he received a credit card statement showing a \$3,700 charge paid to the Gazette.

Another victim said she placed a

\$10 ad in the Gazette to run twice in July 2007, but a credit card statement in December showed the Cherokee Gazette charged \$1,000 to her account, the report said. Another former Gazette advertiser said his business was running an ad for \$64 in June, and in December he noticed a \$750 charge on his account from the Gazette, documents show.

A third victim said, at the end of July he agreed to run an ad in the newspaper for \$1,254. The ad was to run for 12 issues, the report said. The victim told police that soon after, the publication went out of business and no charges were posted to his account.

One of the victims called the Cherokee Post, an active business operating out of the same location as the former Gazette, seeking information about the fraudulent charges on his account. He was told by one of the staff members that they had received several credit card charges, the report said.

Cherokee Post investor and registered agent of the Cherokee Media Group LLC, Mike Byrd, said he

believes the Post staff members have received complaints, but Byrd said the two newspapers are not connected.

"I know she has been a bit of a problem for us," Byrd said in a Ledger-News interview. "I understand some people had complained that (fraudulent credit card use) had been going on."

Added former Cherokee Commission Chairman Byrd, "It's a total new organization. We just happened to hire some of the staff, and we rented the same building. Other than that, there's no connection whatsoever."

The Cherokee Gazette was previously The Olde Towne Gazette, a free newspaper that had been distributed in Woodstock for several years. Ben Elliott and Elliott Communications LLC purchased the newspaper in October 2006 and renamed it The Cherokee Gazette. Elliott also owned two restaurants in Woodstock, which are now shut down.

A few months prior to selling the newspaper to Come Monday Publishing, Elliott also purchased The News/Shopper and combined the two newspapers under the Gazette banner. The Gazette's last issue appeared Aug. 6, 2007.

People who believe they have been victims should call the sheriff's office's Financial Crimes Unit at (770) 928-0239.



Buce

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State wants public input on career ed

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Georgia's five-year plan on career and technical education will be the subject of two public hearings.

The plan is required under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act, which was signed into law in August, 2006. The purpose of the law is to help fully develop the academic, career and technical skills of students in secondary and post-secondary institutions and prepare them for high-skill, high wage and/or high-demand jobs.

A draft version of the plan will be available on the Georgia De-

partment of Education Web site on Feb. 15. The plan will be posted online at www.gadoe.org/ci_cta.aspx?PageReq=cictaperkins.

Public comment can be submitted one of three ways — in person, in writing or by phone.

The DOE will hold two public hearings in February to gather input on the five-year plan. The first is Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. until noon at the DOE, 19th floor instructional technology lab, 1966 Twin Towers East, 204 Jessie Hill Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta; interested persons may also participate in this hearing via teleconference at the Kennesaw State University Education Technology Training Center. The

second public hearing will be from 10 a.m. until noon Feb. 28 at Central Georgia Technical College in Macon.

Comments in writing must be submitted by March 1. E-mail comments and questions may be sent to policy@gadoe.org. Comments may also be mailed to Rules Comments - Policy Division, Georgia Department of Education, 2053 Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, S.E., Atlanta, GA 30334.

Phone comments may be submitted to the Ask DOE Help Desk at 1-800-311-3627. Someone will log comments and provide them to appropriate GaDOE staff.

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Canton City Council rescinds CID

BY TOM BROOKS
tombrooks@ledgernews.com

The Canton City Council has rescinded its approval of a self-taxing commercial district in the Canton Marketplace development off Ga. 20.

The rare action of pulling back an earlier decision sets the stage for the city council to obtain details about the plan for the community improvement district, or CID, that previous documents had not shown before voting anew on whether or not to approve the creation of the district, city officials said.

The Canton Marketplace CID was approved by the city council on Dec. 20 in the final meeting for outgoing Mayor Cecil Pruett and Councilman Wade Buchanan. New Mayor Gene Hobgood and Councilman Jack Goodwin, Buchanan's successor, took office in January.

The previously approved plan called for an additional tax of 7 mills for four properties in the planned regional shopping center to be collected to generate additional property tax dollars to fund infrastructure improvements for the center, including the widening of Ga. 20 and streetscapes along the future Commerce Boulevard roadway

through the site. Seven mills equals \$7 charged per \$1,000 of assessed property values, after exemptions.

The CID area included land owned by the developer of the center, The Sembler Co. and including retailers Target, Lowe's and Kohl's.

Citing missing details and inaccuracies in the documents provided to the city council, Councilwoman Pat Tanner introduced the motion during the Jan. 17 city council meeting to rescind the Dec. 20 resolution. The measure was approved unanimously.

Before the Jan. 17 vote, Hobgood and Tanner cited problems with the documents the city officials had reviewed. Some were incomplete and contained errors, they said.

A public hearing on the CID before the Canton Planning Commission will be scheduled, officials said.

"Anything that is worth doing is worth doing right," Hobgood said of the city's review of the package of documents on the Canton Marketplace CID plan.

The Canton Marketplace CID

would be similar to other CIDs in metro Atlanta, including the Cumberland CID funding infrastructure improvements in the Cumberland/Galleria area of Interstates 75 and 285, the DeKalb and Fulton counties CIDs operating in the Perimeter CIDs organization in I-285 and Ga. 400 area, and the Gwinnett Village CID and Gwinnett Village CID off Interstate 85 in Gwinnett County.

The Canton Marketplace CID would be smaller than the existing CIDs in the region, Hobgood said.

Hobgood said he needs more details on the CID before recommending action on the plan.

"I don't mind being on the cutting edge, but I don't want to get cut either," Hobgood said of the CID.

Marion Pope, a retired Georgia Court of Appeals judge, filled in for Canton City Attorney Billy Hasty during the Jan. 17 meeting.

Pope told the city council a decision to rescind would be proper, as they need to look at documents in their entirety before voting on them.

"My understanding is you can't vote on something that's incomplete and make it valid," Pope told the officials.



Hobgood

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Local school board earns recertification from GSBA

The Cherokee County School Board has been recertified as a "School Board of Distinction by the Georgia School Boards Association."

GSBA Executive Director Sis Henry congratulated the school board on continuing to meet the criteria to qualify for the distinction.

According to the GSBA Web site, this classification indicates a functional "local" organizational structure that empowers the leadership team to manage the school district as a Board of Distinction. Boards of Distinc-

tion are in full compliance with the GSBA Standards for Local Boards of Education.

Etowah searching for outstanding alumni

In 2006, Etowah High School established the EHS Alumni Achievement Award, an honor bestowed each year at the high school's graduation ceremony.

"This award was created to recognize service and accomplishment in our community or in the graduate's selected field, and to inspire future graduates of Etowah High School to make significant contributions to our

community," said Principal Ron Dunnivant. "This award has been very well received over the first two years and has become an important part of our commencement ceremony. We look forward to presenting this award at our graduation ceremony annually to an outstanding graduate of Etowah High School."

Etowah High School is currently taking nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award from members of the community. To nominate someone, please contact Dunnivant at Etowah High School at 770-926-0545 or by e-mail at ron.dunnivant@cherokee.k12.ga.us.

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CHEROKEE VOICE

ISSUE: Economic experts are warning that the United States is headed for a recession. **QUESTION:** How is the economy affecting your life?



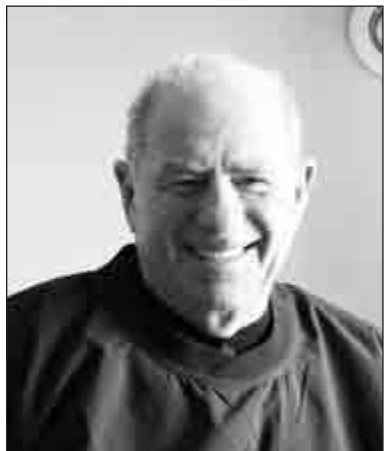
"Right now, it's OK, except it's necessary to have a double income."

Linda Monahan Woodstock



"I am happy with my situation, but it would be nice if there were less taxes."

Marlene Geoffrion Woodstock



"It's not affecting my life."

Jim Zimmerman Acworth



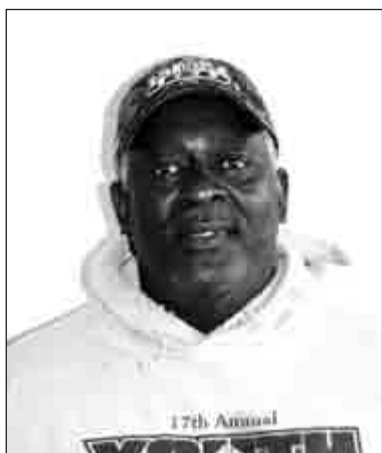
"I just don't worry about it."

T.J. Hudson Canton



"It makes things a little harder, as far as gas and medical bills."

Kenny Dunn Woodstock



"It's tight on bills, and harder to provide for my family."

Danny Lay Woodstock

I'm tired of being tired

Generally, I don't like to write about my personal life for an editorial column. I think this space should be for making people think, talk and debate the things that are important to all of us.

Nonetheless, last Tuesday, I had a hard time waking up. For some reason, I was tired all day.

I tried to figure out what was going on with my circadian rhythm – i.e. biological clock – but I was stumped. I hadn't stayed up very late. All I had really done was watch the State of the Union address, the subsequent Democratic response, candidate "interviews" and assorted punditry. All told, my head hit the pillow around 11 p.m.

Late Tuesday morning, it occurred to me: The reason I was tired was politics. Our political process, and President Bush's last (thankfully) State of the Union, had taken its toll on my attitude, mental well-being and overall state of mind.

The more I thought about our governments, our elected officials and our political system, the clearer it became that I'm tired of it all.

I'm not talking about how "Stay the course" George has piloted our ship of state onto the shoals of disaster. We've been watching that scenario play out for a couple of years now.

Instead, I realized that I'm tired of the same-old, same-old. I'm tired of ineffective politicians who talk, talk, talk, but nothing seems to get done or fixed.

I'm tired of the war in Iraq and the endless slaughter that still has no end in sight. Whether you believe the "surge" has been working or not, we're still there and still planning to be there for some time.

I'm tired of the sinking economy and the gloomy outlook being forecast that we've still got a ways to go

before hitting the bottom.

I'm tired of intolerance and partisanship in American politics and that we've all seemed to lose sight of the fact that we're all in this together, no matter which particular political flavor we prefer, Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Independent or what-have-you.

I'm tired of the blame game the politicians all play, the way they tap-dance around issues and the finger-pointing exercises at which they excel.

I'm tired of being told something is in my best interests when it really is in the best interests of the rich and powerful and any perks trickling down to me are purely accidental.

I'm tired of the rhetoric, the name-calling, the spin-meistering, the half-truths, the corruption and the outright lies that our government spoon-feeds to us.

I'm tired of political pundits, so-called policy wonks and the blathering of talking-head media buffoons who think their sophomoric slurs and moronic monologues are moving our society forward toward enlightenment.

I'm tired of talking points and the dimwits who send them out to a voting public that is incapable of investigating facts for themselves.

I'm tired of the people who are too dense and/or lazy to educate themselves about what is fact and what is fiction, but who don't hesi-

tate to hit the "send" button on their dunderheaded e-mails that slander people without any basis in fact or reality.

I'm tired of people who think they understand the issues and have the answer without knowing a single factual point of what they are talking about.

I'm tired of people who have a self-important sense of entitlement that their religion or moral outlook gives them an undeniable right to sit at the table of humanity without any responsibility to make sure every living human has that same right.

I'm sure I am not alone in my fatigue. (Actually, some of you may be tired of reading this.)

Fortunately, there's an easy answer: Keep rotating lawmakers out before they get stale. Dump the career politicians and any politician who hasn't accomplished anything while in office, and let someone else have a try.

We have nothing to lose. It's not like we're getting top-notch "customer service" from our current crop of elected officials.

If we can stay the course in this effort, those running for office will realize they have to git'er done or start looking for a new job the next time Election Day rolls around.

Of course, effecting this kind of reform will take some hard work on our part, so we'd better rest up now that we've voted in the Super Tuesday primary.

Let's all take a mental nap regarding politics until the next primary comes around in July, and then rest up until Nov. 7.

And we can be thankful we're only tired and not sick and tired.

Because, I'm also tired of the fact that we don't have a decent health care system in this powerful country of ours.



DIALOGUE

Gerry Yandel

LETTERS

Voting is the great equalizer

Dear Editor,

In his recent letter (Jan. 23), Mr. J.C. Hill, a self-proclaimed property rights advocate, rails against appointments by our Board of Commissioners, because he does not like the results of popular elections. Has he polled the majority of Cherokee's 200,000 citizens so that he can offer a superior way of ascertaining the will of citizens?

To say that election returns do not represent the will of the people is a slap in the face to those brave men and women who have fought

over the centuries to provide us with the freedom to vote.

The democratic process is the great equalizer in our free society. Every legal adult citizen who has not been convicted of a felony or declared incompetent has the ability to register where they live and vote in elections pertinent to their location. There is one vote per person – regardless of personal wealth, regardless of landholdings, regardless of business or professional status.

Citizens have the sacred obliga-

tion to go to the polls, vote their conscience, and determine their destiny. Those who do not vote have no right to condemn or second-guess the voices of citizens who honored their civic duty by voting.

To advocate any other method of self-determination is to advocate dictatorship, Communism, or what I suspect Mr. Hill would prefer – a return to medieval rule by large landowners.

Heidi Pryor Ball Ground

Resident opinion is the best gauge

Dear Editor,

In response to the Cherokee Voice of two editions ago, I want to thank the residents of Woodstock who spoke positively about the dedicated men and women of law enforcement in Cherokee County.

For many years I have witnessed fellow administrators and practitioners herald the success of their respective agencies relying on statistical data as evidence of their achievement. Unfortunately, many of those same professionals suffered the consequence of those same bench-

marks being used against them later on to imply a failure.

This dynamic reminds me of the story about an accountant being interviewed by a prospective client who asks, "What is 2 plus 2?" The accountant insightfully replies, "Whatever you want it to be." My point being, while statistics are valuable and certainly have a legitimate role in quantifying efforts, data is not always valid and can be portrayed to reflect a particular interest. An example would be statistics suggesting a rise in crime without considering an increase

in population or commercial development during the same time period.

So in the final analysis, I prefer to gauge the success of the Woodstock Police Department by how our partners, the people who live and work in Woodstock feel. And while we will always use data to guide our activity I was pleased to read our "customers" feel good about the quality of life we try so hard to ensure.

Ric Moss Woodstock Chief of Police

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS

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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

Voting for my daughter's future

Dear Editor,

Nineteen months ago, my husband and I were blessed with a beautiful healthy baby girl. I knew as I looked into her tiny little face that many changes would have to happen to this country so that my little girl's future would be secure and bright.

I know that we need to have a president that would make sure that my daughter would have a future with education, security, and prosperity.

We need a president that can walk into the White House on Day One and begin making changes to ensure the future of my daughter and this country.

We need someone who can bring back peace of mind to the middle class, secure health care and Social Security, help my friends and neighbors keep their homes out of foreclosure and bring back the pride that we should all feel as Americans.

We need a president who has

plans and experience.

My daughter needs the best future that I can give her, and because of this I voted for the only candidate that can ensure a bright future for my daughter and for all of our children.

I voted for Hillary Clinton. I hope you joined me in supporting our future and vote Feb. 5 for Sen. Clinton and for our children.

Christina Spoor
Canton

Which 'truth' do you choose?

Dear Editor,

In a recent letter to the editor titled "Learn to distinguish fact, belief," (Jan. 16), TK of Ball Ground seems to think that fact and belief are mutually exclusive. He stated "Folks, religion is a belief. Religion is not factual."

He also says: "...you can believe Jesus said this or that, but they are not facts, they are beliefs - hearsay, oral history, passed down and not even written until 100 years and more after the alleged events."

The Apostles Matthew and John were eyewitnesses and heard first-hand what Jesus said. Standard scholarly dating, even in very liberal circles, puts the Gospel of Matthew at 80 A.D. and the Gospel of John at 90 A.D.; that's at most 50 to 60 years after the events took place.

The life of Alexander the Great is taught as fact in our high schools. "The two earliest biographies of Alexander the Great

were written by Arrian and Plutarch more than 400 years after Alexander's death in 325 B.C.," yet historians consider them to be generally trustworthy. Now why is that? It seems to me that since Arrian and Plutarch were not eyewitnesses (not even second- or third-hand), their books were just a collection of 'beliefs, hearsay, oral history passed down!'

If I dig a big hole in my back yard, that's a fact. If I then go inside and tell my children (I have eight) about the hole I just dug, some will say "that's great, Dad, tell me all about it." Others will say, "I'll believe it when I see it," so outside we march. Some might even say, "I don't believe you." And no matter what I say, and no matter how convincing I try to be, they just won't believe me, even though it is a "fact."

Believing or not believing a fact is dependent upon trust. You must trust the person telling you

the fact.

When the astronauts climb into the space shuttle, they do not know all the 'facts' that were required to make it fly. They are putting their trust in the engineers who designed and built the shuttle. In turn, the engineers may never have built a spaceship before, but they trust the college professors who taught them, believing they had all their facts straight. And those college professors undoubtedly believed the early discoveries made by great men of science.

Noah Webster defines fact as "truth."

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Who are you going to trust for the facts (truth), TK of Ball Ground or Jesus of Nazareth?

Robert E. O'Donnell
Hickory Flat

44 is hazardous to (mental) health

Last week, the results of a study about depression and midlife, co-conducted by the University of Warwick in Great Britain and New Hampshire's Dartmouth College, were released. More than 2 million people in more than 70 countries around the world were interviewed about their lives, and 44 seems to be more than the number worn by Henry Aaron.

Age 44, apparently, is the average age where people are most unhappy.

The bad news for this columnist is, she is 44.

According to the report, happiness can be most commonly described as being U-shaped, if one is charting the ups and downs of mental health throughout the course of a lifetime. Age 44 is at the very bottom of that U.

"It happens to men and women, to single and married people, to rich and poor, and to those with and without children. Nobody knows why we see this consistency," said Prof. Andrew Oswald of the University of Warwick. "What causes this apparently U-shaped curve, and its similar shape in different parts of the developed and even often developing world, is unknown."

The most likely reason for this bottoming-out, according to Os-

wald and his Dartmouth counterpart, Prof. David Blanchflower, is that most of us come to the realization in our mid-40s that we are not likely to achieve certain goals in life, whatever those may be.

Basically, we tend to harbor delusions of

grandeur of our careers, our children, our financial security, being famous, or whatever - anything that we dream about as kids. When we finally realize that dreams of our youth do not pan out as we had planned, we get bummed.

Makes sense. This might explain why so many people around this age tend to have what is more commonly referred to as a "mid-life crisis," and start doing dumb things, like going on a shopping frenzy for sports cars and liposuction, or trading in their spouses for younger ones. Surprisingly, 70-year-olds have

the same opportunity for happiness as 20-year-olds, according to the same study.

Seventy-year-olds?! Are you kidding me?! Unbelievable...one more thing to be depressed about. We have been told all our lives that "life begins at 40." Now, we have to wait another 30 years for unabashed happiness?

Quick - somebody get me a Prozac.

So, how do we use this information in a positive way?

Do we start telling our children at an early age that by the time they're 44, they can expect unhappiness, so in order to relieve this eventual depression, they should probably set the bar low for their goals in life? After all, if you underachieve, you might be less likely to be disappointed with wherever you end up in life.

Or, do we just equip those under the age of 44 with the phone numbers and names of good shrinks?

Maybe both. Or neither. Who cares, anyway? I am 44 and too depressed to deal with the answers. At least I can look forward to being 70 years old.

Great. Just what I've always wanted....

Fauve Holihan is a writer and public relations professional.



VIEWPOINT

Fauve
Holihan

SOAPBOX

■ Republicans want the best roads, the best schools, the best recreation; they want the best in police and fire protection, but they don't want to have to pay for it. Nobody likes paying taxes, but eliminating property taxes is a bad idea.

■ If I have the option to choose between a charter school and the Cherokee County School System, I would choose the charter school hands down.

■ To the tax commissioner and appraisers: My house did not go up in value this past year, nor did it last year, when you raised my home value in order to steal more taxes. How about a break this year, and lower the value?

■ Let's all just slow down, calm down and have some consideration for our fellow drivers on I-575. People's lives are at stake.

■ I'm voting for Monica Lewinsky's boyfriend's wife for president.

■ As a Christian, I'm sorry that our Jewish citizens don't have their important holidays on our local calendar. I hope someone will correct that as soon as possible.

■ Do all you folks out there really think that people who don't own property don't pay property taxes? I've been a landlord for over 30 years, and let me assure you that there's a figure for property taxes built into the rent of every tenant I've ever had.

■ I am a happy parent in Cherokee County. My kids go to Johnston Elementary, and their teachers are very good, as well as the administrative staff there.

■ People who still have their Christmas lights up should be totally ashamed of themselves. It looks totally junky and gross and they should do something about it.

■ I just read Fauve Holihan's article and she's a misogynist and she's buying that line from the men. Hillary's a great woman and she's done a lot in 35 years. Look beyond the husband, Holihan.

