

Broun visits Towns County...continued from page 1A

Patients with pre-existing conditions would be able to join pools with friends or groups and buy insurance or negotiate lower premiums.

"The President's plan forces you to choose from a list of plans that are only sanctioned by government bureaucrats," Congressman Broun said. "It also places mandates on businesses that will force them to lay off workers or change their employee coverage."

Congressman Broun's plan would make 100 percent of health care expenses tax deductible.

It also would reduce health care costs and removes burdensome government mandates and regulations.

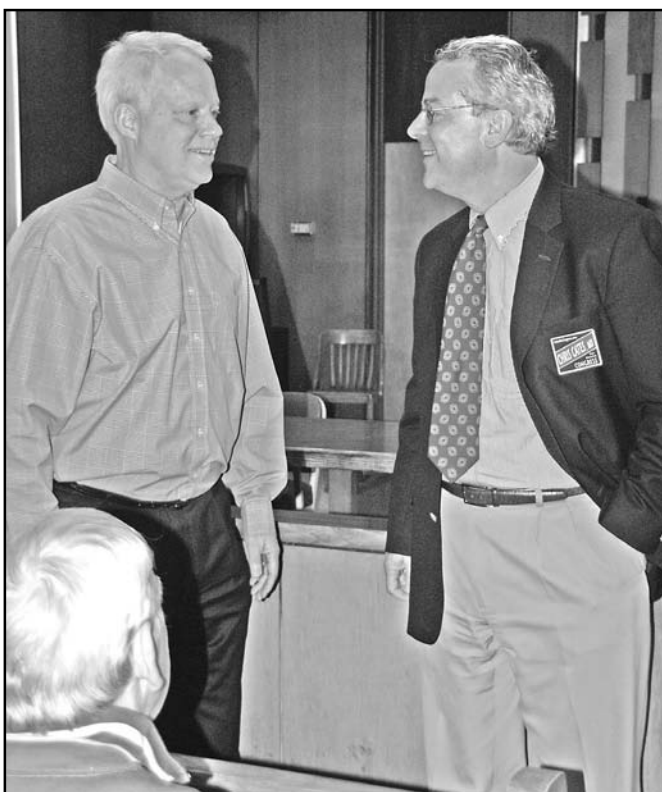
"The President's plan increases taxes on small businesses and cuts Medicare benefits," he said.

Bottom line, he said that by forcing insurance companies to accept government mandates, it forces those companies to pass on those new costs to consumers in the form of higher premiums.

He insists the average family insurance premium will increase by \$2,100.

Congressman Broun also said that the executive order signed by President Obama to prevent the use of federal dollars for abortions is as worthless as the paper it's written on.

"A Presidential Executive order does not supersede law," he said. "The Health Care Reform legislation had already been signed into law when he signed the executive order. The President's legislation allows taxpayer money to fund abortions."



Congressman Paul Broun chats with GOP 9th District Congressional hopeful Chris Cates last week in Hiawassee. Photo/Charles Duncan

Landmark...from page 1A

building to take one last look. That will be by appointment only, Commissioner Kendall said.

Any one wishing to enter the building to look around or take pictures must first sign a waiver of liability form, the commissioner said.

Any other entry will be considered an unlawful trespass, according to the commissioner. For more details about the McKinney Building or other historic buildings or sites, contact Lynn Marshall, president of the Towns County Historical Society at (706) 896-1060.

Geldart...from page 1A

Geldart, President Cox said, has made the choice to devote his time to leading YHC's softball program rather than give up coach duties to concentrate fully on administration.

"Coach G" will continue to assist administration in a new role as Senior Associate Athletic Director for Administration, President Cox said.

"As we pursue membership in NCAA Division II, it will be important for the College's athletics director to devote 100 percent of (their) time to administering and guiding the department," Geldart said. "In order for me to do this, I would not be able to continue coaching softball and do not want to give that up. I welcome the challenges and direction I can give in this newly defined role."

President Cox said that it was important to honor Geldart's decision to continue his coaching career.

