

HOME, SWEET HOME

Habitat for Humanity to dedicate completed house/1B

TODAY

High: 78

TONIGHT

Total forecast/6A Low: 57

COMING TOGETHER

Congregations to share new chapel on Bascomb Road/1D



SATURDAY

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Tech college 'powerhouse'

Appalachian merging with North Metro

By Kristal Dixon
Cherokee Tribune Staff Writer

The consolidation of 14 technical colleges across the state has reached Cherokee County.

Appalachian Technical College's Woodstock and Canton campuses will join North Metro Technical College in Acworth; which announced last month it will merge with Chattahoochee Technical College in Marietta.

Appalachian Tech's main campus in Jasper will merge with North Georgia Technical College in Clarkesville.

The mergers are a part of an effort by the Technical College System of Georgia to merge 14 technical colleges across the state.

The mergers would reduce the number of technical colleges in the state from 33 to 26.

Mike Light, executive director of communications with the Technical College System of Georgia, said the mergers are "cost-saving measures" employed by the system.

By merging the two campuses, it would save a total of \$500,000 in administrative costs, Light said.

Light also said the mergers would eliminate duplicated upper-level administrative positions.

"No campus, no building

and no facility will be closed and nothing will change the way these colleges deliver services," he said.

The decision to pair the Woodstock campus with the Chattahoochee-North Metro merger, Light said, was determined by the demographics of Cobb and Cherokee Counties.

Light said that a number of students from Cherokee County are already students at the Marietta and Acworth colleges.

"It's really exciting. Each area will add to the other."

— Steve Holcomb,
board of directors

"I believe we are creating a technical college powerhouse ... in that region," he said.

Each merging campus is currently working a prospectus, which will document its plans of merging the two schools.

The colleges planning to merge must present the prospectus to the Southern Association for College and Schools' Commission on Schools by Oct. 15.

After Commission approval, the merging schools will work together to create a new name, board of directors, organizational structure and subsequent president of its school.

The mergers won't be official until July 1, 2009.

Appalachian Tech's president Dr. Sanford Chandler

See Merger, Page 3A



BEFORE [CKOFF

Head referee Tom Cogburn officiates the coin toss at beginning of the Cherokee football game Friday night. Katrina Cochran, 8, daughter and Letita Cochran of Cancer on the Creekview Grizzlies before the team runs through inner. For more photos, see Page 1C.

Tribune photos by Danielle Hutlas Amber M. McCloskey (above)



FEDERAL RESERVE: Half-trillion bailout plan proposed

Obama administration unveils far-reaching

Getting a boost
The Federal Reserve worked in conjunction with other central banks to pump billions into the

A tumultuous week comes to close with Wall Street remade



light

n Page 1A

financial melt-site has been

w and Nov. 4, other domestic its could inter-, all attention e financial cri-ead worldwide. s major actions l government, omic troubles l, putting addi-re on both cCain to map and prove they ersity.

are treading ay use the Wall ot only to sell : plans but also l and act presi-e a nervous-leadership.

Obama struck a s he acknowl-ilt days" and ot the time for his is a time for r leadership. I steer ourselves sis. That's who 's what we've Americans."

ng earlier in the s remarks had a in edge. He ma "profited m of abuse and n as he said: "It of both parties into this mess, all of us, work-o lead the way

least, the cam-urned to issues after weeks of rsonalities and ach candidate e other of lying commercials, a dispute over ia was insulting idential nomi-n when he used utting "lipstick

orld was always rt itself because problems," said Democratic vet-al presidential otors were hav-ow they're say-selves, what's to me and my mily in the next l who is best to ry."

ikes are magni-n.

tumbled Mon-the bankruptcy others and the rill Lynch, the or — who has that economics ongest suit — repeated asser-undamentals of are strong." wiftly assailed him as out of continuation of l.

spent the days explain what he ith a more dire otors know that pain. Now, he's mcial woes "one

of the most severe crises in modern times," says he would fire the Securities and Exchange Commission chairman if he were president, and advocates creating a special trust to help strengthen weak institutions.

All week, McCain has struggled to square his current calls for tighter regulation of financial markets with his decades-old support of deregulation.

Obama, meanwhile, has smoothly hit his main points, empathizing with working-class people and blaming Washington.