■ If a child is confused about why they're going to a church on Sunday, whether it's for a marriage or not, it's not my problem. Religion needs to stay out of schools.

■ Prayer and faith only become public when you or a loved one needs it.

■ To the firefighter fussing about a cost-of-living raise: Go get another job. This is from a firefighter.

■ I am a teacher at Arnold Mill Elementary School, and I am thrilled to be working for our school and for the county.

■ This political year, when you get an e-mail about a candidate with something awful about them, please go to www.snopes.com and look it up before you forward it. If you look about Obama being Muslim, you'll see exactly the truth that he's not.

■ Isn't this tax rebate check going to be nice? We can all go buy Chinese TVs now.

■ It sounds very authoritative in the estimate that a candy bar would cost 77 cents without federal income tax, but how are they arriving at that number? Or is this just more fuzzy math from a Republican designed to gain confidence while leading others astray?

■ The person who believes that a separation of church was to keep the state from controlling the church needs to go back to school and study history, because it was definitely the other way around.

■ I find it hard to understand in Woodstock, that we can afford all of these numerous new police vehicles, but cannot afford flags at city hall. They are all torn and tattered. They should be ashamed! They have been that way for 7 months!

■ If you have a bunch of pop-tops to give away, just pick your favorite school and bring them there.

■ Why haven't any of the candidates addressed our dependency on foreign oil? I would vote for Bozo the Clown if he could lower the price of gas to \$1 per gallon.

■ What do you get when you cross Bill and Hillary Clinton? A hillbilly.

■ Faith and prayer is not a private thing. God wants us to share our faith so his love can spread.

■ Did you know that driving during the daytime with your headlights on wastes gasoline? Think about it.

■ If you're going to drive on the expressway, either lead, follow or get the heck out of the way.

■ I pray every day for my children when they're in school that we can get out of Cherokee County.

■ Why did the chicken cross the road? To show the possum it could be done.

■ To the imbecile who insists in driving in the left-hand lane with cruise control on: You're just as guilty of breaking the law as those who exceed the speed limit. It's nincompoops like you who create road rage. Ever see a sign on the road that says slower traffic keep right?

■ We don't need soccer fields, but we need a pool. People may want soccer fields, but every school has someplace kids can kick a ball around. Nobody can swim in a soccer field.

■ To all the fast food customers: I'd like to thank you for putting your money on the counter. I don't want to touch your hands either.

■ There's all this talk about the fire department, from their annual raises to the Holly Springs new coverage. Have we forgotten about the female firefighter who was recently hazed? How is she doing?

■ Dear Gerry, as soon as the press gives free ads to the politicians and the post office gives free stamps, I will quit giving campaign contributions to the politicians.

■ If Cherokee County is still under a water ban, why is that castle-looking corner house at the main entrance still watering their lawn every morning? It's evident, because there is water all over the sidewalk every morning.

■ Driving in the left-hand lane, while not passing on a limited access highway is illegal, and you should be ticketed.

■ We school bus drivers are not all Southerners, and we pay taxes, too. If you don't like the trash in our yards, you clean it up. It's your kids who throw it there.

■ The increase in the cost of an Xbox game and the increased cost of a video doesn't constitute a cost-of-living raise for Cherokee firefighters.

■ If a bar patron is of legal age with a real ID, why would the management not allow the police to check it? That sounds fishy to me.

■ Sounds like someone's jealous they don't have a DVD player in the back of their car.

■ OK, church lady, this is fine and dandy. I know that you took my frog, that's OK. But you came back and you took my friend Jamie. Please, bring back my frog; you can keep Jamie.

■ It's ramen to the flying spaghetti monster, not amen.

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Comments may be edited for brevity. Please keep comments as brief as possible.

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LETTERS

Facts, faith not necessarily at odds

Dear Editor,

In response to Mr. Tom Kowalski's letter (Jan. 16) regarding Christian debates, which stated that "What seems to be missing is a simple inability to distinguish between belief and fact," I agree that factually incorrect and "slanderous" comments are not a good way to approach today's political issues.

However, the premise he seems to immediately presume is that religious beliefs are not factual, specifically those of the Christian faith. Due to space limitations, I offer a summary of known facts that he seems to have either forgotten or completely disregarded.

First, stating that the stories and miracles of Jesus as recorded in the books of the New Testament (NT) are hearsay and not based on fact ignores the clear evidence uncovered by many scholars (e.g. Bruce Metzger, Norman L. Geisler, etc.) establishing the accuracy of the NT texts as compared with other ancient writings by Plato, Aristotle, and Homer. There are over 5,000 original Greek NT manuscripts still in existence today, as compared with only 643 of Homer's "Illiad," 49 of Plato's and seven of Aristotle's. These numer-

ous texts provide a sort of cross-reference to further validate the accuracy of the NT message throughout.

The NT manuscripts are dated closer to the events described than other accepted texts of antiquity. For example, the earliest copy of Homer's "Illiad," written around 900 B.C. is dated 400 B.C., while the earliest copy of a NT manuscript, John Rylands' Fragment of verses from the book of John (on display in Manchester, England) is only about 50 years from the time of writing - not the 100 years indicated by Mr. Kowalski.

In addition, the comparison of the transmittal of the NT text through the centuries to the game of "telephone" is clearly not a factual representation of the way the NT message was passed along. When we consider the archaeological evidences, such as Greek and Latin inscriptions, confirming places and titles mentioned in the NT text and the external references to NT events and people in the writings of non-Christian writers such as Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (A.D. 37-100) and Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus (A.D. 55 - 117), the NT message appears to be more based on factu-

al evidence than Mr. Kowalski's comments.

I agree that suspension of reason and ignoring of facts is an insult to human intelligence, but I disagree with the broad assumption of "stupidity" on the part of those who hold what he calls an "emotional commitment to a certain belief system." What should we say of intellectuals like 1970 Nobel Prize winner Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, French mathematician Blaise Pascal, English physicist and astronomer Isaac Newton or well-known literary critic C.S. Lewis who all claimed this supposed "baseless" belief in the Bible and the message of Christ?

Though I would be happy to address further the numerous claims in his letter, I'll conclude by referring Mr. Kowalski to his closing question about whether it was very hard to deal in facts. By his own erroneous statements on the factual base of Christian beliefs, he has made his comments self-defeating. In the words of St. Augustine, "Nisi Credideritis, Non Inteligetis" (Unless you will have believed, you will not understand).

P.M. Wood
Woodstock

Where has all the water gone?

Dear Editor,

"Where has all the water gone?" According to the "experts," we are experiencing unyielding global warming. If this is true, the polar ice is melting at a dazzling rate.

If so, the rivers, streams and dams should be bursting, and we should have more, not less, water for our use.

Instead we have been told to stop all outside watering, and, in fact, to decrease in-home use.

So why is the county allowing new subdivisions to be built? New homes, and the new schools that will be required, only increase the county's water demands.

Where is that water supposed to come from? Will we again be told to decrease our use so that thousands of new residents can be water-accommodated?

And, since there are currently more homes for sale than buyers, who will purchase and live in all of

these new subdivisions? (Or is that for another letter?)


Back to the subject at hand, I know that there has now been a lot of rain, but not enough to fill up the empty lakes and streams. What about all of the global-warming-induced melted, polar ice?

I reiterate, where has all the water gone?

Janil Heart
Canton

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 8:30 Workout at fitness center
 10:00 Bridge game at clubhouse
 12:00 Lunch w/ Anne and Maggie
 1:30 Run quick errands
 2:00 Chill out at pool
 6:00 Luau Tonight at clubhouse




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Local students put a spell on words

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS
carolynmathews@ledgernews.com

Today's kids can put a spell on words, typing them into their cell phones with lightning speed to get a thought across. But last week, 27 Cherokee County kids were communicating the old-fashioned way, as they slowly, letter-by-letter, spelled out words the Webster way at the county spelling bee.

Sixth-grader Josh Lee of R.M. Moore Elementary School won the meet by correctly spelling "psychiatry" and "symbolize." His closest challenger, Jay Freeman of Teasley Middle School, gave Josh a run for his money as the two both unsuccessfully tried to spell several words in a row before Josh spelled the winning two together.

Third-place winner Morgan Hecker, from Woodstock Middle School, will join the boys at the regional meet on Feb. 23 at Mabry Middle School in Cobb County. Winners from that meet will go on to the state competition March 21, and state winners will compete in the national Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. this summer.

The fourth-place winner was Marian Baker from Freedom Middle School, and the fifth-place winner was Hannah Goodall of Macedonia Elementary. They will serve as alternates to the regional competition.

The local bee was sponsored by the Cherokee Education Association and was held at Woodstock Middle/High auditorium Jan. 29. Fourth-graders through eighth-graders, who had already won their school meet, competed. Words were called out by Joy Huddleston, media specialist at Macedonia Elementary.

The spelling started off easily, with words like "nicotine" and "kangaroo." Words come from official Scripps lists provided by the



Katie Gardner, of Johnston Elementary, was one of 27 school-level winners who competed at 2008 Cherokee County Spelling Bee Jan. 29.

spelling bee competition.

It progressively got a little harder, as words like "howitzer" and "millennium" sent kids off the stage. Then came the words that adults often misspell, the tricky ones like "camouflage" and "maneuver."

After that, as the number of contestants dwindled, the words got downright hard.

"Mycology" was the first word this writer couldn't define. The contestant on stage, however, asked for the definition.

The competitors in the bee showed intense concentration, some looking upward to visualize the word as they spelled it, others "writing" the word with their index finger on the palm of their other hand. A few were extremely

nervous, some nearly swaggered with self-assurance, and others gave excited smiles to their parents in the audience as they were told they were correct.

Josh Lee, the winner, was the slow and careful type, displaying a quiet assurance as he was given words to spell. Josh is the son of Roger and Becky Lee of Waleska - his dad is the vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Reinhardt College.

"I felt pretty confident," Josh said of his win. He said he's ready for the regional competition, but his favorite subject isn't spelling, it's music. Right now, he plays the bass guitar, but when he grows up, he wants to be a jazz pianist.

Doubtless he will be able to cast a "spell" with his music as well.

CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS

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CITIZEN: Buchanan served 13 years for ACS

FROM PAGE 1A

He is a man who showed her how laughter and listening can ease the often tense moments of citizens engaged in public service, and has shown how love of family and devotion to his wife are important to him, added Wilson, a Reinhardt College executive.

The First Citizen Award is presented to county residents who have made major contributions to the community. The 2007 recipient was Ball Ground resident Garland Pinholster, an educator and legendary basketball coach who served in the Georgia House of Representatives and is the current vice chairman of the State Transportation Board.

Other past recipients include Canton physician Dr. Bill Early; the late Glenn Hubbard, of Woodstock; the late William G. Hasty, of Canton, a longtime educator, state lawmaker and chairman of the State Transportation Board; Don Stevens, of Macedonia; and Juanita Hughes, of Woodstock.

During Wade Buchanan's 13 years of service as president of the Cherokee County Unit of the American Cancer Society, the organization has raised

more than \$1.5 million for the fight against cancer, according to a First Citizen nomination statement. Wade and Peggy's eldest son, Steven, died of cancer.

While on the city council, Buchanan successfully led the effort to pass an indoor smoking ban in Canton in 2004, making the city among the first municipalities in Georgia to approve such a law.

Canton attorney Barry Bishop said Buchanan is a longtime friend, client and neighbor.

As an American Cancer Society volunteer and golfing buddy of Wade Buchanan, Bishop said he knows him as a gentleman without pretense. Buchanan inspires others to service their community, Bishop added.

"He's a person you can't say no to," Bishop said.

Bishop introduced Buchanan as the Blue Ridge Bar Association presented him with the Liberty Bell Award last April, he said.

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POOLS: Local lawmakers want pools open this summer

FROM PAGE 1A

Under current Georgia law, the EPD is authorized to prohibit the filling of installed public and private swimming pools during extreme drought conditions except when necessary for health care or structural integrity.

Senate Bill 368, authored by Sen. Chip Rogers, R-Woodstock, and House Bill 1005, authored by Rep. Sean Jerguson, R-Holly Springs, are identical and aim to remove the power to make the swimming pool decision from Couch. Co-sponsors of the House Bill include Rep. Calvin Hill, R-Canton, and Rep. Charlice Byrd, R-Woodstock.



"There is absolutely Hill no evidence that closing swimming pools will noticeably impact our drought situation," Rogers said.

"A person who makes a decision with the impact of that type needs

to be an elected official," he said, noting that conserving water by shutting down pools could cripple a \$150-million industry and keep youth swim teams from competing.

"Swim teams are a major form of recreation in just about every neighborhood in Cherokee County," Rogers said. "The benefits don't come close to the costs. You would take away one of the single best forms of exercise for our kids."

Jerguson said the state's water issues are a matter of management, not a matter of water availability.

"According to official reports I have seen, pools present no strain on our state's water resources, and, so, for the EPD to attempt to choke the life out of this... industry and leave our citizens in landlocked areas without a way to stay cool this summer is simply egregious."

Jerguson said a "huge number" of citizens have approached him regarding the possible closing of pools over the summer.

"It's not just the pool industry, it's people in neighborhood associations, and swim teams," Jerguson said. "The pool industry and the industries surrounding it, that's a \$600 million total impact. There's no reason to decimate that section of the economy. EPD made the decision to do that to the green industry last fall, and there's a lot of people going bankrupt."

Jerguson agreed with Rogers that the person making the water restriction decisions should have the accountability that comes with being an elected official.

Byrd pointed out that job opportunities for teenagers would take a blow, because lifeguard jobs, along with jobs at Six Flags and White-water, would not be available.

She also wondered if pools left out of service at half-full levels would be cleaned often enough to

prevent stagnancy and mosquitoes.

Kevin Chambers, communications director for the EPD, said that his department would not comment on the legislation, because it makes it a practice not to comment on any legislation unless it is written by the EPD.

He said Couch is consulting with Gov. Sonny Perdue and "a decision is in the near future" as to whether Couch will keep the pools open.

"We're currently studying how much water it would involve," Chambers said.



Bert Brantley, Perdue's press secretary, said that Georgians have done a great job of conserving water, cutting use by almost 13 percent.

"At the end of the day, though, the EPD director has the authority to declare Level Four (drought restrictions)," Brantley said.

"She is the one that looks at conditions, and she doesn't make the decision without close consultation and agreement with the governor."

Brantley said Perdue understands the crisis

water restrictions cause economically within the landscaping industry and the pool industry, and he also will take into account quality of life and the recreational aspects of the decision.

"We understand time sensitivity of these decisions, and Carol has met with these industries to determine when they need to have a decision," he said. "She will balance their needs, managing the drought while mitigating economic and social implications."

Brantley said whatever decision is made, it may continue to be evaluated according to the continuing severity of the drought.

' According to official reports I have seen, pools present no strain on our state's water resources.'

Sean Jerguson
R-Holly Springs

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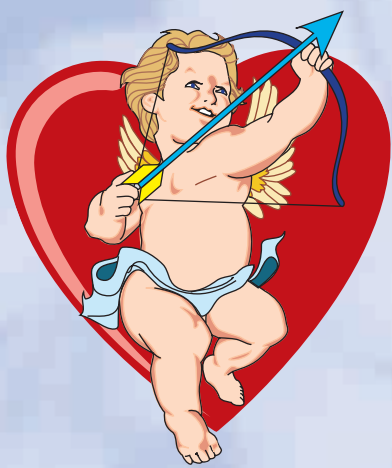
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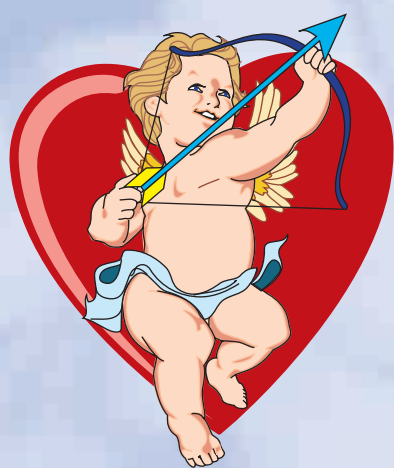
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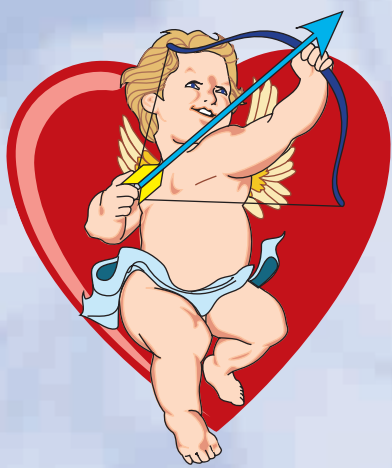
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Sheriff's office gets jail reimbursement for housing illegals

Officials continue to seek new ways to combat impact of undocumented criminals on taxpayers

BY ERIKA NELDNER
erikaneldner@ledgernews.com

Participation in a federal reimbursement program recently earned the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office almost \$122,000.

Every summer, the agency must apply for federal funding through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, which it has been doing since 2000. The sheriff's office must provide statistical records and information to the Bureau of Justice Administration.

"We are always looking for ways we can lessen the burden to the taxpayers," Sheriff Roger Garrison said.

The SCAAP program awards money to local agencies for housing undocumented criminal aliens. Since 2000, the county has received \$732,452 in federal reimbursements.

Recent numbers show the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center was housing 46 non-U.S. citizens, or 9 percent of the 507 total inmates. The jail's capacity is 512 inmates.

Since Jan. 1, 131 non-U.S. citizens entered the jail; 2,098

illegals were booked into the jail in 2007, officials say. At a cost of \$55 per day, the county paid about \$115,000 to house all 2,098 illegal inmates for one day.

The SCAAP offsets the cost of housing illegal aliens who have been arrested for three misdemeanors or a felony, said Sgt. Jay Baker, public information officer for the sheriff's office.

The money can be used for what the SCAAP guidelines call "correctional purposes," in the jail, which can include training for corrections deputies, inmate transport vehicles, medical treatment and deputy salaries.

"It's basically divvied up," Garrison said. "The money received used to go back in the general funding but the law changed. Now the money has to go back to the operation of the jail, so they are using it there."

Garrison is also taking another step for getting help with criminals who are undocumented. He has looked to Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., to help get an Immigration Customs Enforcement office in the Cherokee County jail.

Staff members from Chambliss' office have been in touch with the Department of Homeland Security to see what they can do for Cherokee County. The relatively recent issue is still in the infancy stages, but once staffers

meet with the Department of Homeland Security, they will get Garrison and his staff connected with the right people.

"When Sheriff Garrison contacted me to request an ICE agent for Cherokee County, I was pleased to contact the Department of Homeland Security to find a way to make this happen," Chambliss said. "Sheriff Garrison let me know he would like to more effectively and efficiently screen illegal aliens who enter the Cherokee County Detention Center."

Chambliss added, "I'm happy to help facilitate a stronger working relationship between local law enforcement and federal authorities to combat illegal immigration."

Garrison said he continues to watch Cobb County's experience with the 287(g) program, which provides for immigration training for local officers. The local officers can then act as ICE agents and enforce immigration and customs laws.

"We continue to closely monitor the 287 (g) program and how it is working and how it works in Cobb over a 12 month period," Garrison said.

Last year, the sheriff's office implemented an inmate tracking system that is helping jail officials to get informed statistics on how much undocumented criminals are affecting the county jail.



Garrison

Marshal's office gets state certification

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Cherokee County Marshal's Office has obtained the State Certification designation from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, county officials recently announced.

The county office is the third of 24 marshal agencies in Georgia to obtain certification, which the association issues for agencies that show high professional standards and policies, officials say.

"This certification is an exceptional accomplishment for the marshal's office and for Cherokee County," County Manager Jerry Cooper said.

Cooper credited Chief Marshal Ray Waters and his staff with working hard to garner the state certification from the association.

"They have worked tirelessly to meet the state certification standards, and I commend each of them," Cooper said. "The county strives to provide quality levels of service and this achievement is a means to this end."

The certification process involves a self-analysis stage in which the agency determines how it can adapt existing operations to meet 115 professional standards of the certification committee. The

initial stage is followed by a review by trained assessors to verify standards have been implemented, and a decision by a joint executive committee that the agency met the certification requirements.

"State certification will allow us to measure our performance, operate within sound policy and procedures and provide a level of service Cherokee County can be proud of," Waters said. "State certification is an accomplishment we are very excited about and proud to be the third marshal's office in the state of Georgia to obtain this certification."

The county marshal's office employs eight sworn law enforcement officers and seven civilians, Waters said.

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners is proud of the agency's achievement, said County Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens.

"Self-motivation and discipline are both vital and fundamental skills necessary when aspiring to achieve one's goals," Ahrens said. "The marshal's office voluntarily chose to seek state certification, and under the leadership and direction of Chief Ray Waters, they have obtained an honor that few marshal offices have."

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County officials to keep an eye on economies

BY TOM BROOKS
tombrooks@ledgernews.com

After the vote on Cherokee County government's 2008 budget, officials say they will continue to closely watch the performance of the local and national economies - and actions of the Georgia General Assembly that could affect revenue levels.

