

Sheriff's dept. seeks more accreditation

Assessors to examine county office for national certification extension

From staff reports

Assessors will be visiting Cherokee County later this month as part of the effort by the sheriff's office to extend national accreditation. A team from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) on Aug. 23 will examine all aspects of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office policy and procedures,

management, operations and support services.

Verification by the team that an agency meets the commission's standards is part of the voluntary process to gain accreditation, which Sheriff Roger Garrison describes as a highly prized recognition of public safety professional excellence.

The sheriff's office, which is already accredited, must

undergo a review every three years to show its continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

Agencies have to comply with more than 400 applicable standards in order to gain accreditation. The department was first accredited by CALEA in 1996. It was the first sheriff's office

in Georgia to become nationally accredited. The department has since been re-accredited three consecutive times.

The assessment team is made up of public safety practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and visit offices and other locations where compliance can be witnessed.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited

to offer comments at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25, in the jury assembly room of the Justice Center in Canton. Comments also may be made by phone from 1 to 3 p.m. Aug. 25 by calling (678) 493-4163.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the meeting are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards.

Written comments may be sent to CALEA at 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2215. A copy of the standards

are available at the sheriff's office. For information, call Lt. Dana Martin at (678) 493-4129.

Once the CALEA Assessors complete their review, they report back to the full commission, which will determine if the sheriff's office should maintain its accreditation.

The CALEA program manager for the sheriff's office is Christie Goddard. The assessors are: Team Leader Major Paul A. Baggett and Deputy Chief Donald J. Gasparini Jr. and Lt. Jesse J. Valdez.

Roger Garrison



Cherokee Tribune photo by Amber M. McCloskey
Erik Stallings, band teacher for the new Mill Creek Middle School, talks with his seventh-grade beginning band students about some of the large instruments available to students. While the new program has some large instruments, there are not enough for all of the students and small instruments still are needed.

MUSIC PROGRAM HITS LOW NOTE

Mill Creek Middle lacks instruments for band, orchestra students

Kristal Dixon
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

Students in Mill Creek Middle School's band program want to start playing music, but need more instruments. The seventh-grade school that opened in Woodstock on Monday has 13 students signed up for band and orchestra, but only 20 instruments. The instruments include tubas, euphoniums, string basses, cellos, saxophones and trumpets, but no smaller instruments such as flutes and clarinets. Band Director Erik Stallings said the school district provides a "small music budget" each year, which isn't enough to provide adequate supplies and instruments for the program. The 20 larger instruments the program has, which can cost as much as

HOW TO HELP

- What:** Mill Creek Middle School's new band program needs instruments.
- How to help:** Donations of new or used instruments and money to purchase supplies are needed.
- Info:** Band Director Erik Stallings at (770) 926-7586 or e-mail Erick.stallings@cherokee.k12.ga.us

vendors. Students will have to rent them from the school, as they would any of the instruments Stallings hopes will be donated by the community. If the program does not get enough instruments, some children "might not

students are now learning rhythms and music reading skills, but beginning Aug. 20, they will start playing instruments. He is asking the community to donate new or used instruments as well as financial donations, which would be used to buy other supplies. Principal Elaine Daniel said she is in full support of Stallings' efforts. While Mill Creek will only be open this school year, as students next August will move to the new middle school under construction on Arnold Mill Road, Mrs. Daniel said she wants to offer a "quality program." "There's a direct correlation between students in fine arts and academics," Mrs. Daniel said of the positive impact music has on students' academic performance. Having a full-fledged band program,

First college in Canton to break ground

From staff reports

The community is invited to the groundbreaking ceremony for Canton's first college.

Appalachian Technical College at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, will break ground for its Canton campus in The Bluffs at Technology Park off Riverstone Parkway.

"The community is encouraged to come and help us celebrate," college President Dr. Sanford Chandler said. "This event is the result of 10 years of diligent work by the Cherokee delegation, chamber, county and city officials, along with countless citizens which have supported this effort."

Over the past two state legislative sessions, \$15 million has been allocated for construction of the 60,000-square-foot facility. The college is part of the Technical College System of Georgia. The architectural firm of BRPH has been selected as design professional for the



"This event is the result of 10 years of diligent work by the Cherokee delegation, chamber, county and city officials, along with countless citizens which have supported this effort."

