

andler: 'It's a lot of responsibility, but ... a great opportunity'

The Dr. Sanford Chandler file:

**Cristal Dixon**  
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

aking sure Cherokee County technical college students stay on top of the curve is the top priority for Dr. Sanford Chandler. The current president of Appalachian Technical College in Cherokee is preparing to take over a consolidated north metro

Atlanta technical college. The Technical College System of Georgia this month tapped Chandler for the post, which will oversee a yet-to-be-named college made up of Appalachian Tech's campus in Woodstock and planned campus in Canton, North Metro Technical College in Acworth and Chattahoochee Technical College in Marietta.

In the role, Chandler said he hopes to create a technical college system that's a model for workforce development in the country. Chandler will begin his new job on Nov. 1, which will allow him time to prepare for the official merger of the colleges on July 1.

"I feel a deep sense of gratitude,

See Chandler, Page 3A



**Age:** 57  
**Residence:** Jasper  
**Occupation:** Newly appointed president of the technical Appalachian Technical College's campus in Woodstock, Canton, North Metro Technical College in Acworth, and Technical College in Marietta  
**Previous work experience:** Has served as president of Cherokee Technical College since 2003; vice president of operations at Coca-Cola in Rome from 1999 to 2003; began his career with IBM in 1989 as an instructor at North Metro Technical College as its dean of institutional advancement and vice president of operations at Reinhardt College in Waleska; taught in the Open College as an instructor at George Wallace State Community College in Selma, Ala.  
**Education:** Bachelor of science degree and a master's degree in vocational education from Auburn University.

# 110 percent'

## Cherokee banker wins state award for development efforts

**Ashley Fuller**  
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

A local banker has been recognized for his efforts to bring industry to Cherokee County. Steve Holcomb is the recipient of this year's Georgia Economic Developers Association Volunteer of the Year award. The association, a nonprofit organization of professionals and volunteers involved with the economic development of Georgia, presented the top honor to Holcomb at its annual meeting in Savannah. Holcomb's volunteer work stood out from the rest of the nominees, said Tonia Williams, the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the spokeswoman of the association's special service awards committee. "He just outshined all the others. It was a no-brainer,"

See Holcomb, Page 3A

The Steve Holcomb file:



**Age:** 54  
**Residence:** Clayton community  
**Honor:** Recipient of the Georgia Economic Developers Association's Volunteer of the Year

**Occupation:** President of United Community Bank-Cherokee

**Education:** Graduate of Georgia State, Georgia Banking School of the University of Georgia and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

**Community involvement:** Chairman of the Cherokee County Development Authority, vice chairman of the Development Authority of Cherokee County, chairman of the Appalachian Technical College board of directors and a member of the Reinhardt College board of advisors

**Family:** Wife, Cindy; two daughters  
**Church:** Mt. Paran North Church in Marietta

# Sex offender arrest leads to massive seizure of child porn

From staff reports

A registered sex offender living in Woodstock faces new charges in what detectives describe as the largest ever child pornography seizure in Cherokee County. Wayne Muller, 44, of Woodstock, has been arrested by Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and charged with 41 counts of sexual exploitation against children. He is being held at the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center



Wayne Muller

without bond. Investigators executed a search warrant on Monday at the home of Muller, a registered sex offender. In 1994, Muller was convicted of molesting an 11-year-old boy in Cherokee. After a thorough search of Muller's computer, investigators discovered more than 700 movies and 150 photographs of children involved in various sexual acts, sheriff's office Public Information Officer Sgt. Jay Baker said.

"To date, investigators state that this is the highest quantity of child porn ever located during an Internet

See Porn, Page 3A

# DRIVEN TO FIGHT THE FLU



Cherokee Tribune photo

Nurse practitioner Martha Jo Holsomback of the Cherokee County Health Department in Woodstock provides basic information from Lisa Davis of northeast Cherokee County before giving her a flu shot through flu clinic on Tuesday. The Cherokee County Health Department will administer flu shots for ages 18 and older from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. today during a drive-through event at Riverstone Center on Riverstone Parkway at Interstate 575 exit 19. Patients are encouraged to wear seat belts. Call 345-7371. For another photo, see Page 4A.

# County property tax bills in the mail

From staff reports

Cherokee County property tax bills should start arriving in mailboxes today. The Cherokee County Tax Commissioner's Office sent out about 98,000 property tax bills this week.

Payment of bills is due by

Dec. 20.

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners this summer approved a lower millage rate that will mean a small tax break for most property owners.

The board approved a full rollback of the rate, which is multiplied against

a percentage of property value to calculate property taxes.

The general fund rate was set at 4.381 mills, down from 4.4 mills, and the fire district was set at 2.742 mills, down from 2.75 mills. The total rate is falling to 7.123 mills from 7.15 mills.

# Candidates clash over cure for crisis

By Charles Babington  
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Barack Obama and John McCain clashed repeatedly over the causes and cures for the worst economic crisis in 80 years Tuesday night in a debate in



# Chandler

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but I have some mixed emotions," he said of the "honor" of being tapped for the new post and of leaving his post at Appalachian Tech after serving there for five years. "It's a lot of responsibility, but it provides a great opportunity."

The merger of the colleges is part of a statewide effort to reduce costs, according to state officials.

Fourteen Georgia technical colleges are being consolidated, reducing the number of colleges from 33 to 26.