The proposed January-December budget for the county government totals \$177.8 million, which would be \$4.2 million lower than last year's \$182 million initial plan and the final \$183.5 million total with amendments placed in it over the course of the year, according to County Manager Jerry Cooper.



Cooper

The five-member Cherokee County Board of Commissioners were slated to vote on the 2008 budget during its Feb. 5 meeting, in the Justice Center in Canton. The meeting was to occur after press time.

County Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens said the budget plan introduced by County Manager Jerry Cooper, the county's chief budget officer, is conservative.

"Clearly, there's more public safety commitments," Ahrens said, citing the 50 public safety positions among the 77 new jobs in the budget plan.

While some of the jobs recommended in the budget proposal were listed for January starting dates, most of the starting dates are staggered through the fall of the year. The positions include firefighters, sheriff's deputies and support staff, assistant solicitors, human resources personnel

and others.

Cooper states in his summary of the budget plan that the county's elected officials would need to consider a hiring freeze of new positions if state lawmakers approve the elimination of the ad valorem tax on motor vehicles and property taxes for local school districts, which in Cherokee accounts for \$3.5 million.

Other proposals under review by lawmakers include proposals for caps on property tax assessments and millage rate increases.

"Any number of things can happen," Ahrens said of the legislative session and the proposals that could alter revenue resources in the county.

The county budget proposal is sound, Ahrens said.

"I think we've got a conservative, fiscally conservative responsible budget," Ahrens said.

Post 1 Commissioner Harry Johnston said the budget proposal is in line with the revenues already on hand, yet county officials will have to closely monitor funding as they draft the 2009 budget.

"I think the budget, as proposed, is pretty good," Johnston said.

Sales tax receipts will be closely monitored, the officials said.

Sales taxes, which account for almost 20 percent of the budget, are a key funding source for capital projects, including construction of roads, new government buildings and expansion of the Cherokee County Airport.

The county's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, took in almost \$31.7 million during 2007, which was a 0.24 percent increase over the level for 2006, records show.

Hill's credit report "freeze" bill passes Georgia House

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Georgia House of Representatives passed a bill on Jan. 30 that would allow the state's consumers to "freeze" their credit reports to guard against identify theft.

The chief sponsor of the legislation, House Bill 130, is State Rep. Calvin Hill, R-Canton.

Under HB 130, consumers would be able to make requests to the credit reporting agencies to place a freeze on their credit reports to prevent the reporting agencies from releasing consumers' credit report or credit score without the consumers' prior authorization, officials say.

Consumers can also lift the credit freeze as they wish to be able to make major purchases, including homes and cars, officials say.

HB 130 was approved by a 167-2

vote, and was sent to the Georgia Senate for its consideration.

"In this age of identify theft, we have a responsibility to provide our constituents with the tools necessary to protect themselves from criminals stealing their personal information and using it to live lavish lifestyles at other's expense," Hill said in a prepared statement.

"This legislation will allow Georgians to 'freeze' their credit report thereby preventing criminals from impersonating them and opening up credit cards, lines of credit and making outrageous purchases," Hill stated.

While the legislation introduced by Hill would have allowed for the reporting agencies to charge consumers a fee of up to \$10 for a freeze request, the Georgia House approved an amendment to the bill

that lowered the fee level to up to \$3 for the temporary or permanent freezes.

Lawmakers opposed to the higher fee level reportedly said consumers would face costly fees to submit freeze requests to the three major credit reporting agencies, up to \$30 per round of requests under the original version of legislation for an individual. The cost to the reporting agencies for processing the requests would be significantly less than the \$10 proposed in the bill as it reached the House floor, the officials reportedly said.

Hill reportedly voted against the amendment.

For information on the Georgia General Assembly, including votes by the House and Senate, legislation, and streaming video broadcasts, visit its Web site, www.legis.state.ga.us.

OFFICER: DA, sheriff confirm case

FROM PAGE 1A

"I won't name names or what the allegations are. It's an ongoing investigation and no charges have been filed certainly at this point because they're still investigating the matter," Garry Moss said.

Sheriff Roger Garrison said the district attorney called re-

questing their assistance.

"We were contacted by the district attorney's office stating he received a complaint," Garrison said. "He asked that we and the GBI investigate it."

Garrison said his office is simply providing office space for GBI agents to conduct interviews.

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Governor includes ATC Canton moneyBY CAROLYN MATHEWS
carolynmathews@ledgernews.com

Gov. Sonny Perdue's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget, under consideration by the Legislature, includes almost \$7.9 million for the Canton campus of Appalachian Technical College.

Local legislators say they aim to keep it there.

"It's high time we have a campus, with the growing we are doing in Cherokee," said Rep. Charlice Byrd, R-Woodstock.

The college received \$7 million in last year's state budget, although local legislators had requested the entire \$14 million necessary to build a campus in the Bluffs in Technology Park, which would serve an additional 2,300 students.

"This is great news for Cherokee County citizens," said Dr. Sanford Chandler, Appalachian Technical College president. "We are very appreciative to the governor for including the remaining funds needed for the Canton facility in the FY

09 Budget."

Chandler said the Cherokee delegation had been diligent in their efforts to see the Canton campus become a reality.

"We are thankful for their generous and dedicated support," he said.

Twenty-five acres, located in The Bluffs in Technology Park, were donated by TPA Realty Services to Appalachian Technical College for the campus. Seven million dollars was approved by the governor in the FY08 Budget providing for a 30,000-square-foot space. The allocation of the project funds in the FY 09 Budget will allow for college officials to look at completing the initial concept of the facility enabling them to offer more programs, Chandler said.

However, legislators are guarding against the money being re-appropriated before the budget is approved.

"Nothing's ever a done deal," said Rep. Calvin Hill, R-Canton. "This is the other half, that we

planned would come this year. It would have been nice if it had come in one year, but this is the second installment."

Hill said the Cherokee delegation would do everything it could to see that the money remains in the budget. Hill said the appropriation has the backing of the Chairman of Higher Education Bob Smith.

Sen. Chip Rogers, R-Woodstock, said the Cherokee delegation is united in its efforts to keep the Canton campus money in the budget. "We fully anticipate it will be there at the top of the priority list."

Byrd said the legislators plan to keep an eye on the money.

"We're going to hover over everyone to make sure it remains there," she said. "You have to continue to watch that no one else bumps you off during the budget process."

Appalachian Technical College currently has campuses in Woodstock and Jasper as well as learning centers in Fannin and Gilmer counties.

NEWS BRIEFS**ATC is SACS accreditation candidate**

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools approved the Application for Accreditation for Appalachian Technical College in Jasper at the 2007 Commission Annual Meeting in New Orleans recently.

"This is the next step for the college toward receiving Initial Accreditation by COC," said Dr. Sanford Chandler, president of Appalachian Technical College. "The faculty and staff have demonstrated immense dedication and commitment to the SACS/COC accreditation process."

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is the recognized regional accrediting body in the eleven U.S. Southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and in Latin America for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. The Commission on Colleges is the representative body of the College Delegate Assembly and is charged with carrying out the accreditation process.

ATC will now be visited by an Accreditation Committee, conducted sometime in 2008. The visiting team will delve deeper into the college's policies, practices and learning outcomes, after which the college hopes to be granted accreditation.

Chandler said college accreditation will allow students better transfer options for students within the Technical College System of Georgia and open the

possibility of partnerships with areas colleges and universities.

The college currently is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education.

ATC is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia. Associate degree, professional diplomas and technical certificates of credit are available for today's existing and emerging career fields. Accredited by the Council on Occupational Education, the college offers day, evening and online courses at its Jasper and Woodstock campuses. Financial aid is available to those who qualify including the HOPE Grant. In addition, the college also offers continuing education courses, corporate customized training and adult education services. For information, call (706) 253-4500 or visit www.AppalachianTech.edu.

Emergency management office gets a certification

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management recently received the National Weather Service STORMREADY certification through 2010. Members of the STORMREADY advisory board reviewed the operating procedures, equipment and training of the emergency operation center in late 2007—the board voted to renew Cherokee County's certification for the next two years.

STORMREADY is a National Weather Service program that recognizes counties that reach a high level of severe weather preparedness, said EMA Director Robby Westbrook.

EMA first received the certification in 2001.



Chandler

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LAW & ORDER

■ **Five people involved in a robbery and high-speed chase in Canton last year were indicted by the January term of the Cherokee County Grand Jury.** Rhoda Marie Gaston, 41, of Riverdale; Robert Darnell Gaston, 18, of Riverdale; Aisha Graham, 18, of Hampton; Drayco Mattison, 26, of Lima, S.C.; and Jeremy Tavone Womack, 21, of Jonesboro, were indicted on charges of armed robbery, aggravated assault, false imprisonment and burglary for their alleged involvement in the Nov. 13 robbery of Galaxy Check Cashiers. The high-speed chase, which ended in a wreck on the interstate in Marietta, killed the sixth suspect, Dorian Lamont Taylor, 23. Mattison, who was driving the fleeing vehicle, reportedly still faces charges in Marietta for reckless driving and vehicular homicide. After the robbery, where the suspects allegedly tied up employees of the check cashing business, the group fled, driving 80 mph in a 35 mph zone on Marietta Highway. A police sergeant initiated a traffic stop, but the driver refused to stop and headed south on Interstate 575. Holly Springs and the Cherokee

County Sheriff's Office assisted. Mattison allegedly tried to exit quickly onto the Ga. 120 loop southbound at Interstate 75 when he lost control causing the car to flip. Taylor was ejected from the car and was pronounced dead on the scene.

■ **A Canton man was arrested Jan. 24 in connection with an armed robbery and aggravated assault at Shon's Auto Service in Cobb County.** The robbery happened Dec. 31 around 4:45 p.m. on Lower Roswell Road. The owner told police he was struck in the head with a blunt object, and the suspect grabbed the victim's car keys and left, said Sgt. Dana Pierce, public information officer for Cobb police. When the suspect tried to leave in the victim's vehicle, the victim fought back, but the suspect got away. After further investigation, police arrested Anthony Aduchee Johnson, 21, of Canton, and charged him with armed robbery and aggravated



Johnson

assault, Pierce said. He was taken to the Cobb County jail.

■ **Holly Springs police responded to a burglary at the Pizza Hut & Wings To Go on Holly Springs Parkway Jan. 29 just before midnight.** The delivery person noticed the back door of the business was forced open and called police. Once a manager got to the scene, she was able to tell police a few things weren't in their right places and two monitors were missing, the report said. The value of the monitors was not listed on the report. No arrests were made at the time of the report.

■ **Cherokee County sheriff's deputies responded to a business burglary in the 6800 block of Reinhardt College Parkway in Waleska at about 1:15 a.m. Jan. 26.** The alarm went off, and when police arrived they saw the front door had been smashed, the report said. The owner was contacted and told police there was a surveillance video, which showed two figures, the report said. There were also tracks in the grass. Nothing was taken from

the business, the report said.

■ **A Canton homeowner called the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Jan. 27 after finding his home had been burglarized.** The homeowner told police the burglary of his Charles Burgess Drive home happened sometime before 2 p.m. the previous day. Items stolen from the house include a firearm and several pieces of jewelry with precious stones, the report said. The estimated value of the items stolen is about \$7,200, the report said. No arrests were made at the time of the report.

■ **Cherokee County sheriff's deputies responded to a burglary alarm on BridgeMill Avenue Jan. 27 at about 4 p.m.** The officer saw the garage was open and went inside to check the home, the report said. While he was inside, the homeowners returned and were asked to check for missing items. They told police some of the woman's jewelry was missing, the report said. The homeowners also told police they suspected a family member of committing the crime, the report

said. The estimated value of the items stolen is about \$5,000, the report said. No arrests were made at the time of the report.

■ **Woodstock police arrested three people on drug charges Jan. 23 after a routine traffic stop.** The officer saw the pickup didn't have a working tag light and stopped the vehicle at Woodstock Parkway and Sherwood Forest Drive. The officer saw the passengers moving around in a "frantic manner" as they were being pulled over, the report said. The officer spoke with all three people who allegedly gave three different explanations of where they were coming from and going, the report said. A search of the car turned up several suspected rocks of cocaine, the report said. James William Crowe, 29, of Woodstock, was charged with possession of cocaine and non-moving traffic violation, the report said. His passengers, Shannon N. Summerville, 23, and Truman Lee Foster, 27, both of Woodstock, were charged with possession of cocaine, the report said. Foster was also charged with violation of probation, the report said.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment items must be typed and submitted by noon the Wednesday before the desired publication date. Send entries to erikaneldner@ledgernews.com or fax them to 1 (888) 761-1993.

AUDITIONS

■ The Towne Lake Arts Center, 6576 Commerce Parkway, Woodstock, is holding auditions for ages 8 & up for "Stuart Little," and for ages 14 through adult for "A Midsummer Night's Dream - through Feb. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. by appointment only. "Stuart Little" auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. "Midsummer" auditioners must prepare 20 lines of Shakespeare. Rehearsal times and dates are at www.tlalive.org and distributed at auditions. Performances are scheduled April 12 to May 3. Call (678)-494-4251 to make an appointment.

LIVE MUSIC

■ Reinhardt College's Falany Performing Arts Center presents artist-in-residence George Lucktenberg Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. Lucktenberg will present a concert of music by Eastern European composers. The concert is free and tickets aren't required. For information, call (770) 720-9167 or go to www.reinhardt.edu/fpac.

■ The Cherokee County Music Society presents its second CCMS showcase Feb. 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Little River Grill, 6979 Bells Ferry Road, Canton. The

Rustic Family is set to play from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.; Ronnie Brown Band will play from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.; and Rizer will play from 8 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. For more information about CCMS, go to www.serge.org/cherokeecountymusic.

■ The Historic Canton Theatre, 171 East Main Street, Canton, presents Bob Geresti Piano Magic Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. Call for ticket prices. For information call (770) 704-0755 or go to www.cantontheatre.com.

ON STAGE

■ The Towne Lake Arts Center, 6576 Commerce Parkway, Woodstock, presents "Will You Be Mine?" Feb. 14-16 at 8 p.m. The special evening includes memorable love scenes and love songs. Ticket prices include hot and cold appetizers before the show and dessert at intermission. The cost is \$20 per person. For information call (678) 494-4251 or go to www.tlalive.org.

■ The historic Canton Theatre presents "Stand Up! When Comedy was Funny," Feb. 29 and March 1 at 8 p.m. and March 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22.50 for adults, \$20.50 for seniors and \$18.50 for children. Impressionist Bill Oberst Jr., known for his turns as Lewis Grizzard and JFK on the Canton Theatre stage, brings the stand-up comedy of the 1960's to life. For more information call (770) 704-0755 or go to www.cantontheatre.com.

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RESTAURANT REPORTS

Inspections are provided by the Cherokee County Health Department. Scores are based on a scale of 1-100. Violations are in three categories: general, critical and hazardous. To contact the health department, call (770) 479-0444.

CHINA BAY III

300 Village Center Dr., Woodstock
Inspection date: Jan. 2
Current score: 88-B
Previous score: 89-B

Violations: All coolers must have accurate thermometers placed in the warmest part of the cooler. All food scoops must have handles that are kept out of food product. Cutting boards must be maintained to be free of stains and deep cuts. All food must be stored six inches off the floor. All potentially hazardous food must be properly date marked with a seven-day limit. All chemicals must be properly stored and labeled. Knives and meat cleavers must not be stored between equipment. Floor in cooler must be repaired.

DOWN HOME CAFÉ

5060 Sugar Pike Junction
Inspection date: Jan. 3
Current score: 93-A
Previous score: 95-A

Violations: Wipe cloth sanitizer at 0-ppm of chlorine. Chicken on line at 125 degrees; must be at 135 degrees or above or use time as control and discard after four hours. Knife handle must not come in contact with ready-to-eat food on prep table. Must have air gap for three-compartment sink, dish machine and both prep sinks. Damaged floors must be repaired. Must install light shield for serving lines.

CAPITAL CITY CLUB

4115 Earny Rd., Woodstock
Inspection date: Jan. 3
Current score: 92-A
Previous score: 92-A
Violations: Expired milk dated 1/1/08. All potentially hazardous food must be properly date marked with a seven-day limit. All chemicals must be properly stored and labeled. All equipment and food storage must be six inches off the floor.

CANTON SPORTS BAR

203 Marietta Rd., Ste. 207, Canton
Inspection date: Jan. 3
Current score: 93-A
Previous score: 99-A
Violations: Meat slicer must be cleaned before storage. Must date mark all potentially hazardous food with a seven-day limit for discard. Home Defense bug killer is not EPA-registered for use in food service and must be discarded. Must have employee health policy.

DOS MARGARITAS II

111 Mountain Vista Blvd., Canton
Inspection date: Jan. 3
Current score: 90-A
Previous score: 91-A

Violations: All heat lamps must have shielded bulbs. All chemicals must be properly labeled and must be stored away from food or equipment. All food containers must air dry before stacking. Ice machine must be cleaned. Ceiling tile must be replaced in areas of repaired water leak.

CJAYS CORNER KITCHEN

10150 Ballground Highway, Ballground
Inspection date: Jan. 3
Current score: 96-A
Previous score: 97-A

Violations: Personal beverages must be kept in a single service container and stored away from food prep surfaces. Personal food items must be stored separately from customer food supply. Mop bucket needs to be kept in designated area when not in use. Meat sink needs to be sealed to wall. Raw wood not approved material in food service area. Cutting board needs to be resurfaced. Potentially hazardous food items prepared and held more than 24 hours must be date marked. Need to include disclosure for raw or undercooked foods.

PEKING & TOKYO

200 Park Brooke Dr., Woodstock
Inspection date: Jan. 4
Current score: 87-B
Previous score: 96-A

Violations: Dish washer must wash hands after prepping raw chicken and before handling clean dishes. Dish washer must not use a common towel to dry his hands- must use paper towels at hand washing

station. All food containers must air dry before stacking.

MIYOSHI JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE

17976 Ga. 92, Woodstock
Inspection date: Jan. 4
Current score: 86-B
Previous score: 97-A

Violations: Raw fish must be stored below ready-to-eat foods (lemons). All chemicals must be properly labeled and stored away from food items and utensils. Rice cooker must air dry before covering with lid for storage. Must post consumer advisory. Must provide HACCP plan for sushi rice.

THE GATHERING PLACE

6787 Reinhardt College Parkway, Waleska

Inspection date: Jan. 8
Current score: 92-A
Previous score: 94-A

Violations: not available

GREAT WALL

8014 Cumming Highway, Canton
Inspection date: Jan. 9

Current score: 90-A
Previous score: 94-A

Violations: Food containers cannot be wiped out with dirty unsanitized cloths. All food containers must go through a wash, rinse, sanitize procedure and then air dry before storage. All wipe cloths must be clean and returned back to sanitizing solution for storage. All bulk food containers must be free of cracks and melted lids. Cutting boards must be maintained. All potentially hazardous food stored over 24 hours must be properly date marked with a seven-day limit. Back door must be self-closing.

HAWKS RIDGE

1100 Hawks Club Dr., Ballground
Inspection date: Jan. 9

Current score: 95-A
Previous score: 89-B

Violations: All chemicals must be properly stored away from food items and utensils. All food containers must air dry before stacking. Must have consumer advisory posted on menu or posted for public viewing.

SEE RESTAURANTS, PAGE 19A

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RESTAURANT REPORTS

MCDONALD'S

8008 Cumming Highway, Canton
 Inspection date: Jan. 9
 Current score: 96-A
 Previous score: 92-A
 Violations: All food containers must air dry before stacking. Must store all boxes six inches off the floor. Must install back flow preventer at mop sink faucet. Exterior freezer door must be repaired and ice buildup around door gasket must be defrosted to allow door to properly close.

STARBUCKS AT KROGER

2295 Towne Lake Parkway, Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 10
 Current score: 97-A
 Previous score: 98-A
 Violations: All storage must be six inches off the floor.

DOMINO'S PIZZA #4125

12195 Ga. 92, Ste. 428, Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 10
 Current score: 94-A
 Previous score: 90-A
 Violations: All handwash sinks must be supplied with paper towels. All food containers must air dry before stacking. Light shield in back kitchen must be replaced. All storage in hot water closet must be six inches off the floor (repeat violation).

EL JINETE MEXICAN

12910 Ga. 92, Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 10
 Current score: 86-B
 Previous score: 96-A
 Violations: Must not cross contaminate raw meat and raw shrimp with vegetable prep. All wet and dirty wipe cloths must be properly stored in sanitizer or laundry bag for washing. All potentially hazardous food must be properly date marked with a seven-day limit. Must have hot water while in operation. Hot water heater must be checked for compliance. Gooseneck sprayer must hang above flood rim of sink.

ROSSA ITALIAN CUISINE

12195 Ga. 92, Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 10
 Current score: 83-B
 Previous score: 93-A
 Violations: All handwash stations

must be accessible and properly supplied with soap and paper towels. All potentially hazardous food must be reheated to a minimum of 165 degrees and then placed on steam table to hold at 135 degrees or above. All chemicals must be properly labeled and stored. Person in charge must demonstrate knowledge about cooling and reheating food. All potentially hazardous food must be properly date marked with a seven-day limit.