He huddled with a team of seasoned economic advisers in Florida on Friday, and had planned to outline a series of prescriptions. But he emerged from the meeting to announce he would hold off for now in deference to those dealing directly with the crisis, saying their work should be "unimpeded by partisan wrangling."

The candidates' roles were reversed in August when Russia sent troops and tanks into the former Soviet state of Georgia.

That overseas event ricocheted off the U.S. presidential campaign, as foreign relations and national security — historically Republican strengths — rose to the surface.

McCain quickly took a hardline stand against Russia, seeking to show prowess in dealing with an international crisis.

Obama was initially cautious. He called for diplomacy and restraint on all sides. Republicans chastised him for not sounding tough enough, and Obama labored to find the right balance.

A few days later, his position hardened markedly as he called for a Russian cease-fire and said, "Now is the time for action — not just words."

That situation reverberated on the campaign trail for about a week.

There's no formula for how long a current event remains, well, a current part of the campaign.

And, it's hard to predict just how big an event has to be for candidates to care.

Wednesday's attack on the U.S. Embassy in Yemen, for instance, hardly registered. Both candidates simply issued statements.

In 2004, war and terrorism were injected into the campaign's final weekend — a videotaped message from Osama bin Laden surfaced and eight U.S. Marines died in Iraq. Bush barely beat Democrat John Kerry.

And, forty years ago, Lyndon B. Johnson stopped bombing North Vietnam and pressed for peace negotiations — just days before voters narrowly chose Republican Richard Nixon over Democrat Hubert Humphrey.

There are six weeks left to go.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Liz Sidoti covers the presidential campaign for *The Associated Press* and has covered national politics since 2003.

Merger

Continued from Page 1A

said the merger would make the future college the largest in the state, with as many as 8,900 students at all three campuses.

Chandler said the merger would not affect services at the Woodstock campus, but added that the possibility of employees being cut at the Woodstock campus is slim because of the lack of upper-level administrative positions at the campus.

Chandler said the merger would have a positive effect for its College's offerings.

"We may see enhanced and new programs come that way that we didn't have before," he said. "This could be a very positive move for us."

In 2005, Appalachian Tech moved into the old Wood-

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— Dr. Sanford Chandler,
Appalachian Tech president

stock Elementary School, which is still owned by the Cherokee County School District.

Mike McGowan, district director of public information, communications and partnerships, said no discussions have begun with North Metro or Chattahoochee about the future of the building.

"We haven't had any discussions with Dr. Chandler or leaders of the new campuses with what the future holds there," he said.

Dr. Chandler added that the merger would not affect the building of the 62,500-square-foot campus in The Bluffs at Technology Park at Canton.

Appalachian Tech won \$14.9 million in state funds to build the campus.

Plans for the Canton campus call for a wide variety of associate degree, diploma and technical certificate programs to be offered in business and management, health sciences, human services and technical studies.

Other areas of study will include business and administrative technology, accounting, banking and finance, computer systems, management, entrepreneurship, merchandising, small business management, health care business services, cosmetic esthetician, culinary arts, drafting, industrial maintenance and machine tool.

Offerings in adult education/GED, continuing education, business and industry services also are planned for the Canton campus.

Site work for the project is scheduled to begin later this year, with construction starting early next year.

The campus should be completed in the spring of 2011, with classes starting by that summer.


Board of Director member Steve Holcomb and State Rep. Calvin Hill (R-Hickory Flat) both welcomed the merger, seeing it as an opportunity to provide a wide array of services and courses for Cherokee students.

Holcomb said the merger would be a good opportunity for students in Cherokee County because most students already work in the Cobb area.

"It's really exciting," he said. "Each area will add to the other."

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Abandoned Shipments
Factory Overstocks
Floor Samples
Discontinued Merchandise



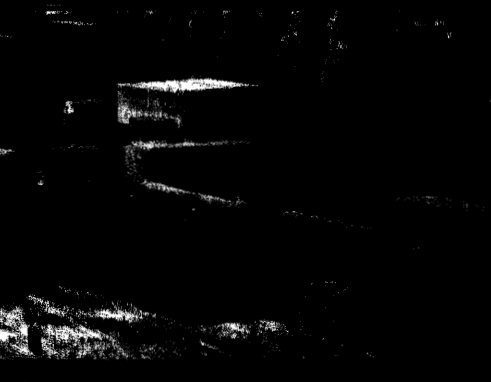
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