The Chattahoochee-North Metro merged college will serve Cherokee, Cobb, Bartow and Paulding Counties — making it the largest technical college in the state.

Enrollment at the two colleges and Appalachian Tech's campus in Woodstock tops 8,000 students. The merger will not affect the construction of Appalachian Tech's new campus in The Bluffs at Technology Park in Canton, which will be a part of the north metro consolidated college and will open in the spring of 2011.

Under the plan, Appalachian Tech's Jasper campus will become a part of North Georgia Technical College in Clarkesville. A replacement president to lead Appalachian Tech has not been chosen.

The selection of Chandler as the new president of the north metro school was welcomed by Appalachian Tech's board Vice Chairwoman Pam Carnes.

Mrs. Carnes said as president of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, she is positive about the county's college campuses being placed in "that mix of metro counties."

"The chamber is excited

about the opportunity to be merged with Chattahoochee and North Metro Tech," she said. "We are equally excited Chandler was selected as the new president."

Mrs. Carnes said the merger would give Cherokee an opportunity to "collaborate with other metro counties" in creating a top-notch technical college that meets the needs of all its students.

She also said the merger would give Cherokee a chance to create new initiatives and programs for its students.

"We need to look at this as a collaboration, not a competition," she said.

Chandler, 57, said he feels confident that the merger would not affect Cherokee in a negative way.

The merger, he said, would allow for more programs and faculty and staff to be available to Cherokee's technical college students.

"We will be able to enhance everything we do," he said.

Chandler said he's also interested in retaining relationships he's made with different institutions in Cherokee during his tenure at Appalachian Tech.

He said he's met with officials from the Cherokee County School District to talk about his plans as the new president of the Chattahoochee-North Metro college.

In 2005, Appalachian Tech began operating a campus in the former Woodstock elementary school buildings, which still are owned by the district. The two organizations also have formed a partnership to encourage continuing education for school employees.

The school district is examining the future of the partnership with Appalachian

Tech since it no longer will serve as many Cherokee residents, said Mike McGowan, district director of public information, communications and partnerships.

McGowan added that in a recent meeting, Chandler did express his interest in "retaining" the Woodstock campus.

"We have a great working relationship with Dr. Chandler," McGowan said.

Chandler has served as Appalachian Tech's president since 2003. Before that, he worked as vice president of operations at Coosa Valley Technical College in Rome from 1999 to 2003.

He began his career with the Georgia technical college system in 1989 as an instructor at North Metro Technical College. He eventually served as its dean of institutional advancement and vice president of instruction.

He also taught students as an assistant professor at Reinhardt College in Waleska.

Before coming to Georgia, Chandler worked as a teacher in the Opelika, Ala., school system and as an instructor at George Wallace State Community College in Selma, Ala.

He earned his bachelor of science degree and a master's degree in vocational and adult education from Auburn University.

He and his wife, Desiree, live in Jasper and have four children and five grandchildren.

In his new role, Chandler said he hopes to use his business and education background to provide the consolidated college and its students with the tools to succeed.

Blending those two aspects, he said, can help create an "economic stimulus for the community."

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# Holcomb

Continued from Page 1A

she said. "It is his willingness to go the extra mile. If everyone else is giving 100 percent, he is giving 110 percent."

Holcomb joined the Cherokee County Development Authority (CCDA), which meets quarterly, in 1991 and has been a member of the Development Authority of Cherokee County (DACC), which meets monthly, since 1983.

The president of United Community Bank-Cherokee, Holcomb, 54, serves as chairman of the CCDA and vice-chairman of the DACC.

During his time on the boards, Holcomb has led the effort to acquire and develop the Interstate 575 Airport Industrial Park and the Canton-Cherokee Industrial Park. In 2007, the two parks brought in more than \$1.5 million in tax revenue to the county. He also led the effort to establish the Existing Industry Incentive Program to help business retention and expansion in the county.

Misti Martin, executive director of the development authority, said she and the boards are "thrilled to death" about Holcomb's award.

"It is exceptionally hard

to get," she said of the honor. "It definitely shows what a great volunteer he has been. (The board members) do this to help the community. He has been on the board for 20 years. He really cares about the community."

Holcomb said the authority now is "actively pursuing" land for another industrial park to further increase economic development.

"We have looked at a lot of properties. We just haven't found the right one," he said. "There are a lot of opportunities."

He said the ideal location would be along a corridor such as I-575 and would be 100 acres or more.

"It does take some time," he said of his volunteer work for the authority, which he does in addition to serving as chairman of the Appalachian Technical College board of directors and as a member of the Reinhardt College board of advisors. "It is mostly spread out a little at a time. It is an hour here, an hour there, half a day there."

Holcomb credited Mrs. Martin and her staff for getting most of the work done for the authority.

After all the time he has spent with both authorities, Holcomb said he still plans to continue contributing to the economic health of the county as long as he can.

"I still feel like I have a lot of value and experience," he said. "If you can add value, it is time to continue."

"Everybody in their own way wants to give back to the community they love."

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Misti Martin

## Kennestone Heart Physicians Group proudly announces the arrival of Cardiologist, Jim Arter, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Dr. Arter joins Kennestone Heart from Mid Carolina Cardiology in Gastonia, N.C. where he has practiced for the past three years. After graduating from the Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Arter completed an Internship at Greenville Hospital System and his Cardiology



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