AFC SUSHI

2295 Towne Lake Parkway, Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 10
 Current score: 97-A
 Previous score: 98-A
 Violations: Wipe cloths with sanitizer too high. Must post HACCP plan for sushi rice.

SAIGON CAFÉ

12195 Ga. 92, Ste. 132, Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 11
 Current score: 79-C
 Previous score: 87-B
 Violations: All handwash sinks must be accessible and be supplied with soap and paper towels. No food prep is allowed in these sinks. Sprouts must be maintained at 41 degrees or below. Raise ice level to ensure proper temperature of these food items. All thermometers must be accurate within three degrees. Wipe cloth sanitizer at 0-ppm and must be at 100-ppm of chlorine. Angel hair pasta at 66 degrees and must be kept at 135 degrees or above. All food containers must be properly cleaned and air dried before stacking. Dish machine at 0-ppm, and it must be no less than 50-ppm of chlorine. Must obtain test strips for monitoring.

VILLA ROMA

1025 Rose Creek Dr., Woodstock
 Inspection date: Jan. 11
 Current score: 80-B
 Previous score: 98-A
 Violations: Employee drinks must have lids and straws in a single serve cup and must be properly stored. Pizza cooler at 54 degrees; sausage at 50 degrees - all cold potentially hazardous food must be kept at 41 degrees or below. All chemicals must be la-

beled and properly stored away from food or utensil storage. All food containers must air dry before stacking. Back door must be repaired with self-closing device and weather strip to keep vermin out of facility. Potentially hazardous food must be date marked with seven-day limit if kept for more than 24 hours.

CAFÉ 190

190 East Main St., Canton
 Inspection date: Jan. 14
 Current score: 95-A
 Previous score: 97-A (open)
 Violations: Potentially hazardous food prepared and held more than 24 hours must be date marked with a seven-day limit. Raw potentially hazardous food must be stored in order of cooking temperature (walk-in cooler). Anyone preparing food must wear approved hair restraint. Wipe cloths must be stored in sanitizing solution between uses. Tongs and other dispensing utensils cannot be stored in standing water unless water temperature is 135 degrees or above. Gloves must be changed when changing tasks and hands must also be washed (food prep to walk-in and then back). Plumbing leak at handsink on cook line must be repaired.

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KEVIN LEMAY

Church News items must be typed and submitted to The Cherokee Ledger-News the Wednesday before publication date. Send items by e-mail to editor@ledgernews.com or fax to (888) 761-1989. Please include address of event and contact number.

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, will present

international Christian artist John Michael Talbot in a Lenten concert Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. Talbot is a former country rock musician who founded a monastery in the Ozark Mountains, as well as the Catholic Association of Musicians. Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information, call (770) 516-0009.

EASTER SERVICES

■ St. Michael the Archangel Church, 490 Arnold Mill Road, Woodstock, will hold the following Easter services and events: Lenten Penance service, March 10 at 7 p.m.; Lenten fish fry, Fridays, through March 14 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. (Spanish); Eucharistic Adoration, Monday at 9:30 a.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; Tenebrae Lenten Reflection and Benediction, March 15 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (770) 516-0009.

■ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1208 Rose Creek Drive, Woodstock, will hold the following Easter services and events: midweek service, Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 6, at noon and 7:30 p.m.; Palm/Passion Sunday, March 16 at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Maundy Thursday, March 20 at noon, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Good Friday, March 21 at noon and 8 p.m.; Easter Sunrise service, March 23 at 7 a.m.; Easter Sunday, March 23 at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information, call (770) 924-7286.

FUNDRAISERS

■ Woodstock Community Church, 8534 Main St., will hold a Kid-n-Stuff sale Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Feb 9. from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (770) 516-0023.

NEW SYNAGOGUE

■ A new Reform synagogue, Congregation Ner Tamid, has formed in west Cobb to serve Kennesaw, north Marietta, Dallas, Woodstock, Cartersville, Douglasville, and all surrounding areas. Tot Shabbat is held the second Friday of every month, and Shabbat service is held the fourth Friday of every month. For more information, email westcobbsynagogue@yahoo.com or call (678) 264-8575.

CLASSES

■ Hickory Flat United Methodist Church, 4056 East Cherokee Dr., Canton, is holding a free preparatory course for the GED test that includes testing an individual's skill levels and designing a course of study. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and duration depends on individual

needs. For more information, call (770) 345-7060.

PRAYER/STUDY GROUPS

■ Moms in Touch is an interdenominational ministry made up of mothers who gather and pray for schools, the children and the teachers. For more information, call (770) 407-1665 or visit www.momsintouch.org.

INTEREST GROUPS

■ The Cherokee County Right To Life Chapter meets on the first Tuesday of each month at New Covenant Bible Church, 1095 Scott Road, Canton.

REVIVALS

■ Waleska Church of God of Prophecy, on the corner of Highway 108 and Dry Pond Lane, will hold a revival with "The Sisters," evangelists Dottie Williams & Sherry Clark, through Feb 8 at 7 p.m. nightly and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (770) 214-8343.

PRESCHOOL

■ Community Christian School, a ministry of Canton Community Church, has begun registration for the 3- and 4-year-old morning programs. For more information, call (770) 479-9535 or visit ccscanton.com.

■ Hopewell Preschool will be accepting applications for fall 2008 Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. A variety of schedules are available Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (770) 345-0989.

■ Woodstock United Methodist Preschool is now enrolling children for fall 2008 classes for ages 18 months through pre-K. For more information, call (678) 232-3131.

■ Mt. Zion Baptist Preschool will be holding registration for Fall 2008 preschool classes Feb. 8 at 9 a.m. Classes offered are for 18 months through age 4. For more information, call (770) 479-8058.

■ Canton First UMC preschool will begin registering children for the 2008-09 school year Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. A curriculum is offered for children ages 1-4. For more information, call (770) 720-3225.

■ Waleska UMC Preschool, located on the campus of Reinhardt College, is offering early enrollment for their 2-, 3- and 4-year-old preschool classes for the 2008-09 school year. A registration discount is offered if fees are paid by Feb. 29. For details and registration forms, call Tina at (770) 843-0400.

YOUNG CHEROKEE

■ Cadet Franklin Andrew Borders of Canton was recently named to the dean's list at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, during the fall 2007 semester. Borders earned a Gold Star for achieving a 3.7 or higher grade point average. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Martin Borders.

■ Gail A. Blalock and Jon D. Putnam of Woodstock made the merit list at Darton College for the fall 2007 semester.

■ Two Woodstock students have made the fall 2007 dean's list at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. Furman's dean's list is composed of full-time undergraduate students who earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher. They are, Don W. Fruman, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Thomas Fruman, and Abby M. Robertson, daughter of Al Robertson.

■ Angie J. Walker of Ball Ground earned her Certified Medical Assistant credential after graduating from the medical assisting program at Appalachian Technical College in Jasper. She is continuing to pursue an associate degree in health science at North Metro Technical College in Acworth.

■ Crystal Stoddart of Woodstock, who has trained with Barbizon Modeling, recently won 2008 Barbizon Model of the Year. The 17-year-old will do a six-page photo shoot for Pageantry Magazine and has received several offers from fashion and modeling agents.

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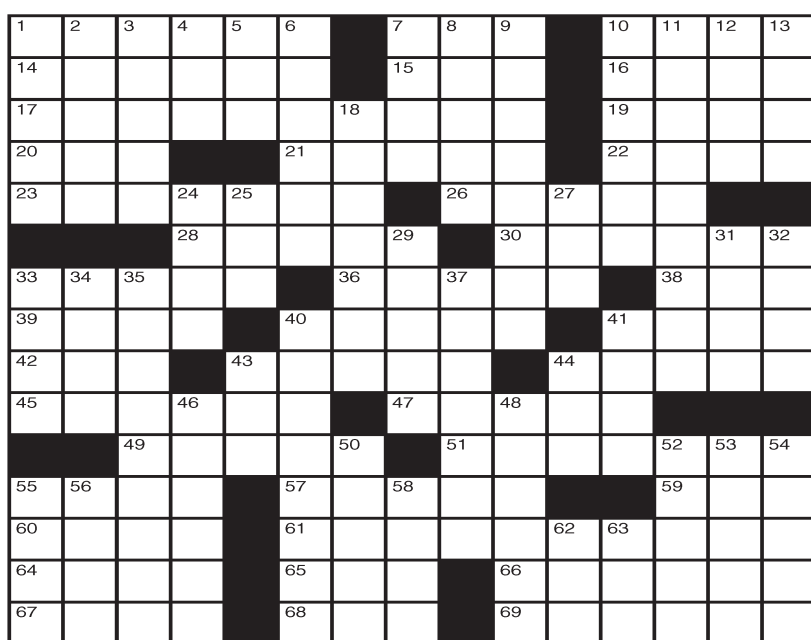


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30 More regal
33 Hunter of stars?
36 Picture in picture
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40 Aromatic wood
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44 Actress Black
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41 European defense assn.
43 Bossy's bellow
44 Little nipper
46 Wild and crazy
48 Invitees
50 Longhorn
52 Capital near Casablanca
53 Domicile
54 Monica of tennis
55 Burn slightly
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58 Not fooled by
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63 Med. scan



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY
Weekly Puzzle Solved



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CHEROKEE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight items must be typed and submitted to the Ledger-News the Wednesday before publication date. Send entries to editor@ledgernews.com or fax them to (888) 761-1989. Please include address of event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Cherokee County Recreation and Parks Authority, the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and the Cherokee Fire Department will hold the second annual Guns & Hoses 5K run to raise money for charity Feb. 23 at Hobgood Park in Woodstock. Participants can sign up to run with Guns or Hoses team, and \$5 of the entry fee will go toward charity. Registration fee is \$18 before the race, or \$23 the day of the race. For more information, or to register, go to www.ccpa.net.

■ Cherokee County Senior Services will host the 2nd annual Black History Awareness Celebration Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 5323 Bells Ferry Road, Acworth. The event is free to the public and will include guest speakers and a light lunch. For more information, call (678) 493-7917 or (770) 345-1224.

FUNDRAISERS

■ Macedonia Elementary will hold a bingo fundraiser from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 9 in the gym. Cards are \$1 each or \$30 for a play-all-day card. Barbecue will be sold at the event.

■ The North Metro Mothers of Multiples Club will hold a consignment sale March 8 at Northside Christian Church, 3535 Shallowford Road, Marietta. Items include gently used infant's and children's seasonal apparel, toys, equipment, layette, maternity and more. For more information, visit www.northmetromultiples.org.

■ The Woodstock Wolverines Baseball program will host its 11th Annual Queen of Diamonds Pageant and 2nd Annual Jr. Queen of Diamonds Pageant at Woodstock High School, 2010 Towne Lake Hills South Dr., March 15 at 6 p.m. Deadline to enter is March 3; entry cost is \$60 for high-school girls and \$40 for middle-school girls. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Children 10 and under are free. For more information, call (770) 926-0135.

■ The 10th annual Cherokee High School Queen of Diamonds pageant will be held March 1 at Cherokee High School. All proceeds benefit the Cherokee High School Baseball program. For more information, call Jennifer Hinton at (678) 493-2216.

■ The Cherokee County Volunteer Aging Council will hold its 8th Annual Gala fundraiser for Cherokee County senior citizens March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at The Terrace at Riverstone. There will be music and dancing, live and silent auctions, and food. The Aging Council is also seeking auction donations, event sponsors and advertisers. All contributions are tax deductible. For more information, call (678) 269-6677.

■ The Holly Springs Founder's Day Committee is hosting a fundraiser luncheon Feb. 24 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Holly Springs Community Center (old train depot). All proceeds will benefit the Holly Springs Volunteer Fire Department. Meals cost \$5 for adults, which includes spaghetti, salad, and bread, and \$3 for kids, which includes a hot dog, chips, and cookie. Family tickets are also available for \$15, which includes three spaghetti plates and one hot dog plate. To purchase tickets

early, or for more information, contact Kelli Maselli at (770) 345-5536.

BLOOD DRIVES

■ The American Red Cross has the following blood drives scheduled for Cherokee County: **Feb. 11** from 2:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 2795 Ridge Road, Canton. (Free spaghetti dinner for all donors.); **Feb. 12** at Hillside UMC, 4474 Towne Lake Parkway, Woodstock, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CLASSES

■ The AARP is sponsoring a Driver Safety course Feb. 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dining Room at the Lake Arrowhead Yacht and Country Club in Waleska. Those who complete the course may be eligible for discounts on auto insurance. Cost is \$10 per adult, and the class is open to all ages. The class is free for teenagers accompanied by an enrolled adult. For more information, or to register, call Brenda Daly at (770) 479-6125.

■ A Family History and Genealogy workshop will be held Feb. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Funk Heritage Center on the campus of Reinhardt College in Waleska. Participants include Ken Thomas, genealogy columnist, Earl Cagle, president of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Valerie Frey, former archivist with Georgia Department of Archives and History, and Scott Hodges, a professional historical re-enactor. Reserve a seat by sending a check for \$15 to Funk Heritage Center, 7300 Reinhardt College Circle, Waleska, Ga. 30183. Lunch will be available for \$7 or bring your own. For more information, call (770) 720-5970.

■ The Holly Springs Police Department will hold a Citizen's Police Academy beginning March 18 and held each Tuesday for 10 weeks from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Holly Springs Police Department. The Citizen's Academy will offer instruction in a wide variety of subject matter that includes patrol functions, burglary prevention and detection, narcotics identification, firearm safety, search techniques, criminal law/procedures, traffic law, DUI detection and identity theft prevention. Space is limited and applications to attend must be completed by Feb. 15. Anyone interested in participating can contact Lt. Brannen Pruette by phone at (770) 345-5537 ext. 210 or via e-mail at bpruette@hollysprings-ga.net.

GARDENING

■ The Cherokee County Master Gardeners and the Cherokee County Extension will present a "Water Smart Landscape Design" workshop March 11, 13, 18, 25 and 27. The March 11 workshop is from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the other classes are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All classes will be held at Cherokee County High School cafeteria. The workshop is designed for beginners and limited to 25 couples. There is a fee of \$50. For more information, or to register, call (770) 479-0418.

■ The Cherokee County Master Gardeners will present free gardening classes at the Hickory Flat Library in Woodstock from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 9, "The Wonderful World of Roses," will discuss planning the selection and care of roses for your garden; Feb. 16, "Pruning Demystified," will discuss winter pruning of trees and shrubs. Seating is limited. For more information, and to register, call (770) 479-0418.

SENIORS

■ The AARP Chapter of Woodstock meets the second Tuesday of each month at 11:15 a.m. at Woodstock Family Country Buffet, 9425 Ga. 92, Woodstock. Everyone 50 and older is invited to attend. For more information, call (770) 917-9318.

■ The Cherokee County Senior Citizens Center's satellite group meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 5323 Bells Ferry Road, Woodstock. Everyone age 60 or older is invited to attend. For more information, call (678) 445-7252.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

■ The Pilot Club of Cherokee County meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Featherstone's at Bridge Mill, 1190 Bridgemill Avenue, Canton. For more information, call (770) 393-1766 or email Lynda@edgood-winassociates.com.

■ The Rotary Club of Cherokee County meets Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, I-575 at exit 20, adjacent to Wal-Mart in Canton. For more information, call (770) 517-4504.

VFW

■ Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5262 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Moose Loop Road in south Canton. All eligible veterans are invited to attend. For more information, contact Commander George Moore at (770) 479-1249 or visit www.vfwpost5262.org.

BINGO

■ Women of the Moose Canton Chapter 972 has bingo at the Canton Moose Family Center, 278 Moose Loop Road, every Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and every Sunday at 3 p.m.

SADDLE CLUB

■ Cherokee County Saddle Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at Slapshots Bar and Grille, 185 Woodstock Parkway, Woodstock. For more information, contact Marianne Torchia at (770) 757-2282 or by e-mail at maretorch@aol.com.

THE ARTS

■ The Cherokee County Music Society will meet Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at Jaw's Guitars, 4251 Cumming Highway, Canton. The meeting is open to all musicians, songwriters, industry professionals, venues/events/festivals, and any businesses or merchants located in Cherokee County involved in the music business. For more information, call (770) 479-0253.

■ The Georgia Art Exchange meets every Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 8295 Ga. 92, Suite B, Woodstock, for informal/social sessions aimed at developing future Georgia Art promotions. All are welcome. For more information, call (770) 882-5911.

■ The Christian Authors Guild meets at Prayer and Praise Christian Fellowship in Woodstock on the first and third Mondays of each month. Call (770) 928-2588 or visit www.christianauthors-guild.org.

SINGLES

■ A group for singles ages 50 and older meets every Tuesday at Donny's restaurant in Canton at 6 p.m. for dinner, conversation and to make new friends. For more information, call Kathy (770) 345-5204.

PET OF THE WEEK



Rusty 9279

Rusty is a 7-year-old orange and white domestic short-hair cat. He is up to date on shots, has been neutered and will be microchipped before adoption. Rusty tested negative for feline AIDS and leukemia. His owner surrendered him to the Cherokee County Animal Shelter July 21 because of allergies. Adoptions cost \$75 for cats and dogs, and include the first round of shots, spay/neuter and microchip. The shelter is located on Univeter Road, and is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (770) 345-7270.

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CHEROKEE SPOTLIGHT

POLITICAL

■ The Cherokee County Democratic Party meets the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Holly Springs Community Center, 100 Hickory Circle off Ga. 5. The group also holds a breakfast meeting the first Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Ryan's on Riverstone Parkway in Canton and a monthly "Meet-Up" on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Slapshots in Woodstock. For more information, call (770) 345-3489 or visit www.cherokeedems.com.

■ The Cherokee County Libertarian Party meets the last Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Rose Creek Library in Towne Lake. Visit www.ga.lp.org/cherokee.

■ The Cherokee County Republican Party meets for breakfast the first Saturday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Right Wing Tavern in the old train depot on Main Street in Woodstock. Call (678) 520-2236 or (770) 345-2677 for more information.

■ Ga. Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine and Rep. Sean Jerguson, R-Holly Springs, will be the guest speakers at the Cherokee County Republican Women's Club dinner at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at Bridge Mill Country Club on Bells Ferry Road in Canton. For more information, call (678) 520-2236 or visit www.ccrwcga.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

■ A USMC support group (friends and family) is forming in Hickory Flat and will meet the first Monday of each month. For more information, contact Vikki at lyfe@windstream.net or (678) 592-4534.

■ A cancer support group is held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1208 Rose Creek Drive, Woodstock, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information,

call (770) 403-3610 or (770) 924-7286.

■ The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Cherokee/Pickens Family Support Group meets the second Saturday of every month using one of the River Green subdivision's amenity areas in Canton. For more information about juvenile diabetes or the family support group's meetings, contact Tom Brodell at (770) 630-0987 or tom@brushwithart.com.

■ Emotions Anonymous, a 12-step group to help people cope with the stress of daily living, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1208 Rose Creek Drive, Woodstock. For more information, call Sherry at (770) 926-1889 or Cindy at (770) 928-6554.

■ Woodstock Hepatitis C Support Group meets the third Tuesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Woodstock Community Church, 8534 Main St., Woodstock. For more information, call at (770) 720-8258 or e-mail bluemountain-dreams@yahoo.com.

■ A support group for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders meets the second Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon and the second Thursday of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at New Victoria Baptist Church, 6659 Bells Ferry Road, Woodstock. Childcare is not available during the meetings. For more information, call (678) 493-4925.

BUSINESS, NETWORKING

■ The Cherokee County Family Child Care Association will meet at Cherokee Recreation & Parks Authority, on Main Street in Woodstock from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The meetings consist of classes that count as two DHR-approved hours, and are free to members. The cost for non-members is \$15. The schedule is: March 3, "The

Way Kids Learn - Learning Styles"; March 31, "Centers, build them and they will come." For more information, contact bbrn0692@bellsouth.net or call (770) 926-8055 or (770) 355-7603.

AL-ANON

■ The following are the times and locations of the local Al-Anon meetings: Mondays at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 5323 Bells Ferry Road, Acworth, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (770) 403-5776; Tuesdays and Thursdays at Hillside United Methodist Church, 4474 Towne Lake Parkway, at 7 p.m. in room 2108. (770) 517-3028 or (770) 592-1473; Tuesdays, 8 p.m. at St. Clements Episcopal Church, 2707 Ridge Road, Canton. (770) 516-3502; Thursdays at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1136 Trinity Church Road, Free Home Community, at 7 p.m. (678) 493-6955 or (770) 479-5899.

ALATEEN

■ A local Alateen group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Hillside Methodist Church, 4474 Towne Lake Parkway, in room 2202. For more information, call (770) 845-1282.

AA

■ "Friendship-In-Step" group meets Mondays through Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. at First United Methodist Church on Lower Scott Mill Road in Canton.

■ "The Road Home" group meets at 6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays at Antioch Christian Church, 3995 Sugar Pike Road, Canton. For more information, call (770) 475-9628.

■ "United @ Noon" group meets at noon Mondays-Fridays at First United Methodist Church of Canton on Lower Scott Mill Rd. For more information, call (770) 479-6961.

■ "On the Rocks" group meets Monday and Friday nights at 8

p.m. at Ball Ground United Methodist Church, 3045 Canton Highway, Ball Ground.