— Dr. Sanford Chandler, Appalachian Tech president

project. Grading should begin later this fall, with classes to start in January of 2011, said Jennifer Nelson, director of

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Chambliss ready to battle Martin in Nov. election

By Shannon McCaffrey
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — His Democratic rival chosen, Republican U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss on Wednesday moved quickly to

sloner, will face a far tougher battle against Chambliss in the fall. University of Georgia political science professor Charles Bullock said a Democrat hasn't won an open

Music

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Mrs. Daniel said, would allow for her to focus on the "total child" by creating a quality educational environment that caters to students' emotional, social, physical and intellectual needs.

Stallings said there are many benefits of offering a top-notch

band program to students.

"Music helps teach and enhance the total child in addition to their academics," he said. "Without music and the arts, students miss out on an important part of culture, which enhances their lives for years to come."

Two of Stallings' students could not agree more.

Mia Cellion, 12, daughter of Mike and Gina Cellion of Woodstock, said she enrolled in the band program because she wants to continue her love of music.

"Music helps teach and enhance the total child in addition to their academics."

— **Erick Stallings,**
Mill Creek Middle Band Director

The seventh-grader has been playing piano since she was in the first grade. Before coming to Mill Creek, she played the violin at Dickerson Middle School, but didn't like it.

n't like it.

Mia said she would like to play the oboe and hopes the program can obtain enough instruments for her students.

"It's special for people to play an instrument at a young age," she said. "You get a chance to express yourself."

Justin, who's played the guitar since he was 9 and the drums for two years, said he really likes music and isn't sure yet which instrument he'll play in the band.

The program, the seventh-grader said, can help him become a better musician all around.

Also, the program can give kids reason to come to school if they're struggling in academics.

"It also helps you focus in class a little more," he said.

katson@cherokeetribune.com

Chambliss

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At a news conference on Wednesday, Chambliss said scheduling conflicts have kept Bush from visiting Georgia to stump for him. He also outlined recent differences with the president over immigration, the Farm Bill and Medicare.

"When he's wrong I have

never been hesitant to look him in the eye and say 'I disagree with you on this issue,'" he said.

Not so, said Martin. "Saxby has supported the failed economic and energy policies that have gotten us into this mess," Martin argued at his own news conference later Wednesday.

Even the candidates news conferences were a study in contrast.

While Chambliss fielded questions for about 30 minutes, Martin read a prepared

five-minute statement and left the podium at his campaign headquarters without taking questions.

A key question for Martin is whether he'll have the financial resources to compete with Chambliss, who has \$4 million in the bank even after making a statewide media buy for his first re-election television ad. Martin had \$329,954 cash on hand according to his last campaign filing in July.

Martin was recruited to run by New York Sen. Charles

Schumer, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. DSCC officials would not say Wednesday whether they would pour money into his bid. Typically, the campaign committee offers financial support to races it deems competitive.

Still, Chambliss said now that the general election campaign is officially under way he expects Democrats will be after him with gun-blasting.

"We're prepared for the onslaught that will come," he

said.

Chambliss has a reputation for tough campaigns. He drew fire in his 2002 bid for running an ad in which he questioned the national security votes of his opponent, Democratic incumbent Max Cleland. The ad showed images of Cleland, who lost three limbs in the Vietnam War, and al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Chambliss signaled he won't shy away from a fight his year either.

"What I did in 2002 was

question my opponent's voting record," he said. "I'm going to question my opponent's voting record in this campaign."



Saxby Chambliss:
www.saxby.org
Jim Martin:
www.martinforsestate.com

Gingrich

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Gingrich's appearance Wednesday drew questions about his leadership over another Republican revolt in 1995 in which the party was widely blamed for a month-long holiday-season government shutdown during a budget standoff with former President Bill Clinton.

He said this time Democrats may have to decide whether to shut down Congress to avoid a drilling vote.

Gingrich, who led the House from 1995 to 1999,

addressed a throng of reporters at a press conference but said he would not speak on the floor because he is no longer a member. An advocacy group he formed last fall, American Solutions for Winning the Future, has collected some 1.4 million signatures on an online petition calling for new U.S. oil drilling, he said.

In opposing offshore drilling, many Democrats point to Energy Department projections that it would have a minimal impact on gas prices through at least 2030. They argue that the U.S. must begin moving away from fossil fuels toward homegrown technologies.

College

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external affairs for the college. Along with associate degree, diploma and certificate programs, adult education courses also will be offered at the Canton campus.

Professional development, personal enrichment and business and industry training will be offered as well.

The Jasper-based college already operates one campus in Cherokee, which is housed in the former Woodstock Elementary School building in downtown Woodstock.

To get to the Canton site, take Interstate 575 to exit 20,

Riverstone Parkway; head west on Riverstone Parkway toward The Home Depot; turn right at The Home Depot onto Riverstone Boulevard, which becomes The Bluffs Parkway; Continue on The Bluffs Parkway for three miles to the fourth roundabout. Parking will be available along parkway.