■ "The Road Home" group meets at 6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays at Antioch Christian Church, 3995 Sugar Pike Road, Canton. For more information, call (770) 475-9628.

■ "Cherokee Choices" group meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at Waleska First Baptist Church on Ga. 140. For more information, call (404) 944-8504.

■ "Canton Group" meets at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Davis Hall at St. Clements Episcopal Church, 2707 Ridge Road, Canton. For more information, call (770) 479-8504.

■ The schedule for Canton/ Waleska AA meetings is as follows: Monday-Saturday at First United Methodist Church, 575/140 exit, at 9:30 a.m.; Sunday at Our Lady of La Salette Catholic Church, Sam Nelson Road, Waleska, at 8 p.m.; Monday at El Faro, 185 Crisler St., Canton, at 8 p.m. (Spanish speaking).

NAR-ANON

■ Nar-Anon, a 12-step support group for family and friends of substance abusers, meets Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Herb Shop, 161 Jackson St., Holly Springs. For information or directions, call (404) 218-0246 or (770) 704-9950.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

■ Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at H.O.W. Place, 6268 Bells Ferry Road (behind fire station at Old Bascomb Court). For more information, call (770) 592-6421.

CASA

■ Volunteers are needed as Court Appointed Special Advocates, highly-trained volunteers to advo-

cate for an abused child in foster care. For more information, call (770) 345-3274.

VOLUNTEERS

■ Woodstock High School needs volunteer judges to review senior project oral presentations May 13-14 starting at 4 p.m., going into the evening. Multiple shifts available. For information or to volunteer, contact Melissa Jablonski at melissa.jablonski@cherokee.k12.ga.us or call Grant Sinclair at (770) 856-6206.

■ Green Acres Equestrian Center, 345 Bluebird Acres Road, Woodstock, needs volunteers, ages 13 and older, for its hippotherapy program that uses horses to treat children with disabilities. For more information, or to volunteer, call (770) 656-7002.

■ Cherokee County Senior Center is in need of volunteers any day during the week, Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The greatest need is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call (770) 345-2675 or (770) 345-6730.

■ Georgia Stepping Stones, a specialized foster care agency, is in need of loving, caring families in Cherokee County to care for children who are in the custody of the state. For more information, call JoNell H. Courson at (770) 387-9003.

■ Woodstock Angels needs volunteers to knit, crochet and sew for preemie and newborn babies for charity. Yarn donations accepted. For information, call (770) 693-3175.

■ Bethany's Equine and Aquatic Therapy Services in Canton, needs volunteers for a program that uses horses to treat children with disabilities. Weekly shifts of 2-3 hours are needed Monday-Thursday. Call (678) 494-6616 or send an e-mail to blnugent@bellsouth.net.

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Local firefighters help special-needs school



CYNTHIA WISEMAN/SPECIAL

Cherokee County Firefighters 2007-03 recruit class chose Kaleidoscope School in Canton for its community service project. The non-profit school offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy to autistic children ages 2 to 11. Director Karen Simmons said the firefighters completely relandscaped the building's grounds, cut down trees, fixed steps, put mulch in the play yard and installed a trampoline. "They made it so much easier for us and the kids to do what we need to do," Simmons said. Pictured, from left, are Michael Shrout, Brian Thompson, Brandon Slocumb and Brandon Barton.

Cherokee Fire graduates 25 recruits

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services welcomed 25 new graduates last month. The agency held its graduation ceremonies Dec. 21 at the Cherokee High School auditorium in Canton.

The Fire Explorer Color Guard presented the colors while the national anthem was sung. Capt. Brian Wildeman introduced the keynote speaker, Pat Wilson, training chief with the Sandy Springs Fire Department. Wilson's speech was of encouragement and motivation.

Some of the new recruits received special notice. Brian Thompson received the Academic Award. David Schmitz, Frank Madonna and Michael Sims received the Distinguished Graduate Award. Frank Madonna was also the recipient of the Pinnacle Award for striving to "reach the top" due to dedication and hard work in the Firefighter Recruit School Class. The W. Clark Waters' Jr. Honor Graduate Award was presented to Erik Mork. The award was recently named on behalf of Clark Waters, a Cherokee County firefighter, who passed away in 2004. Mork was given the award in recognition of excellence in academics and leadership.

The recruits were then asked to come forward to receive their certificates of completion. Those recruits receiving certificates were: Brandon T. Barton, Michael J. Carter, Brent Connell, Charles N. Corbett, Jason Foster, Lucas S. Hall, Dustin K. Hawkins, Frank



MaDonna, Bradley D. McDonald, David A. Miller, Erik J. Mork, Vincent T. Mullins, Brenden T. O'Brien, William J. Phillips, Eric G. Sawyer, David Schmitz, Phillip M. Shrout, Michael R. Sims, Brandon J. Slocumb, Justin Smith, Michael A. Sorg, Brian S. Thompson, Andrews C. Vickers, Lucas T. West and Justin T. Williams.

After receiving their certificates, the graduates received the firefighter oath from Cherokee County Fire Chief Raymond Gunnin. Captain Brian Wildeman and Captain Eddie Robinson were also recognized by Training Chief, Phillip McPherson, by receiving the W. Clark Waters' Jr. Award, too. Members of the 2007-03 recruit class also recognized Captains Wildeman and Robinson with red leather firefighter helmets for their hard work during the training of this year's first recruit class.

Pickens County author lets faith in God guide his pen

BY ERIKA NELDNER
erikaneldner@ledgernews.com

A Pickens County man has taken his almost four decades as a Southern Baptist preacher and used the experience and knowledge for his first book, "Red River Rising."

The book, written by Larry Ferguson, was published in September 2007.

He said he wrote the book because of the scholarly topic of the prophecy.

"It's one of the greatest areas of interest today, especially among evangelical Christians," Ferguson said. "The prophecy is always one of the most greatly desired areas of teaching."

Ferguson has spent 27 years of his time as a pastor in Bible conference work in churches across the United States and Asia. "In the last 8 or 10 years, I've really ma-

jored on doing conference work on prophecy," he said. "So this book came out of the prophecy conference."

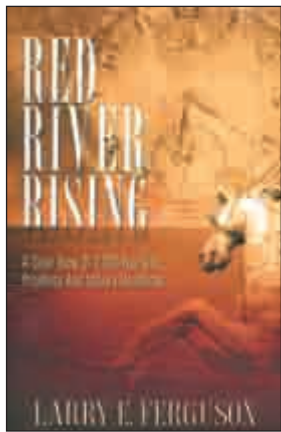
Ferguson said while the book took about 10 years to write, it's based on 38 years of experience and knowledge of the ministry.

"I was doing conferences at the same time, and the time was spent between the conferences and writing," he said.

Of all the books on prophecy that have been published, Ferguson said his is different because it's straightforward and answers many questions that prophecy teachers refuse to answer.

"It's written from a general and teaching standpoint so people can understand what the scripture says," Ferguson

said. "But I answer the questions that most everyone is asking but none of the prophecy teachers want to answer. For instance, what about America?"



He says the scripture says nothing directly about America, but other countries were mentioned more than 2,500 years ago when the Bible was written. He said the alignment of some of the nations are part of what the scripture says will happen before Jesus Christ returns to Earth.

"So everyone is asking 'what about America' when they hear about Russia, China, the Arab/Muslim nations, the European Union," Ferguson said. "Nothing is mentioned on America, so I have a whole

chapter in my book with that question."

Ferguson said the one thing he hopes readers will get from his book is a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

"All the way through the book, the Lord Jesus Christ is the one who is exemplified," he said. "Every chapter in the book is going to draw them to Him... whether they know Him or not."

He also said he wants people to know that scripture on the final days, Revelations, isn't difficult to comprehend.

"I want them to know they can understand what scripture has to say about the last days," he said. "It is understandable."

Ferguson said he is starting one-day conference tours next month, but no dates have been firmly set.

"Red River Rising" can be purchased at bookstores and online at Web sites such as barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.

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TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS

After a decade of coaching Woodstock's softball team, Tonya Sebring is moving to coach the softball team at Etowah.

Sebring's back

Coach returning to dugout, moving to Etowah

BY TODD CALLAHAN
sports@ledgernews.com

As Etowah junior Haleigh Dickey sat on the bench on Jan. 29, she got a pleasant surprise.

A reserve on the Lady Eagles basketball team, Dickey's surprise had nothing to do with the basketball game won by McEachern, 50-38. The three-time all-county softball player's surprise was a message delivered by her mother who shared the news that former Woodstock High softball coach Tonya Sebring was taking over the program at Etowah.

SEE SEBRING, PAGE 7B

Warriors knock off Chiefs

Cherokee continues mastery of crosstown rivals

BY TODD CALLAHAN
sports@ledgernews.com

Going into next week's Region 5-AAAA basketball tournament, the Cherokee boys appear to be clicking on all cylinders.

Heading into Tuesday's regular season finale against Pebblebrook at home, the Warriors were riding a four-game winning streak and had won 10 of their last 11 games in 2008.

"We are playing really well right now, but I don't take anything for granted," said Cherokee head coach Roger Kvam, whose club knocked off Sequoyah 74-33 on Saturday. "I was proud of our kids. They played hard. We knew that Sequoyah was going to play us tough. I just thought our guys did a good job of guarding."

The Warriors, who scored the first seven points of the game and held the Chiefs without a point for the first three minutes, never trailed in the game and had four players score in double figures.

Junior Ryan Fleming paced all scorers with 16 points, and Mike Kvam, who drained a pair of 3-pointers early in the game, tallied 11 points. Chase Waters and Mark Woodhull chipped in 10 points apiece.

Sequoyah senior Jay VanVoorhis led the Chiefs with 10 points. He, along with Jarom Johnston, were honored on senior night just prior to the game. It was the highlight to an otherwise disappointing night for the Chiefs, who had lost 13 straight heading into Monday's game against South Paulding.

The Chiefs were never in the game. After Tyler Deihl hit a 3-pointer to end Cherokee's opening 7-0 run, the Warriors went on a 12-0 run to blow the game open. Fleming capped the run with a 3-pointer, and Kemp had two of his team-high seven blocks during the first quarter.

"They just play so well as a team," Sequoyah head coach Jeremy Adams said. "They make everything hard on you defensively. They make you work for everything you get."

The Chiefs cut the Warriors' lead to 10 points with five minutes left in the second quarter when freshman Brandon Alexander



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS

Cherokee junior center Shawn Kemp Jr., drives past Sequoyah's Ben Farist during the first quarter of Saturday's game. Kemp scored six of his eight points in the first five minutes of the game, as the Warriors routed the Chiefs, 74-33.

SEE WARRIORS, PAGE 4B

2008 BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS

Etowah's singles player Kelsey Gray hits a return during a playoff match last year. Gray, who played No. 2 singles as a junior, is one of six returning starters. For the boys and girls preview please see Pages 4-5B.

Emotional loss costly for Eagles

BY TODD CALLAHAN
sports@ledgernews.com

The longest boys state playoff appearance streak in Cherokee County is officially on life support.

Having gone 1-9 in January, the Etowah's boys basketball team, which has reached the state playoffs each of the last three years, appeared to be going nowhere.

The Eagles received a boost Friday when they snapped a three-game losing streak with a 65-61 come-from-behind victory over Murray County, but any momentum gained was lost Saturday when Etowah suffered a 44-40 setback at North Cobb.

The game was emotional for the Warriors who were playing their first game at home since the tragic accident where senior Evan Snelling was hit by a car crossing the street to go to school on Jan. 29. Snelling suffered a cracked vertebra in his back and a broken leg.

North Cobb's game against South Cobb was postponed until last Wednesday. The Warriors lost 67-52 to South Cobb and fell to Harrison 72-58 on Friday.

However, on senior night, the Warriors snapped their two-game losing streak as the team dedicated the game to Snelling, who was released from the hospital on Friday.

With the win, North Cobb will host a first round game in the region tournament.

The loss was devastating for the Eagles, who could have moved into second place in the 5AAAAA-B subregion with the win. Instead, Etowah clinches third place in the subregion and will hit the road to play the runner-up from the 5-A-A-A-A-A next Tuesday.

Depending on what happens Friday, Etowah will play at either Campbell or McEachern, which puts the Eagles' state playoff streak in serious



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS

Etowah's Tyler Blackwell defends McEachern's Alioune Diouf in a game on Jan. 29. The Eagles, who will have injured Ben Stone back for next week's region tournament, have won two in a row going into Tuesday's game at South Cobb.

SEE ETOWAH, PAGE 6B

Lady Warriors get 20th victory, knock off rival Sequoyah

BY TODD CALLAHAN
sports@ledgernews.com

Although the Sequoyah football team's theme song is AC/DC's "Back in Black," it was the Cherokee girls who could have used that Saturday night, as they sported their black jerseys and defeated their rivals from Hickory Flat for the third time in a row, 47-35.

The victory also marked the ninth-ranked Lady Warriors' 20th win of the season. It is the fourth straight year Cherokee has reached the 20-win plateau.

"Twenty wins in the regular season was one of our goals this year, and [Saturday] was 20. So that was a big accomplishment," said Cherokee head coach Matt Cates, whose team took advantage of 18 first-half turnovers by the Lady Chiefs. "It's always rough with this being a county rivalry. We didn't play our best game, but we didn't play bad."

Cherokee, which never trailed in the game, were paced by seniors Thealicia Stephens and Ali Cline. Cline tallied seven of her 11 points in the first half, and Stephens hit four 3-pointers in route to a 12-point performance to lead the Lady Warriors to their fifth consecutive victory.



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS
Sequoyah's Ashley Soucy tries to block a layup attempt by Cherokee's Thealicia Stephens during Saturday's game.

Stephens' long-range baskets came at key times, as the Lady Chiefs were attempting a second-half comeback. Stephens opened the third quarter with a 3-pointer and hit two more in the final frame. Sequoyah, which had

trailed by as much as 20 points, cut the lead to 39-25 on a basket by Haley Warren, but Stephens quieted the home crowd with a 3-pointer to push the lead to 17 points with 3:03 left in the game.

Sequoyah cut the advantage to 12 with 2:38 left on a basket by senior Emily Galloway, but Stephens hit another open jump shot to push the lead to 45-30.

"She [Stephens] hit a couple of big shots for us," Cates said. "She's a senior. She has been making big shots for us for three years now. It wasn't anything she hasn't done before. She just found the open look and knocked them down."

For the Lady Chiefs, who had won two straight before Saturday's loss, they suffered through a tough first half and never recovered. They spotted Cherokee the first seven points of the game and did not dent the scoreboard until leading scorer Hannah Peacock made one of two foul shots with less than three minutes remaining in the opening stanza.

Five of Cherokee's first seven points came from Cline under the basket. The 6-foot shooting forward, who signed a scholarship with North Georgia, towered over the undersized Sequoyah frontcourt and created matchup

problems all evening for the Lady Chiefs.

They also didn't help their cause of offense, as the Lady Chiefs routinely turned the ball over. When they did maintain control of the ball, they struggled to put the ball in the hoop. Sequoyah shot 9 percent (2-for-22) from the floor in the first half and missed its first five field goal attempts.

Peacock, who finished with 11 points, hit a short jumper inside two minutes left in the first quarter and cut the Cherokee lead to 7-3.

The Lady Chiefs would not score another point until Peacock hit a foul shot with two minutes left in the half.

During that same span, Cherokee, which turned the ball over 13 times in the first half, went on a 14-0 run to blow the game open.

At one point, the Lady Chiefs missed 13 consecutive field goal attempts. That streak ended when Ashley Reece hauled in a rebound and put a shot back up for the final points of the half. It was one of only two field goals Se-

SEE 20TH, PAGE 5B



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS
Cherokee senior Ali Cline drives the baseline to the basket during the first half of Saturday's game at the War Lodge. Cline had 11 points as the Lady Warriors spoiled senior night for the Lady Chiefs.

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Lady Eagles to host game in first round of region tourney

BY TODD CALLAHAN
sports@ledgernews.com

Etowah's senior trio of Lindsay Mason, Alicia Manning and Rachel Hornbostel will play one more time at The Eagle's Nest.

The Lady Eagles guaranteed themselves another home game Friday thanks to a 61-22 thumping of Murray County on Etowah's final home game of the regular season. Not only was the victory a good way to celebrate senior night, the victory also had meaning.

With the victory, Etowah clinched second place in the 5AAAAA-B subregion and will host a first round game in the Region 5-AAAAA tournament next Wednesday. The Lady Eagles will play the third place team from the A subregion with the winner qualifying for the state tournament.

Friday's victory snapped a two-game home losing streak for the Lady Eagles, who lost by nine to Marietta on Jan. 22, and fell 50-38 to McEachern on Jan. 29. Etowah will have to face one or both of these teams in the region tournament if it is going to return to the state playoffs.

However, Friday was a celebration for two players that contributed as freshmen and was part of a state championship and a trip to the quarterfinals in 2005-06. The victory over Murray County marked the 86th victory of their high school careers.

"With our seniors, I can't say enough about them," Etowah head coach Robert Westbrook said. "When you can put on your resume what they've put on there and you still have some basketball left to play your senior year, then that is saying a lot."

It was the seniors that paved the way as Etowah held an opponent to a season-low 22 points. Harrison scored 23 points on Jan. 15. Mason outscored the entire Lady Indian team, as she led all scorers with 24 points. Manning added 22, and both watched the final

four minutes of the fourth quarter from the bench.

Hornbostel also got into the scoring act. A reserve guard, Hornbostel, who transferred from Woodstock her junior year, added four points.

With the game in hand, Etowah made it a point to get the ball in Hornbostel's hands.

Leading 33-9 early in the third quarter, Hornbostel made her first basket of the game, and stole the ball from a Murray County guard and hit Manning with an outlet pass for an easy layup. Manning also got into the stealing act, as she stepped in front of a Murray County pass and quickly went the other way, capping a 19-0 run.

Murray's Elyse Kendrick, who led the team with all but seven of its points, hit a short jumper to end the Etowah run, which lasted more than eight minutes.

Hornbostel added another basket on an eight-foot jumper to make the score 48-16. Jessica Wilt added a 3-pointer, and Krista Lewis hit a short jumper to close the third quarter. The Lady Eagles, who concluded the regular season at South Cobb on Tuesday, led 53-16 and the fourth quarter was cut short by two minutes.

Manning and Mason both hit field goals in the first two minutes of the fourth quarter and stepped off the court for the final time in a regular season game, as the home crowd gave each a standing ovation. They also were part of a ceremony prior to the boys basketball game.

Manning, Mason and Hornbostel were honored, as were 11 seniors on the boys varsity team.

"It was emotional because I have played with Alicia so long, and Rachel and I are pretty good friends, and all the guys because I have grown up with them," said Mason, a signee with Clemson University, who is excited about the postseason. "I feel confident because we are going to have homecourt advan-

tage, and I think we are able to win when we play at home."

The Lady Eagles are 8-2 at home and three of the team's six losses have come against McEachern and Marietta, the top two teams in the region. Marietta beat Etowah 65-45 at home on Dec. 7 and won 54-45 in convincing fashion two weeks ago.

The Lady Indians, led by Kyra Crosby's 18 points and 12 rebounds, beat Etowah by 12 points.

Manning, who was held to 14 points against McEachern, is looking forward to a potential rematch with both teams in next week's tournament.

"I think we can beat them. It's just going to take everyone being on the same page, play with confidence and play with a little swagger," said Manning, who was touched by the senior ceremony.

"This one kind of snuck up on me. You watch everyone grow up when you're as a freshman, sophomore and a junior but when you are actually out there it's a heart-breaker."



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS

Etowah senior Alicia Manning goes up for a layup in the first half of a loss to McEachern on Jan. 29. Manning, Mason and Rachel Hornbostel played their final regular season game at home last Friday.

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Creekview knocks off Etowah

Creekview took advantage of four forfeits and got a pins from Corey Hamilton and Kyle Sturbois to defeat Etowah 42-30 in a dual meet last Wednesday.

It marked the second time the Grizzlies have defeated a county opponent. They defeated Woodstock earlier this year.

Hamilton pinned Christian Varhorck at 130 pounds, and Sturbois pinned Jonsie Pitts at 140 pounds.

Grant Eddy won his match at 103 pounds by a 9-3 decision, and B.J. Holbert edged Cody Ryan by a 9-8 decision at 145 pounds.

Creekview travels to Sequoyah Saturday to face Dalton, Woodstock and the Chiefs. Matches begin at 9 a.m.



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS
Creekview grappler Grant Eddy defeated Etowah's Walter Leyva 9-3 to help pace the Grizzlies to a 42-30 victory over the Eagles, who had to forfeit four matches.

2008 BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW

Eagles appear to be tops in county on tennis court

BY TODD CALLAHAN
sports@ledgernews.com

As the weather begins to get warmer, the tennis courts are getting busy, as the high school tennis season begins next week.

Highlighting the early-season schedule is next Wednesday's matches between Etowah and Sequoyah, which were the best programs in the county a year ago and appear to be tops again this year.

Creekview, the newest program, begins competing for a county title in earnest this year and jumps right in with a match Tuesday against Woodstock. The Grizzlies play Cherokee on Wednesday, and meet rival Sequoyah on March 27.

Etowah, which has dominated both girls and boys tennis the past few years in the county, is again the favorite to capture another county championship, but the Sequoyah boys, which qualified for the state tournament and won a match for the first time in school history, is in a rebuilding mode after losing all but one player from a year ago.

Cherokee, which also reached the state playoffs last year, has everyone returning from last year.

The Warriors also are expect-

ed to be competitive this year, as will an improved Woodstock team that finished fifth in the region last year and just missed qualifying for the state tournament.

In girls tennis, the Lady Eagles will be vying for a third straight trip to the state quarterfinals. Sequoyah, which finished with a winning record, also has a strong nucleus returning and also could compete for a state playoff berth.

CHEROKEE

Boys: Coming off a 6-5 season where the team qualified for the state tournament, the Cherokee Warriors are expecting even better results this season since the entire team is back this year.

Leading the team are Brian Hammond and Matt Whitaker. Both are four-year lettermen.

Girls: Coming off a 3-7 mark in 2007, the Lady Warriors are loaded with experience and depth this year.

The entire team is back, which could make a difference in close matches. Last year the team lost four matches 3-2.

"The girls are ready to be on the winning side of things," head coach Randy Clemons

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WARRIORS: Cherokee focusing on playoffs

FROM PAGE 1B

hit a pair of free throws.

However, it was the final points of the half for the Chiefs, who shot 4-for-23 from the floor in the first half.

The second half was more of the same, as the Chiefs missed eight of their first 10 field goal attempts in the third quarter.

"The thing that we learned and that I hope our kids see is how purposeful and how perfect they [Warriors] are on every cut.

Every move they make, they are exact and hard. That is something our young kids can learn from. Cherokee was right where we are four years ago. We're getting there."

Having already sewn up first place in their subregion, the Warriors will host a first round game next week and will go to Lithia Springs, where the 5-AAAA tournament is being held, looking for a region championship.

Cherokee, along with fifth-ranked Lithia Springs, No. 6 Pebblebrook and Alexander are the favorites to earn the four berths to the state tournament.

"We could lose to every team on that other side," Kvam said of the other subregion. "We've beaten Douglas County, Alexander, Chapel Hill and Osborne, but I feel like any of them can beat us, and that is my thinking."



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2008 BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW

said. "Cherokee tennis has steadily improved over the past three seasons and I have a team this year that is capable of a breakout season."

Junior Mariah McDaniel will play at No. 1 singles and be joined by fellow singles players in senior Marissa Puzan and sophomore Ashvi Mittal.

Junior Alyssa Batson and sophomore Megan Davidson will be one doubles team, and the senior duo of Christine Davidson and Sarah Waters.

"The goals for this year are simple - compete for the region title and advance to the state tournament," Clemons said.

CREEKVIEW

Boys: After a difficult season last spring, the Grizzlies hope to put some marks in the win column this year.

Creekview finished 0-9 last year and won just seven individual matches as the Grizzlies played in the highly competitive Region 6-AA. The Grizzlies return a strong nucleus and also have newcomers in Daniel Beckman and Cameron Murphy. Murphy, who moved from Virginia, was ranked in the top 100 in the United States Tennis Association Mid-Atlantic region.

He joins a team that includes: Craig Borne, Jon Clarisse, Bryant Correl, Dylan Egeland, Jordan Freeman, Jacob Haverland, Cory Natoli, Josh Puzan, Campbell Rowland and Karl Schaffer.

Girls: The Lady Grizzlies, in just their second year of playing a full varsity schedule, are still looking for that first team victory in the difficult region that is not kind to a program still in its infancy.

Although the team does have some questions at doubles and No. 3 singles, the Lady Grizzlies are solid at the top two singles spots, as juniors Jillian Bredwell and Ashlyn Hulsey will handle those duties.

Junior Rachael Saporito also will be playing at No. 1 doubles, as head coach Jason Hubbard will rely on inexperienced players to

fill the rest of the starting lineup.

ETOWAH

Boys: Coming off an 18-4 mark where the Eagles captured a region title and reached the second round of the state playoffs, the team has some holes to fill.

However, head coach Bob DeCan still expects the team to win a third straight region title.

Returning starters are senior Jeremy Becht, who went 16-3 last year at #2 singles, and doubles players senior Cory Ehrlich, and junior Kevin Baginski. Junior, Derek Holdway, along with sophomores Garrison LaDuca and Ben Cornelius are other returnees with significant playing time last year.

A key loss for the Eagles was the graduation of Carl Abalos, who is playing at Samford University.

Girls: Like the boys, the Lady Eagles have to replace their top singles player, as Lauren Meier is now at the University of Kentucky.

The team is experienced, however, with nine players returning, including four starters in Kelsey Gray, Ally Hynes, Kelsey

Kennedy and Megan Neary.

They will be mainstays in the starting lineup, along with Haley Adams and Jessica Thaggard.

Jacqui Horn, Jesse Swan and Kelly Neary also will be fighting for playing time.

Despite the loss of Meier, head coach Billie Morgan is confident the Lady Eagles can win a region title and advance deep into the state playoffs.

SEQUOYAH

Boys: A year ago the Chiefs went 10-7 overall and was 6-2 and finished third in Region 5-AAAA.

However, senior Taylor Holland is the lone player returning from that squad.

"This season we will be much younger but hopefully it will not be much of a rebuilding year," head coach Stephen Pate said. "There are some excellent new players in the program and some returning exhibition players that should help out."

Holland will play No. 1 singles and freshman Joey Knocke and sophomore Jonathan Balchus will also be playing singles.

The doubles teams are Brian Castro and T.J. Crossland and

Alex Welch and Chris Henry.

Girls: Last year the Lady Chiefs went 7-6 and had a winning record for the first time in several years.

With six starters returning, the team is looking to improve on its region record and competing for a spot in the playoffs.

Handling the singles duties will be returning players Andrea Knocke, Kaylie Murphy and Brittaney Mauldin.

The doubles teams are shaping up to be Brittany Miller and Erin Rose as one team, and newcomer Anna Martino and Brenna Bocinsky.

Megan Walsh and Maddie Richardson also could see playing time.

WOODSTOCK

Boys: The Woodstock Boys finished one spot away from the playoffs last year with a 5-9 record.

The team returns a strong nucleus of experienced players with seniors Tyler Winters, Brian McNavish, Kevin Harrington, and Joey Ward.

The Wolverines also have some young talent in returning

starters Nick Draghincanu, Blaine Forsman and Jordan Bertram.

"These guys are all going to be fighting for the starting lineup in region matches," head coach Jeff Wagner said. "We look forward to being much better this year. Our guys have worked on their games in the offseason to make this the best year ever at WHS."

Girls: After going 4-10 a year ago, the Lady Wolverines are optimistic about this season.

"We are still young but it looks as though many of the players have been playing," head coach Jeff Wagner said. "We should improve on last year's performance."

Senior Kaylee Seufert, whose lone loss in the county came from Meier 1st year, is the team captain and playing No. 1 singles.

Sophomore newcomer Elizabeth Ruschell is looking good at No. 2 singles.

The rest of the lineup is by committee with juniors Corinne Hamby, Lauren Smith and sophomores Logan Peterson, Halle Machitar, Natalie Thomas and Rabia Ahmed.

20TH

FROM PAGE 2B

quoyah scored in the opening 16 minutes.

"Every tough team we play two poor quarters and two pretty good ones," said Sequoyah head coach Julie Swanson, whose team outscored Cherokee 29-26 in the second half. "The consistency needs to be there and [Saturday] it just wasn't"

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FROM PAGE 1B

jeopardy. Etowah lost 60-36 at home to the Indians on Jan. 29 and was swept by Campbell. The Eagles opened the season with a 46-45 loss in Smyrna and fell 71-64 at home on Jan. 11.

Heading into Tuesday's season finale at South Cobb, Etowah had lost nine of their last 11 games.

Although the Eagles have their backs against the wall, they will gain a bit of a lift for the playoffs, as leading scorer Ben Stone is expected to be back for that game.

Stone broke his right hand against South Cobb on Jan. 5. Since then the Eagles have won once with Stone out of the start-

ing lineup. The all-county forward made a brief appearance in the starting lineup Friday on senior night in the Eagles' four-point triumph over Murray County.

On the opening tip, Etowah won it and passed the ball to Stone, who went up for a layup. Murray County's Josh Hensley ran the length of the court for the Indians' first basket and the teams were tied.

Etowah head coach Don Hurlburt called a timeout, and Stone, who was still a couple of weeks away from being cleared to play, took his spot on the bench, as the game resumed unscripted.

However, the Eagles, who did not play defense and allowed Hensley to score, had trouble generating any intensity on defense for much of the first half.

The Indians, who were battling Etowah and North Cobb for second place in the subregion, average 52.7 points per game but scored 23 points in the first quarter and led 32-17 midway through the second quarter.

The Indians went on an 11-0 run late in the first quarter and kept the Eagles scoreless until 3:49 left in the half when Nate Washington hit a short jump shot. Etowah outscored Murray County 10-4 and cut the deficit to 36-27 at halftime.

"That is not our strong point, defense," Hurlburt said. "I just tried to convince those kids at halftime that if we didn't start making some stops and playing some defense our season was going to be over next week."

The roster, containing 11 seniors, took the coach's words to heart and came out with intensity on defense, forcing the Indians, who had six turnovers in the first half, to make 14 in the second half. Etowah also limited Murray County to very few second-chance opportunities on the offensive boards in the final 16 minutes.

Murray shot 56 percent (14-for-25) and made four of its first five 3-pointers in the game. The Indians were 1-for-6 from behind the 3-point arc the rest of the way and were 7-for-27 from the floor in the second half (26 percent).

"To the kids' credit, they stepped it up and played good defense," Hurlburt said.

"We played better man defense. I think the thing that helped was that we went to that 2-2-1 zone press and that kind of slowed them down because they had got-



TODD CALLAHAN LEDGER-NEWS
Etowah's Nate Washington tries to go up for a shot during last week's loss to McEachern.

ten in a pretty good rhythm in the first half."

In the second half, it was Etowah junior Chris Brasher who stole some of the spotlight from the gaggle of seniors, as he scored all of his 11 points in the final 10:28 to lead the Eagles to a victory. The junior guard made his first basket with 2:28 left in the third quarter and hit a 3-pointer to cap a 12-0 run. Brasher's 3-pointer gave the Eagles a 43-42 advantage and it was the team's first lead since midway through the first quarter.

It was short-lived, as the Indians, led by Chandler Puryear's 12 points and Will Powell's 10, retook the lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Brasher continued his hot hitting scoring the Eagles' first eight points of the frame with a field goal and a pair of 3-pointers to give Etowah a 54-51 lead.


Senior Zach Okerblad, who led all scorers with 16 points, had five crucial points in the last stanza before fouling out with 42.3 seconds left, and reserve guard Chris Dumesnil, filling in for the injured Michael Brantley, added a pivotal jumper to give Etowah a 3-point lead.

Senior Spencer Poer hit three of four free throws down the stretch to clinch the victory.

"We're still playing for that region tournament," Hurlburt said. "If we can get healthy, we are going to show up and we are going to compete."

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SEBRING: Coach returns to dugout

FROM PAGE 1B

Sebring, who retired from coaching at Woodstock after the conclusion of the 2007 season in late October, was announced at a press conference beginning at 6 p.m. in the school's cafeteria.

While Sebring, who had worked at Etowah in student services as a graduation coach, was being introduced as the successor to David Childress, who is now an administrator at Etowah, Dickey and the basketball team were tipping off in a key Region 5-AAAAA basketball game next door.

"I just found out a couple of minutes ago when I was on the bench. My mom came and told me," said Dickey, who had the highest batting average in the county the past two years. "I am so excited. I can't wait."

Dickey echoes the same sentiments of her softball teammates as well as athletics director Ronnie Green, who is in his first year on the job.

He, along with Principal Ron Dunnivant, held the search and had 10 to 12 candidates.

"We think Tonya gives the program instant credibility," Green said.

"We believe she can take the program to another level. ... She is one of the best in the state and will be a great fit."

Sebring had transferred to Etowah when her husband took the principal position at Woodstock. It seemed to be a perfect fit for the 2006 Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year, but she had no intentions of returning to the dugout until a meeting two weeks ago.

"When I resigned in October, I hadn't thought about getting back into it [coaching]," said Sebring, who had worked the past two years at Etowah but continued to coach at Woodstock. "Being at both schools for the past couple of years has been difficult. Many of my peers and mentors encouraged me to stay in coaching. When I sat down with Mr. Dunnivant and Mr. Green [in mid-January] to discuss the open position at Etowah, it confirmed the fact that I still had the passion to coach."

One of the people that helped push Sebring back to the dugout was Kennesaw State softball coach Scott Whitlock. He was Sebring's coach when she attended the school and played for the Lady Owls in 1991 and '92 before a shoulder injury ended her career

in '93.

Having seen his former catcher help build Woodstock into one of the top softball programs in the state with back-to-back state championship series appearances that culminated in a state championship in 2006, Whitlock knew Sebring needed to return to the ball field.

"The only thing I told Tonya was she's one of the best high school coaches that Georgia has to offer and that it would be a shame, and a great loss for the game, if she chose to 'get out,'" Whitlock said.

"She's too good not to be working. I am so glad that she chose to 'get back in.' She'll do Etowah a great job."

Sebring began her career as an assistant for the first two years at Woodstock when the team was still playing its home games at Hobgood Park.

She was named the head coach in 1998 and for the next 10 years masterminded the program's rise to prominence. During her tenure, Sebring tallied a record of 254-101 with four county titles, three region championships and a state runner-up finish in 2005.

Last fall, the Lady Wolverines battled injuries throughout the season, and their all-state catcher Tori Moody missed most of the season because of abdominal surgery.

Despite the hardships, Sebring navigated the club to a 22-11-1 record.

The Lady Wolverines finished third in the 5-AAAAA standings and qualified for the state sectionals for the third year in a row. They lost to Collins Hill 1-0 to open the sectionals but rallied to beat Brookwood, Kell and Kennesaw Mountain in the loser's bracket.

A third straight trip to Columbus and the state quarterfinals ended when eventual state champion Lassiter beat Woodstock, 6-1.

Sebring, who spoke with several former Woodstock players about taking the position with the Wolverines' arch rivals, inherits a club that went 18-11 last year and missed out on qualifying for the state sectionals by one game for the second year in a row. The Lady Eagles also lost twice to Woodstock, including a 6-1 setback in the quarterfinals of the region tournament.

Sebring now will be in the other dugout when Etowah and

Woodstock do battle next fall.

"Next fall when we play Woodstock, the past will be put aside," Sebring said. "I believe both teams are focused on the future. One thing is for sure, both teams will be competitive and prepared."

In early January, Woodstock assistant Kortney Dempsey was named the Lady Wolverines' head coach. She coached with Sebring for the past two years.

"I think I left them in good hands with Coach Dempsey," Sebring said.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cherokee Career Center moves to Woodstock

The Cherokee Career Resource Center has relocated to the Woodstock Campus of Appalachian Technical College, 8371 Main Street, Woodstock. Operated by the college through an agreement with the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Cherokee Career Resource Center provides a variety of services to help people seeking employment, training, and education services.

Resources include: career exploration resources and assessments; access to computers for online job searches; resume and cover letter writing; free use of fax and copier for job search-related activities; Job Board listing current open positions; resume and cover letter software; Microsoft Office and typing tutorials; and resources for interviewing skills.

The Workforce Investment Act program for Cherokee County residents is administered through the Cherokee Career Resource Center.

Persons who have been laid off from their jobs or who meet low income guidelines may qualify for the federal training program.

For details on how to apply, call Joyce Marshall at (678) 454-1816.

Local chiropractor raises money for MUST Ministries

Dr. Nick Bravo, a Canton chiropractor, presented a check recently for \$129 for a barrel-full of food to Alice Treece with MUST Ministries.



Bravo

Bravo raised the funds Nov. 5-8 during his patient appreciation days, when he donated more than \$2,000 of services and X-rays in return for food and cash donations to MUST Ministries from his new and established patients.

CKA to start offering home-use appliances

Custom Kitchens and Appliances (CKA), located near the Cherokee/Cobb county line, announced it is teaming with Fisher Paykel to offer its appliances for home use.

CKA has an upscale kitchen showroom and meeting place where consumers, builders and designers can explore options of appliances, cabinets, countertops and the other elements for their kitchens.

CKA President Ken Lemal said, "Early on we recognized that if you truly wanted to deliver high performance appliances and live up to the name 'Custom,' there is no escaping the Fisher Paykel brand."

The showroom is located at 8295 Ga. 92, in Woodstock. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

For information, call (770) 928-2416 or visit www.CustomKitchensandAppliances.com.

More than 14,000 Cherokee jobs added

BY TOM BROOKS
 tombrooks@ledgernews.com

The pace of the increase of job growth in Cherokee County between 2000 and 2006 was No. 2 among metro Atlanta's 10 core counties, according to a new report.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) report on employment estimates released in January states that 14,111 jobs were added in the county from the 2000's level of 35,750 to reach 44,158 in 2006 – an increase of 39.5 percent.

The rate of growth of jobs – which the report's author said reflects jobs located in the county and not the residences of the workers – was second to No. 1 Henry County, which increased by 14,498, or 44.1 percent, up from 32,900 total jobs in 2000 to 47,398 in

2006.

Under a broader geographic scope, Cherokee was No. 4 in percentage of change in job growth between 2000 and 2006 in the 20-county metro Atlanta area of 10 core ARC member counties and the 10 bordering external counties, the report shows. Neighboring Forsyth County was No. 1 with a spike in growth that surpassed Cherokee's total employment level while Forsyth's population remained lower than Cherokee's.

Overall, Gwinnett County was No. 1 in terms of the number of jobs added in the decade, with an increase of 30,728 jobs. Forsyth was No. 2 with a 24,073 gain.

When reviewed with earlier reports, the data shows Cherokee's employment base and its population growth expanded at similar rates during the first half of this

decade. A report released last March from the U.S. Census Bureau showed the county population increased from 141,903 in 2000 to 195,327 at mid-2006, a 37.6 percent increase. An ARC population report released in November showed the county population estimate reflecting a 38.6 percent increase as of April 1, 2007, up from the 2000 census level to 196,700.

The author of the new ARC employment estimates report, Mike Carnathan of the regional planning agency's research division, said the employment picture of Cherokee is generally similar to the other 9 member counties in the ARC.

"Cherokee has been one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, and the employment data show that jobs are beginning to catch up to that population

growth," Carnathan said.

A highlight of the report is the 87,000 jobs added between 2005 and 2006 in the 20-county Atlanta area that account for nearly all of the job growth in the decade, "a strong signal that metro Atlanta's economy is recovering from several years of stagnant job growth," the report states.

"These gains might be temporary, however," the report continues, "as most economists cite the troubled housing market and rising energy costs as factors causing the national economy to slow, an event that would impact Atlanta's continued recovery."

The report showed Cherokee was No. 1 in the percent change from 2005 to 2006 among the 10-core counties area, and No. 3 in the 20-county area.

SEE JOB, PAGE 11B

Holly Springs' Home Depot set for spring opening



ERIKA NELDNER | LEDGER-NEWS

Amid layoffs of 500 employees at its corporate headquarters in Cobb County last week, a Home Depot spokesperson said the new home improvement store on Old Ga. 5 at Sixes Road in Holly Springs is on schedule to open sometime this spring. A date for the opening has yet to be set.

Gifts fit for a queen

BY ERIKA NELDNER
 erikaneldner@ledgernews.com

When Michigan native Jane Hodgson thought of one thing she'd like to do before her life was over, it was open her own retail store.

Her creativity, love for all things unique and turns at different forks in the road of life led her to downtown Woodstock and One Queen's Folly.

"It was just the right time," Hodgson said.

The single mother of an 11-year-old daughter took the plunge last fall and opened her home décor and gift store in Woodstock Downtown.

She said her favorite part of the business is finding the perfect items to sell in her store.

"I enjoy the buying process and the search for things that are unique because that's a challenge," she said. "A lot of times home décor places carry the same types of things, so to me it's a challenge to find things that are off the beaten path. Being able to exercise my cre-



ERIKA NELDNER | LEDGER-NEWS

Jane Hodgson, owner of One Queen's Folly on Chamber Street in downtown Woodstock, highlights some of her "unique" gifts perfect for upcoming Valentine's Day.

ativity in doing that and bringing it back and making it all fit. That's my favorite part."

She's also enjoyed meeting new customers—and she loves when they give her feedback.

"Everybody is so different and they've been so friendly," she said. "I love to hear from people when they come in and say I have unique things."

SEE GIFT, PAGE 10B

Local clinic offers holistic wellness packages

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS
 carolynmathews@ledgernews.com

One-on-one weight loss counseling, along with chiropractic and massage are available at the Beverly Hills Weight Loss & Wellness Clinic now open in the Madison Pointe development on Towne Lake Parkway.

Director Ruth McMasters said the Beverly Hills weight-loss program is a well-rounded approach that provides dieters with private coaching to help them make wise choices about food. The Madison Pointe clinic also offers the chiropractic services of Dr. Michal Nesnick, D.C., both for weight-loss clients as well as for clients needing only chiropractic services.