For information, call the

Woodstock campus at (678) 454-1800, the Jasper campus at (706) 253-4500.



www.appalachiantech.edu

Lawmakers rally for energy independence

By Jake Armstrong
Martins News Service

ATLANTA — A band of Republican state lawmakers, pledging to do their part in Georgia, on Wednesday called on Congress to wean the nation off foreign energy resources in the next 30 years.

At a rally on the Capitol steps, the lawmakers said the state could play a big role in the shift to domestic energy resources, whether through the developing biomass industry or through potential oil deposits off the coast.

Either of those options would likely take pressure off of consumers who've dealt with rising energy prices that are now costing jobs, said Sen. Ross Tolleson (R-Perry). He urged cooperation in Congress.

"It's time to move on for this country," Tolleson said.

"If we want to talk about the future of Georgia, it's got to be truly independent and clean."

— **Erin Glynn,**
Sierra Club member

Cagle, touted the state's developing energy policies and private the private sector's movement toward renewable and nuclear energy. Cagle said he was pleased with Georgia Power's recently released plan to build two new nuclear reactors at plant Vogtle near Waynesboro and to study converting a coal-fired plant to run on wood biomass.

Tolleson said he plans to introduce a bill in 2009 offering state-funded incentives to encourage Georgians to buy alternative fuel vehicles.

Absent from the rally was discussion of two proposed coal-fired power plants moving through the approval process, noted Erin Glynn, of the Sierra Club. If built, the plants would likely offset any reduced carbon output of

City arborist says he was fired for whistleblowing

By Dionne Walker
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Nobody seems to question whether Tom Coffin was dedicated to his job.

The senior city field arborist was tasked with citing persons found in violation of Atlanta's stringent tree ordinance. He issued some 70 tree removal violations in the first half of 2008 alone, a local newspaper reported Wednesday.

His reward in a sprawling city where officials have tried to balance urban creep with the region's lush canopy of green: A pink slip.

City officials fired Coffin suddenly on July 29 — just days after he said he approached supervisors with claims fellow city arborists were overlooking ordinance violations.

Now, community leaders and nature enthusiasts are questioning why it seems Coffin was fired for doing his job too well.

In a statement, the Department of Planning and Community Development described Coffin's dismissal as "a personnel matter" unrelated to a recent budget reduction.

The department is looking for a replacement, according to spokeswoman Tene Hawkins.

Coffin did not reply to phone messages left on Wednesday.

Coffin had worked as a city arborist since 2000. He was promoted to supervisor 10 months ago, officials said.

offered his own theory on the dismissal.

"Tom Coffin followed the law closely and that strict adherence to the law without much flexibility made development situations sometimes impossible to do," he said, adding Coffin had earned a reputation among land developers.

His dismissal has raised eyebrows among the city's vocal environmentalists, which have campaigned to

increase the leafy rooftop covering roughly 27 percent of the metro area.

"There is a large citizen outcry concerned with this enforcement issue... and I'm pretty sure they will get an answer," said Marcia Banley, executive director of Trees Atlanta, a nonprofit citizens' group that's pushed the city to maintain a corps of arborists.

The city's tree ordinance regulates everything from

how many trees a developer must plant based on lot cleared to the size replacement trees. It is designed to prevent the loss of trees within the city.

Yet developers like Harold Culliffe, head of TP Pacific Group, call it lumbering and ineffective.

He says it sets up impossible scenarios — for example, requiring developers plant multiple replacement trees for every tree cleared

Obituaries

Our Policy
We strive to list a complete record of deaths in Cobb County. Please ask your funeral director to contact us to place your notice. Cobb County death notices are free. Family placed obituaries are paid. For more information contact us at 770-428-9411 x550 or email us at funerals@cherokeetribune.com

OBITUARIES

Placed by Family

Martha Jean Garrison
Martha Jean Garrison Age 72 of Canton, Ga. died August 5, 2008. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday Aug 7, 2008 from the Bellevue Methodist Church, Murphy NC, interment in the Church cemetery with Rev. Tommy Lockhart officiating. Survivors are Husband Bill E. Garrison, Canton, Ga.; Daughters, Sharon Jane Garrison, Canton, Ga., Naticia Gay & Jim Elliott, Jasper, Ga., and Teresa Joy & Mike Knowles, Haslet, Tx; Brothers Ron Hill, Sautte, Ga, Mike Hill Dunwoody, Ga. and Steve Hill, Blairsville, Ga.; 4 grandchildren. John, Gus, Kandrae

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