Clinic Assistant Director Sharity Nesnick is a licensed massage therapist and 1996 graduate of the Greater Atlanta School of Massage. Massages may be scheduled by non-weight loss clients, as well as by those in the weight loss program.

McMasters and Nesnick are also certified weight-loss counselors.

"The Beverly Hills program has been around for 23 years, and the focus is on losing weight the healthy way," McMasters said. "The diet is structured to increase proteins to get the metabolism up the healthy way."

Sharity Nesnick said that the key to the program is that the Beverly Hills counselors stay with the dieter through the transition, stabilization and maintenance of weight loss.

"Studies show that if you can keep the weight off for 12 months, you have more of a chance of keeping it off for good," she said. She said weight loss therapy is offered on an individual basis because not everyone wants to lose weight in a group setting.

SEE CLINIC, PAGE 10B

CLINIC: First Beverly Hills Weight Loss & Wellness in Cherokee opens in Madison Pointe

FROM PAGE 9B

"Some people want privacy so that they can open up about their weight issues," Nesnick said.

McMasters said the program stresses eating right using food from the grocery store and restaurant meals, while offering high nutrition supplements, natural vitamins and meal replacements to help clients manage calories. The program helps clients know what wise choices are available when eating out.

At the clinic, clients can get a full-body mineral wrap to rejuvenate the skin while removing impurities, and enjoy the infrared sauna that helps to eliminate water retention.

At the adjoining chiropractic clinic, which accepts medical insurance payments, clients can receive chiropractic services to maintain healthy alignment and treat injuries or sports injuries.

"A lot of the time, people don't realize that chiropractic tries to remedy the cause of the pain rather than just treat the symptom, which is pain," Dr. Nesnick said. "We can ease the pain at the same time."

Nesnick earned his doctorate in chiropractic in 1999 from Life Uni-

versity in Marietta. He also holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in sports and injury rehabilitation. At his new clinic, he has a high-tech adjusting table and intersegmental traction table.

McMasters said the Beverly Hills clinic can counsel men, women and children older than 5 who want to lose weight and the program is compatible with American Diabetic Association guidelines.

She said there is a licensed dietician on staff and a medical director on the clinic's board of directors. Consultation with the dietician and medical director is made in order to deal successfully with weight loss in those with medical issues.

Several different programs are available for weight loss. For information, call the clinic at (770) 516-2201. It is located at 900 Towne Lake Parkway, Suite 410, and is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Chiropractic hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 3 p.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday by appointment.



A new wellness clinic in Madison Pointe offers services from certified Beverly Hills Weight Loss counselors, the chiropractic services of Dr. Michael Nesnick, as well as massage therapy. From left are clinic owner Ruth McMasters, Nesnick, and clinic director Sharity Nesnick.

CAROLYN MATHEWS | LEDGER-NEWS

GIFT: Owner says shop is full of treasured finds and interesting gifts

FROM PAGE 9B

From antique bedroom furniture to candles and soaps, Hodgson personally picks out the merchandise that can serve as that special gift for a friend or family member—or the perfect "sit-around," or just pretty things to look at, for that empty table in the house.

'They might find that one special piece they are looking for.'

Jane Hodgson
Owner of One Queen's Folly

"They might find that one special piece they are looking for—for the mantel or that special gift for a friend that they might not have seen or considered before," Hodgson said.

As Valentine's Day approaches, Hodgson said she has some things that

should make it in time for the last-minute shoppers, but she has plenty of things for any Queen bee.


For the romantic, she has bud vases, as well as candles and soaps. And there's always jewelry—something almost any woman is sure to love.

"I have some vintage inspired gift boxes and garlands," she said, "and some Venetian glass hearts, definitely the queen of hearts

crowns." Hodgson named her store on the belief that every woman is a queen and has something she loves and/or loves to do, she said.

"She has a passion, she has a folly that she either pursues, or she doesn't pursue it," Hodgson said. "This is a collection of several of mine, and the store itself is one."

One Queen's Folly is located at 460 Chambers Street, Woodstock. Call (770) 517-6854.



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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Cherokee County sheriff's deputies **Coreen M. Prescott** and **Walter Jones Jr.** recently graduated from the North Central Law Enforcement Academy. The deputies completed 408 hours in 10 weeks. They are currently assigned to the Cherokee County jail.

Retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. **Michael S. Quinlan** was named Chief Operating Officer for Kennesaw-based The Henssler Financial Group, one of the largest in-

dependent wealth management firms in Atlanta. As Chief Operating Officer, Quinlan is responsible for ongoing business operations for the 60-employee financial firm, which has offices in Kennesaw and Dunwoody, Ga. Additionally, he is responsible for development and implementation of long-term strategies to ensure the growth of client relationships and development of employees.

Quinlan spent 22 years flying with the Navy. During his distinguished career, he held significant leadership positions, including Director of the Office of Strategic Management for the Commander Naval Air Force Reserve. Specializing in strategic business planning, he instituted the balanced scorecard corporate performance management program for an organization of

more than 8,500 employees.

Quinlan, who lives in Cherokee County, has a background in finance, working as a financial planner prior to his naval career. He is an honors graduate of Kennesaw State University earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance.

Sue Newman, the chief probation officer for the Georgia Department of Corrections Canton office, retired Jan. 31 after 34 years. She started as a special agent for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation narcotic squad and served as a field agent in General Crimes Investigation.

In 1977, Newman was transferred to the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit as a probation officer for the Department of Corrections. She worked in the Superior Court systems in Cherokee and

Forsyth in the 1980s, and then moved to the Marietta Probation Office in 1990. She returned to the probation office in Canton in 1998.

Dr. Dennis K. McIntire, interim dean of the School of Communication Arts and Music at Reinhardt College, was awarded Jan. 25 the Administrator of the Year Award from Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA). GMEA President Dr. Richard Bell presented the 2007 award to McIntire at the organization's general session during its annual conference. The conference was attended by almost 2,000 music teachers and performers.



McIntire

McIntire said receiving the award was "a humbling experience."

"It's a statewide award, and there are a lot of administrators in this state," McIntire said. "I understand that I'm the first college person to win the award. Usually it goes to a school superintendent or school administrator. I feel very honored."

Reinhardt College's professor of music, **Juan Ramirez**, was recently named Presidential Professor, one of the highest honors given to visiting artists and scholars by the University of Michigan.

The award is given to people who have made extraordinary achievements in areas of study, including the arts, according to a letter signed by Michigan president Mary Sue Coleman.

JOB: Retail employment is top category; education is second in Cherokee County

FROM PAGE 9B

The net change in Cherokee from 2005 to 2006 was 5,703 jobs, or 12.9 percent.

The data on Cherokee shows most of the jobs in the county are on lower-paying work.

The report lists retail jobs as the top employment category in Cherokee County at 16.1 percent of jobs. Education was No. 2 at 11.3 percent. The accommodation/food service category was No. 3 at 10.9 percent. Construction was No. 4 at 10.4 percent.

The employment report shows 3,173, or 55.6 percent, of jobs added between 2005 and 2006 in Cherokee were in the five-lowest-paying job sectors. The report, citing a Census Bureau study, identifies the positions ranging from \$1,499-monthly-pay jobs in the accommodation and food services sector to \$3,151 monthly in educational services. Others in the category include arts, entertainment, and recreation; retail trade, and administrative support/waste management.

During the same period, 715 jobs, or 12.5 percent, were added in the five-highest-paying sectors. The upper end sector ranges from the management-of-companies category at \$5,232 monthly to higher paying jobs in the categories of information, finance; professional, technical and business services and wholesale trade, the report states.

Carnathan said the high-paying jobs are 13.4 percent of the total jobs inside Cherokee and low-paying jobs are 48 percent. That disparity "is pretty typical for suburban counties where more service-oriented jobs are needed," he said.

Long-time employment centers along major interstate corridors and urban areas showed much of the employment growth.

Fulton County had the highest number of jobs added between 2005 and 2006, up 25,073, for the No. 1 spot among the core counties. Cobb County was No. 3 with 10,615 jobs added, just below No. 3 Gwinnett's 11,138.

Paulding County's 13.9 percent growth from 2000 to 2006

was No. 1 in the 20-county area for the time period, as 2,499 jobs were added to expand its employment base in the western metro area from 18,040 to 20,539.

Forsyth County, which is along the Ga. 400 corridor east of Cherokee, was No. 2 in the 20-county grouping of the one-year change, with a net increase of 6,853, or 13 percent, from its 2005 level of 52,665 to 59,523 in 2006.

In terms of the 2000-to-2006 percent change, Cherokee's 39.5 percent increase was No. 4 in the 20-county area.

Forsyth's employment estimate in 2000 was 35,450 - 300 fewer than Cherokee's 35,750. Forsyth added 24,073 between 2000 and 2006, a 67.9 percent increase, a gain that put the county at No. 1 in the 20-county area. Last year's Census Bureau report on county population changes showed Forsyth's population at 150,968 as of mid-2006.

For information on the Atlanta Regional Commission's employment estimates, visit www.atlantaregional.com/employmentdata.

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Four graduate from economic development course



Four people from Cherokee County recently graduated from the Georgia Academy for Economic Development, after completing a five-day training program. They were among 33 participants. Then-Gov. Zell Miller started the program in 1993 and it's taught annually in the state's 11 rural service delivery regions. Pictured, from left, are Steve Foster, of Georgia Power; Waylee George, a Cherokee businessman; Aimee Cline, executive assistant for the city of Canton; Kyle Bennett, programs manager for the Woodstock Downtown Development Authority; Stephanie Bagwell, project manager for the Development Authority of Cherokee County; and facilitator Allyson Martin, of Georgia EMC.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



■ The Cherokee County Outdoor YMCA appointed a new board. Pictured, from left, Toby Bramblett, executive director of Cherokee Outdoor Family YMCA, welcomes new board members Barbara Bonatucci, David Hacker, David Allen, and 2008 Board Chairman John Adams. Adams is a volunteer soccer coach and has served on the organization's board of managers since 2006.

Not pictured is new board member Jamey Snyder.

■ Cherokee Bank announced several promotions.

June Payne has been named the Chief Operations Officer of Cherokee State Bank. Payne will continue as Human Resources Manager, while taking on new responsibilities, which include funds management and vendor management.



Payne

Marsha Fowler will serve as the Client Services and Operations Manager, continuing many of her current responsibilities along with new roles in the operations area of the bank.

Amy King will be the Accounting Manager, responsible for fixed asset and general ledger accounting, along with new responsibilities for the holding company accounting and expense management.

■ **Valerie Kononen** has been promoted to the position of Assistant Vice President of First Cherokee State Bank.



Kononen joined the bank in 1998, and she will be based at the bank's Canton office, working in the area of commercial and small business lending. First Cherokee State Bank has three offices located in Woodstock, Canton, and Marietta.

■ North Metro Technical College has appointed **Shannon Pollock** as its new registrar. Pollock joins NMTC from Valdosta Technical College, where she was registrar since 2006. She received an associate's degree in business administration from Georgia Military College in Valdosta and holds a bachelor's degree in human resource management, received from Park University in 2006.



Pollock

■ **Jason Tanner**, English and humanities instructor at North Metro Technical College, has recently been promoted to the General Studies Division Chair. Tanner has been an instructor at North Metro Technical College since March 2006. Before coming to NMTC, he taught at Chattahoochee Technical College. Tanner received his undergraduate degree in English at the University of Alabama in 1999 and completed his master's in English through Saint Louis University in 2003.



Tanner

Tanner received his undergraduate degree in English at the University of Alabama in 1999 and completed his master's in English through Saint Louis University in 2003.



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First Cherokee State Bank President Rick Kononen, left, and Chief Executive Officer Carl Hames, right, present a check for \$7,500 to Dr. Dave Waples, second from right, Kennesaw State University's athletic director, and George Olney, director of development for athletics. The bank's annual golf tournament raises funds for the university's athletic department. More than 100 golfers participated in the fall tournament at Big Canoe on Oct. 10, 2007.

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Hidden fees snag too many consumers

A few days ago, I completed the final step, on my end, of a business transaction that I don't feel real positive about: the mailing of a rebate form for a product I spent a lot of money on.

Within weeks, the fine print tells me, I'm supposed to get \$40 of my money back for my purchase. Should I be optimistic I'll see the money again?

The decidedly iffy world of mail-in rebates is a part of the economy that is at odds with simple notions of trade. Heard of someone not getting a mail-in rebate check back? Of course.

That \$40 that's supposedly out of my pocket for just a little while prompted me to think about how we often put trust in businesses handling small amounts of our cash. When are we paying for nothing?

The issue of so-called "hidden fees" and other sleight-of-hand tactics consumers deal with is garnering more attention, especially during these challenging economic times in which every dime counts for most of us.

Money buys goods and services. But, what about those small fees that don't seem to be a real and essential part of a transaction, except as a means for pulling more money out of our pockets for, well, nothing?

Fortunately, the rocks over questionable hidden fees seemingly tacked on to bills from banks, utility companies, cell phone providers and other businesses are being lifted by consumer advocates, savvy business journalists and investment advisers.

Media figures who specialize in consumer issues devoting attention to the true and full costs of mortgage agreements, debit cards and other transactions like Clark Howard of Atlanta's WSB radio and TV stations are champions of putting the spotlight on dubious and hidden fees.

Also worth mentioning is investigative reporter Bob Sullivan and his new book, "Gotcha Capitalism: How Hidden Fees Rip You Off Every Day - and What You Can Do About It." Sullivan has several

articles on msnbc.com on the topic.

They are pointing out how tiny fees added to gift cards, concert tickets, hotel room bills, investment accounts, cable bills and other minor expenses, over the long haul, take thousands of dollars out of our wallets.

As an aside, I think it is important to note the little-discussed steps corporations take to tap into the magic of hidden fees through their relationships with lawmakers - at bargain prices of campaign contributions with big returns for their bottom lines. Say there's a new law or update on a law related to consumers, the lawmakers can add on seemingly low fees into legislation that, in turn, result in millions, or billions on a national level, in windfalls for the companies that provide little to consumers in return.

Of course, every business must never lose the right to operate in the free market within the legal framework of our society and generate profits. Lots of fees are legitimate, and one should be careful to not overstate the problem. And I don't think the legal arena is necessarily where sleazy business practices like adding on fees-for-

nothing should always be addressed. We usually have choices where we shop.

Still, I can't get over thinking of how business executives consciously make the decisions to add on costs to goods and services that really offer nothing but gain for them. Would they do this to a spouse, parent, sibling or friend?

There are two examples of how what hidden fees mean for consumers at major times in their lives.

Let's turn to 401(k) plans first. Critics say hidden fees cut deeply into retirees' 401(k) retirement investments.

Legislation is pending in the U.S. Congress that would expand disclosure requirements about the fees.

Investment executive David P. Loeper, author of the new book on

the subject called "Stop the 401(k) Rip-Off!: Eliminate Costly Hidden Fees to Improve Your Life," says most of the almost 50 million people depending on their 401(k) retirement plans are paying three to 10 times more than is truly needed.

"The legal structure of 401(k) trusts is such that participants are exempt from the normal securities disclosures designed to otherwise protect investors," Loeper said in a prepared statement on the federal legislation. "This is why practically no one complains about their 401(k) fees - they simply do not know what they are paying."

The other example is the hard lesson learned by college students about the convenience of debit and ATM cards that allow for purchases on accounts without the necessary balances. In the past, such charges would have been rejected, but thanks to overdraft loans, the college students avoid embarrassment at checkout - and receive hefty bills later.

Fees average more than \$3 for every \$1 spent as overdraft loans from the bank cards commonly used by college students, according to a report released last fall by

the Center for Responsible Lending, a consumer research organization.

Of course there are contracts involved, but isn't it a bit unseemly to be cashing in on the young consumers instead of using technology to block the overdraft purchases?

For the 18-to-24 age group, the cost for the overdraft loans are almost \$1 billion annually in fees, the center reported in a press release called "The Most Expensive Burger Ever," a reference to how little purchases become expensive.

"Instead of protecting their financial well-being, these banks' overdraft loans are robbing young people of a secure and solid start in their adult lives," said Eric Halperin of the center's Washington, D.C. office.

I encourage everyone to look further into the true costs of hidden fees.

Meanwhile, I'm hopeful that \$40 I cited to open this column up with comes back. I've got something in mind I should put that money toward that's long been on my shopping list: a high-quality magnifying glass. Better to read the fine print with.



BUSINESS

Tom Brooks



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Ex-Rep. Bob Barr to teach at KSU

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Former 7th District Georgia Congressman Bob Barr has been named an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State University.

Barr served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003.

Barr has received a joint appointment to the Coles College of Business and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, where he will instruct master's of business administration and master's public administration students in a new course, "Privacy and Public Policy in 21st Century Business and Society."

An outspoken critic of government invasion of personal privacy, Barr has been cited as believing that individual civil liberties are being eroded by a growth in government power and technological advances. A former U.S. attorney with a Georgetown University law degree, Barr has also worked with the CIA. He is currently president and CEO of Liberty Strategies, a public policy consulting firm in Atlanta, and practices law.

During Barr's tenure in Congress, he was a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, vice-chairman of the Government Reform Committee and a member of the Committee on Financial Services.



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Needs Volunteers
to provide companionship,
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770-218-1997
Website:

www.hospiceadvantage.com

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HP Laptop
Jewelry Boxes
Diamond Bracelet
3/4 Ct Diamond Waterfall Ring
Sapphire Necklaces
2 Masonic pins
2 Guns- 38 Colt pistol,
black powder revolver

More items for list call
770-704-7931.

\$100 Reward
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Inside the Gym
The Club at Townlake
Call Lisa for details at
678-361-2580



**New Boot Camp Series
Enroll Today!**

Eagle Watch: T/Th, 9:30a- Feb 5
Heritage Park: T/Th, 8a- Feb 16
Sweet Apple Park: M/W, 9:30a- Feb 26
Governor's Preserve: T/Th, 6:30p- Feb 26
Great Sky: T/Th, 6:30p- Feb 26
River Green: T/Th, 6:30p- Feb 26

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SCALP THERAPIST**

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Amazing Relaxation Time
10 Years Experience

Call Monique
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CAT found 1/13/08 in Holly Springs.
Long hair black dark yellow eyes.
Slender build & bushy tail. Friendly w/fam-
ily & purrs ALOT. She's pretty & taken
care of, so I know she has a home.
Call Jenn @ 678-699-3026

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Be My Valentine
Just in time for Valentine's!
Shih-Tzu puppies born 12/3/07.
4 adorable females.
Call 770-529-5355 or 678-207-8199

VEHICLES FOR SALE

**1993 Extended Cab
Ford F-150**



**Automatic, some damage to
right side bed of truck; runs;
interior in good condition.**
WIFE SAYS MUST GO!!
FIRST \$450 GETS IT.
706-969-9004

SCRA Softball Registration

Jan. 12th-Feb. 9th, Sat. 10-2, Sun. 1-4
Co-Ed T-Ball: Ages 3-4 • Girls Softball: Ages 5-18

Register at the 2 story white concession building at
SCRA Park, located at 6625 Old Canton Hwy, Woodstock,
or Online @ www.scrasoftball.com

Questions: E-mail at scrasoftball@yahoo.com
Call 770-928-5917



WHO DO YOU LOVE?

This Valentine's Day, let your loved ones
know how special they are to you.
Send them a Valentine in



Just mail or fax it to us!

ISSUE DATE

Wednesday, February 13

DEADLINE

Thursday, February 7, 12:00pm

**Special Valentines Ad Rates: \$25.00 per ad. Ads will be published
in FULL COLOR on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

**Please submit your Valentines Day
ad on a separate sheet of paper.
Photos can be included as well.**

**HURRY!
SPACE
IS
LIMITED!**

*Ad Shown As
Actual Size

Dear Will,
I love you, more than I can
put into words. Thank you for
picking me up when I fall & for
being there when I just need a
hug. Life hasn't always been easy
for us, but I wouldn't spend it
with anyone other than you.
Happy Valentines Day!
All My Love,
Melissa

Date to Run: 2/13/08
Amount: \$25.00
Paid by: Cash Check #: _____
 Credit Card #: _____
Expiration Date: ___/___/___ Security Code: (Last 3 digits on back of card) _____
Card Holder's Name: _____
Billing Address: _____

All ads MUST be PREPAID prior to insertion. Sorry, NO refunds.

TIRED OF BEING BROKE AND TIRED???

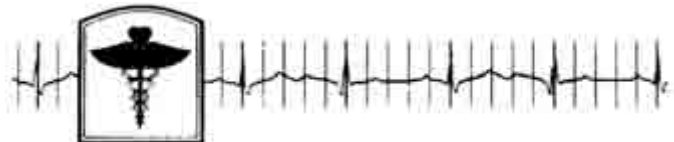
Take Back CONTROL!
FREE Seminar

Saturday February 16th, 1:00pm

Comfort suites 340 Parkway 575 Woodstock, GA 30188

Registration Required - (678)773-1800 or BerryHealthyYou@bellsouth.net
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FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH



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at Integrated Healthcare of Woodstock, LLC
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Dr. David Williams, DC

**TWO SCREENINGS for the PRICE OF ONE
ONLY \$40**

(by appointment only)

Take the tests that could help you prevent a heart attack or stroke.
Every Wednesday in February • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
(February 6, 13, 20, 27 & March 5)

Contact: **Kathy Bradburn**

770-883-6949 (Cell)

770-516-6949 (Office)

or **Barbara Dial**

770-713-3493

**TAKES 10
MINUTES!**

PAINLESS!

SPACE FOR RENT

Memories Gifts, Baskets & More
8165 Main Street, Woodstock
770.591.1225 (Tues-Sat, 11-6)

Woodstock Flea Emporium
Will Have Booths Available
Beginning January 1st
High Traffic Location

Handicapped? Rascal brand mobile wheelchair. Originally \$5,495, Now \$2,500. Ph. 770-926-4805.

Oak dining set, pedestal table, 4 tall back chairs. Glass top hutch. Really nice. \$300. 770-345-5892

Visit My Website: StevesBackPorch.com
Everything below retail
Also Visit:
Woodstock Flea Emporium
9740 Main Street, Woodstock

Hot Tub- Beautiful six person spa. 40 jets, 2 pumps, built in waterfall, ozonator, lounger. 98% maintenance & chemical free. Fully loaded & never used. Worth \$8,000, Sacrifice \$2,450. 770-452-7902

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Fax: 770.928.3152



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Friday, February 8th, 9am-6pm
Saturday, February 9th, 9am-Noon (Half price day!)

8534 Main St, Woodstock
For More Info:
Call 770-516-0023 or www.wchurch.org
(Personal Strollers Prohibited)

HELP WANTED NOTICE

Phone Scheduler
Earn up to \$600 per week, working evenings. Woodstock. 678-279-3458

HELP WANTED NOTICE

Phone Scheduler
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Molly Maid

Residential Cleaners Needed M-F Between 7:30-5:00. Competitive wages paid weekly. Must have valid GA drivers license. Company car while you work. 770-926-0036

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Admin/ Accounting/ Customer Service Position in Woodstock- Need extremely detail oriented, customer service driven, self motivated candidate...

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All Subjects. Flexible hours. Degreeed, experienced. Certified preferred. \$18-\$25 per hour.

Booth Rental or Commission position available in beautiful full service salon or accomplished hair designer. Hwy 20, between Canton & Cumming. Call Lisa at 770-205-6256

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Station rental available in established upscale hair salon. Located in historic downtown Woodstock. Call Kara @ 678-445-2658 or cell 678-230-5009

CNA's, PT/ FT. Seeking non-medical care givers to assist elderly in their home. Must be CNA and have at least 1 year experience. Call 678-277-9960

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Kids Kutz Salon Now Hiring Manager/ Stylist. 770-312-8431

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Looking for Qualified People to Join My Team Avon- Buy & Sell Mickey 770-265-7768

PUBLIC HEALTH INTERPRETER @ the Cherokee Co. Hlth Dept., in Woodstock to serve as a Spanish interpreter and translator for limited English proficient clients in a public hlth setting. Must be able to interpret and translate hlth care info orally and in writing from English to Spanish and from Spanish to English. Prefer high school diploma or GED and clerical exp. Full time, state benefits pkg. Minimum monthly salary \$1,545.78. To apply fax resumes to Susan Howell at 706/928-1663, by Feb. 6, 2008. www.nghd.org/jobs EOE

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2 PT Positions Clerical data entry Customer Service Various office duties and Pricing items for mail order showroom. Photoshop experience helpful 5 Hours M-F. 770-928-3338 Fax 770-928-1718

Part Time Sales. Work your own hours, perfect for retirees. Fax: 404.521.4465 or Call 770-517-0422

Earn Money while you are walking. 2-4 hours daily to distribute marketing material. Call 770-928-2318

Office Manager/ Bookkeeper. Must be extremely organized to run office for home based business. Good phone, customer service skills, Quickbooks Pro, Microsoft Office. Will assist with and organize marketing, product orders, scheduling. Please fax resume to 770-406-8635

Needed: Office Secretary. Part time. Must have accounting, phone & computer experience. 770-735-1098 Ext. 10

FULL-TIME HELP WANTED

Auto Technician needed for busy Woodstock shop. Diagnostic skills a must, ASE preferred, 401K, Health Insurance and paid Holidays. Good pay for excellent skills. Call Randy at 770-639-3758.

WORK FROM HOME- Evenings/weekends only. American Kidney Services needs telemarketing reps. to work from home scheduling clothing pickups. Paid weekly, by commission, up to \$2.50 per pickup. Excellent communication skills required. Call 770-447-5252 (leave message with name & number) or email: csprau@akpickup.org www.akpickup.org

Children's Academy of Hickory Flat is now interviewing for full-time position. Floater hours 9am-6pm, \$9.50 hr. Experience with After School and Pre-school age. Paid holidays and vacation. Must be 21, HS grad & pass criminal records check. Call Paulette or Bryan at 770-345-2929 or Fax resume to 770-345-8770

Veterinary Technician Needed. Full time technician needed for a busy 5 doctor animal hospital. Experience or certified preferred. Applicant must be multi tasked and work with all animals. Phyllis 770-998-5100

Cust Service/ Operations Rep. Spanish Bilingual a plus. MS Office & Excel Req. Comp. Salary/Benefits with growing Co. FAX resume to 678-391-3998 or email humanresources@onepointtech.com

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HOMES FOR SALE

4BR/3BA Lake Home w/Dock. \$495,000. Donna Davis, Loren Realty 678-362-2771

HOMES FOR SALE

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Directions: 575 North, Exit 11 (Sixes Rd.) Turn left. Go one mile. Turn right onto Marble Quarry Rd. Creekwood on the right.

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New ranch. 3/2, stainles, granite, wood floors, full bsmt., w/ level acre lot in Ball Ground. \$249,900. Solid Source Realty, Rusty, 678-296-9333

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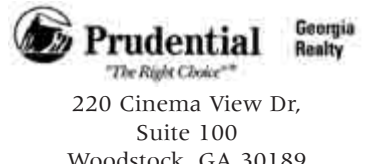
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Just Like New!



Townhouse in City of Canton!
2BR/2.5BA, fireplace, 1 car garage, perfect in/out! Seller pays \$3,000 in closing cost! #3627150. \$104,900.
Karia Cobb, Solid Source Realty, 404-626-6328

3BR/2BA House in Woodstock.
Near Hobgood Park. Reduced \$20K, now listed at \$159,000. Double garage, fireplace, bonus room, large yard.
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Brick Mansion



8BR, 7 car garages, workshop, gourmet kitchen, on 4 Private Acres in Canton (more land available, creek, pond, near Etowah River) just 2 years old \$899,900. Vickers Realty, LLC
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Canton



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Free February Rent! 404-936-3433

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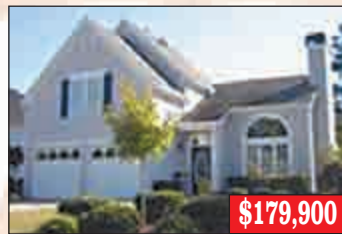
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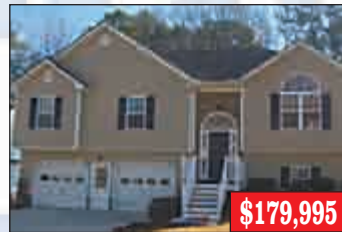
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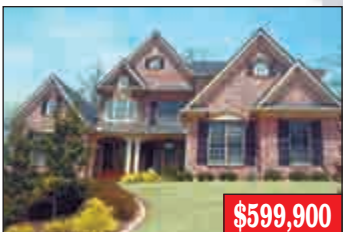
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\$264,900

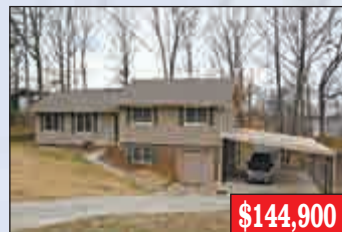
Great Alpharetta location. This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome has it all. Hrdwd floors throughout main level, Granite counters, Tile bathrooms, Upgraded carpets and pad, Stainless appliances, Rare private fenced backyard & a very open floor plan with large bedrooms. See it all at www.homescenes.com, #3627075. Call Marc, 404-384-2601.



One of a Kind

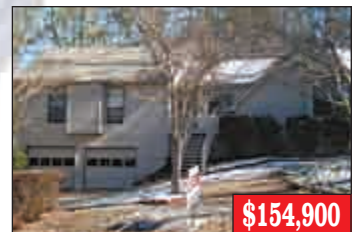
\$195,000

KENNESAW, Best in the area!! This home is top notch!! 4 BR/3 BA! Huge fenced lot, private. Cabana & hot tub with custom deck. You're friends will be blown away by your backyard oasis. Elegant marble entry w/curved staircase, BR on main level, wainscot DR, custom kitchen, all appliances stay! There is no home like this out there. Very unique! Call Realtor Lindsey for more details or to set up a showing, 678-933-1962.



\$144,900

ACWORTH - Lower Cherokee County Taxes - 3 BR/2BA w/partial bsmnt. Original owners maintained it beautifully! Lrg family rm! Screen porch o'looks lrg fenced lot. Shed remains! New faucets & more! Lrg S/D, very kid friendly! Great growing area! Easy access to shopping & interstates. Very energy efficient home w/low utilities! 1 car garage plus 4 car carport. Plenty of room to park your boat too! New paint & carpet. Owners have bought a new home & have moved. Buy this & be happy w/your new home! No regrets on this one. Perfect condition! Call Charlie Wilson, 404-895-2188.



\$154,900

PERFECT FOR HOME OFFICE OR CAR ENTHUSIAST - Wonderful neighborhood & schools. This potential 4 bedroom or 3 bedroom with office is spacious & conveniently located to shopping, interstate & schools. Office area with built in bookshelves. 3 - 4 car garage plus area with workbench. Private Backyard. Well maintained. Call Carole Paul, 678-910-1179. #3637233



Upgrades

\$125,000

AUSTELL, 3 BR/2 BA w/finished partial basement. Best condition in the S/D. Dare to compare! Safe & quiet neighborhood! Large, fenced lot, w/screened in porch. New custom top of the line tile in all bathrooms and kitchen. New carpet, paint & water heater! Plenty of space for any size family! Shed & all appliances stay! Call Realtor Lindsey to see this home, 678-933-1962.



\$262,900

Charming 4 BR/2.5 BA w/finished terrace level, fenced yard backs to woods, master on main w/hardwoods on main, new exterior paint, new carpet, sep dining room, large kitchen w/island, separate laundry room, sought after BridgeMill. Laurie Clark, 678-878-8138.



Towne Mill

Reduced

\$214,900

Fabulous Cottage home in new swim/tennis club community in Canton. 3 BR/2.5 BA, 2 story home, 1-year-old, upgraded with granite, slate backsplash, travertine tile, upgraded lighting/fixtures, stainless steel refrigerator and w/d included, flagstone patio and more. One year HOA paid by seller. Impeccably decorated - shows like a model. 513 Winder Trail, Jen, 678-414-7459.



\$122,000

HIRAM, Best lot in the subdivision! 3 BR/2 BA with partial basement. Huge, new deck for entertaining overlooking your huge lot. Brand new stove! Home is great condition, no repairs are needed here. Homeowners have maintained this home beautifully. Stacked stone fireplace. Call Realtor Lindsey to see this great buy, 678-933-1962.



Mstr on Main

\$229,900

A gardeners dream, this 3 BR/2.5 BA features marble flooring on the main level. Mstr suite on main. Formal DR, vaulted family rm w/fireplace, solarium/sunroom, greenhouse, Tuscan water falls, gardens & so much more. Must see the view from this beautiful European home. Molly, 770-596-6599.



Finished Bsmnt

\$399,900

JUST LISTED and better than new this 5 BR/4.5 BA w/covered wrap porch & finished terrace level. This decorator's dream has a guest suite on the main, enormous owner's suite w/sitting room & spa bath, lrg secondary BRs & unique finished lower level w/bar, media rm, BA & rec. game rm. Wonderful level & private bkyrd. A perfect "10". Call Molly, 770-596-6599.



Acre Lot

\$329,900

Stepless ranch on full bsmnt, partially finished on private low maintenance acre cul-de-sac lot. Split BR plan w/owner's suite w/sitting rm, FP & spa bath. Formal DR, vaulted grand rm w/FP & eat-in kitchen w/access to o'sized party deck. 2-car side entry garage plus boat door. Office or 4th BR, rec rm & workshop in bsmnt & room to grow. The Falls of Cherokee. Molly, 770-596-6599.



Finished Bsmnt

4-Car Garage

\$749,900

Executive 5 BR/5.5 BA situated on a cul-de-sac and backing to corp property in the Overlook of BridgeMill. Hrdws on main. Guest suite w/full BA on main. Formal LR & DR, chef's kitchen, command center & main level laundry. Terrace level finished w/your own private getaway w/media rm, pool rm, game rm, hobby rm, full bath, kitchenette w/bar & more. Level & fenced backyard. Molly, 770-596-6599.



Open House

\$525,000

Absolutely a "10!" This Nantucket Style NEW HOME Is Built In The Beautiful & Very Sought After Golf & Resort Community BRIDGEMILL! This One of a Kind N'hood Even Has It's Very Own 2 Acre Water Park, Gym & Full Service Restaurant. Come "Meet The Builder" at our Open House on Sat., Feb. 9th, from 11-2pm, 308 Westbridge Ln, Canton, and enjoy our Smore Treats at the Fire Pit. This wonderful 5 BR/4.5 BA was just REDUCED & features Hrdwds on Main, State of the Art Gourmet Kitchen, SS Appliances, Guest Rm w/Full BA on Main 3 Car Side Entry Garage, a Great Deck & a Stone Fire Pit w/Seating for Entertaining Outdoors! Pete & Laura Duca, 770-345-8211, ext. 660.



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Now Interviewing New & Experienced Agents

Bold Step. Big Payoff!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-6

NEW 08 YARIS CE

\$10,475



3-DOOR LIFTBACK
4 CYLINDER
AM/FM/CD PLAYER
5-SPEED TRANSMISSION

15" WHEELS
AIR CONDITIONING
CONVENIENCE PACKAGE

NEW 08 TACOMA

\$13,475



15" WHEELS
DUAL AIRBAGS
ANTI LOCK BRAKES
AIR CONDITIONING
REGULAR CAB

TWO-WHEEL DRIVE
5 SPEED
AM/FM CD PLAYER
164HP DOHC ENGINE
MUD GUARDS

NEW 08 CAMRY CE

\$16,975



AUTOMATIC
ABS BRAKES
POWER LOCKS
POWER WINDOWS
AM/FM/CD/MP3 W/6 SPEAKERS

TILT WHEEL
SIDE AIRBAGS
AIR CONDITIONER
2.4L 158 HP ENGINE
4-CYLINDER

NEW 08 TACOMA Double Cab

\$20,475



V6 2WHEEL DRIVE
PRE-RUNNER
SR5 PCKG #2
COLOR KEYED FENDER FLARES

CRUISE CONTROL
KEYLESS ENTRY
4WHEEL ABS
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

NEW 08 SIENNA CE

\$20,975



TINTED GLASS
AUTOMATIC
DUAL AIR
KEYLESS ENTRY
POWER WINDOWS

POWER LOCKS
CRUISE CONTROL
SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS
REAR CAPTAIN CHAIRS
TILT WHEEL

ALL NEW 2008 TUNDRA D-CAB

2WD

\$20,975



5.7 LITER V8 W/381 HORSEPOWER • LIMITED SLIP
10,600 LB TOWING CAPACITY • TUNDRA GRADE • KEYLESS ENTRY
POWER HEATED MIRRORS

NEW 08 4RUNNER SR5

V6

\$23,975



AUTOMATIC
17 IN ALLOYS
CRUISE CONTROL
ANTI-LOCK BRAKES
AM/FM/CD PLAYER
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY

TILT WHEEL
POWER LOCKS
POWER WINDOWS
TRACTION CONTROL
VEHICLE STABILITY CONTROL
POWER MOONROOF

NEW 08 HIGHLANDER

2WD

\$24,975



AM/FM/CD W/6 SPKS
VSC WITH TRACTION CONTROL
3.5L 270HP 24-VALVE V6 ENG W/DUAL VVT-I

17" 6-SPOKE ALLOY WHEELS
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY
SIDE & CURTAIN AIRBAGS

NEW 08 AVALON XL

\$25,975



3.5 LITER V6
4 WHEEL ABS
16" ALLOYS
5 SPEED AUTOMATIC

6-DISC CD
SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS
DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS
CARPETED MATS AND TRUNK MATS

01 Toyota Camry CE \$7,988 4cyl, Auto, Pwr win/locks, 110k mi #80851A	02 Toyota Corolla LE \$7,988 4cyl, Auto, Pwr win/locks, 78k mi, Certified #3170P	06 Suzuki Forenza \$9,988 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, 25k mi, Gold Check Warranty #80790A	00 Toyota Tacoma SR5 PreRunner X-cab \$10,988 V6, Auto, PW, PL, Alloys, Gold check warranty #80102A
02 Toyota Camry LE \$11,988 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, 79k mi, Gold check warranty #72234C	03 Honda Element EX \$12,988 2WD, 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, Sunroof, Alloys, 73k mi, Gold check warranty #3147PA	01 Jeep Wrangler Sport \$12,988 6cyl, 5spd, Alloys, Hard top, Hard dr, New tires, 60k mi, Gold check warranty #72262A	04 Toyota Rav4 L \$12,988 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, Lthr, Sunroof, Alloys, 86k mi, Gold check warranty #3173PA
06 Toyota Tundra SR5 Reg Cab \$12,988 2WD, V6, Auto, Long bed, 19k mi, Certified #3196P	02 Toyota Highlander SR5 \$12,988 V6, Auto, Pwr win/locks, 78k mi, Certified #3161P	06 Scion xA \$13,988 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, 10k mi, Certified #3160PA	00 Toyota MR2 Convertible \$13,988 4cyl, 5spd, Alloys, Leather, 38k mi, #3112P
04 Chevrolet Colorado Z71 Dbl Cab \$13,988 5cyl, Auto, Alloys, 55k mi, Gold check warranty #3070PA	06 Scion xB \$13,988 4cyl, 5spd, PW, PL, Spoiler, Certified #3121P	06 Nissan Frontier XE X-cab \$13,988 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, 28k mi, Gold check warranty #80872A	04 Honda Accord LX Coupe \$13,988 4cyl, Auto, Sunroof, Alloys, 36k mi, Gold Check Warranty, #3118P
06 Toyota Tacoma SR5 Reg Cab \$13,988 4cyl, Auto, 12k mi, Certified #72364A	03 Lexus ES300 \$15,988 V6, Auto, PW, PL, Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, 73k mi #80233A	 The Best New Cars Make The Best Used Cars	
03 Toyota 4Runner Sport \$15,988 V8, 2WD, Sunroof, Alloys, 53k mi, Certified #80600B	06 Toyota Camry LE \$15,988 4cyl, Auto, PW, PL, 47k mi, Certified #80359A	03 Nissan Maxima GLE \$15,988 V6, Auto, PW, PL, Leather, Sunroof, Alloys, 46k mi #3165P	07 Scion tC \$15,988 4cyl, 5spd, Sunroof, Alloys, PW, PL, Certified #80774B
07 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner Reg Cab \$15,988 2WD, 4cyl, 5spd, 8k mi, Certified #3201P	06 Kia Sportage EX \$15,988 V6, Auto, Lthr, Sunroof, Alloys, 29k mi, Factory warranty remaining #80062A	04 Toyota Tundra AccCab \$16,988 V8, 2WD, Auto, TRD, Alloys, 28k mi, Certified #80255A	04 Toyota Avalon XL \$16,988 V6, Auto, PW, PL, Lthr, Alloys, 47k mi, Certified #3185P
04 Chevrolet Avalanche Z66 \$17,988 2WD, V8, Auto, PW, PL, Lthr, Sunroof, 48k mi, Gold check warranty #81083B	05 Nissan 350Z \$18,988 PW, PL, Alloys, 24k mi, Gold check warranty #81088A	05 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner Acc Cab \$19,988 V6, Auto, TRD, Sport, PW, PL, Alloys, CD, 28k mi, Certified #3142P	07 Volkswagen Jetta GLI Turbo \$20,988 Auto, Lthr, Sunroof, Alloys, Spoiler, Rare car, 11k mi #80805A
05 Toyota Sequoia SR5 \$23,988 2WD, PW, PL, Sunroof, 3rd row seat, Alloys, 42k mi, Certified #3192P	07 Toyota Tundra Double Cab \$23,988 2WD, V8, Auto, PW, PL, TRD, 2k mi, Certified #72219A	05 Toyota Tundra Ltd Dbl Cab \$24,988 V8, Auto, PW, PL, Alloys, 14k mi, Certified #3157PA	06 Toyota Tacoma SR5 Dbl Cab \$25,988 TRD, Sport, V6, Auto, Alloys 10k mi, Certified #3164P

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