"The NCAA Division II model calls for a full-time athletics director without any coaching responsibilities," President Cox said. "We are grateful for Coach Geldart's outstanding service to the College as athletics director. After much discussion through this transition process, we respect the fact that Coach G wishes to continue coaching, and we want to allow him the opportunity to do that while also utilizing his administrative expertise."

Known affectionately throughout the campus community as "Coach G," Geldart earned his 500th career collegiate softball coaching victory on Jan. 30, when his Young Harris College Mountain Lions defeated Broward College 2-1 in the International Women's Fast Pitch Invitational in Kissimmee.

Fla. That milestone victory came on the second day

of Geldart's 26th season as a head coach at the collegiate level, and his eighth season at Young Harris College.

Geldart spent 18 years as the first head coach at Western New England College, beginning his tenure there in 1979. With Geldart at the helm, Western New England put together a 290-196 record.

He also guided the school through the transition from the National Association of Intercollegiate

Athletics (NAIA) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Geldart came to Young Harris in the fall of 2002, and in his first seven years, led the Mountain

Lions to a 208-144 record.

During those seven years, Geldart's Mountain Lions collected four 30-win seasons, winning two NJCAA Region XVII championships and twice appeared in the NJCAA National Tournament.

Along with his collegiate coaching experience, Geldart is well known in international softball circles. He managed and coached select teams from 1995-2001, competing each summer in the Puerto Rico Festival Olympic. In late 2005, he began coaching in the International Fast pitch event.

Geldart also has extensive experience as a basketball coach and referee, both in the United States and abroad. He coached in the Puerto Rico Basketball League, leading the Quebradillas Pirates to the league championship in 1970. He was also an NCAA basketball referee for several years.

Geldart is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. He is a graduate of Roanoke College.

A national search for a full-time director of athletics is underway, President Cox said.

Easter...continued from page 1A

tually, the 17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Towns County Recreation Department and United Community Bank was unveiled. The egg-hunters, kids up to 9 years old, split into different groups — children ages 3 years and under and children ages 7 to 9 years old took to the fields in search of the more than 2,000 eggs hidden in the grass and sand of the ball fields.

With the exception of the 3 years and under age group, receiving prizes as they finished their hunt, prize eggs, identified by a red star drawn on the outside of them, were mixed in with the unmarked eggs. Some of the prizes included Easter baskets, cash, candy, and toys.

However, the grand prizes, two large Easter boxes filled with toys and candy, were on the minds of participants. With one grand prize located in both the 4 to 6 age group and seven to nine age group, each group of participants had an equal chance of finding a grand prize egg. However, Colton Garrett from the 4 to 6 age group and Summer Swanson from the 7 to 9 age group were the lucky locators of the hunt.

The kids weren't the only lucky winners. Jenny Taylor won a beautiful pink azalea plant in the Mother's Raffle giveaway. All in all, the day was a fun one for both parents and kids alike.

The Easter Bunny, after a long night of placing goodies in baskets, arrived at The Ridges Resort just in time for

the Resort's 1st Easter Egg Hunt. Beginning at 2 p.m., the children hunted eggs in the grass right next to Lake Chatuge. Again, more than 2,000 eggs were hidden. When the dust settled, the kids took home bags full of colorful prize holders ranging from candy and toys to gift certificates to local restaurants. However, there could only be one grand prize egg. Montana Esters proudly held his prize while his brother, Walker, stood by his side supportively.

Ridges General Manager Chad Hooper was all smiles as the children went home happy.

"We're proud that we can be a part of our local community having local groups from the school system and the community come out and enjoy themselves," Hooper said. "We're tickled to see this many people come out. I think it took a lot longer for us to put them out than it did for the kids to find them."

The Ridges hopes the hunt becomes a larger, annual event in the future for years to come.

"They all seemed to have plenty of eggs in their baskets and they all seemed to have a good time," Hooper said.

"I'm glad that we can be a big part of giving back to the community when we can.

We're more than just a resort; we're a family-oriented establishment with community-minded folks working here and getting involved.

"We like to see the local folks come out here and be involved with the resort," he said.



First graders from Towns County Elementary race to the fields at The Ridges Resort on Wednesday to find elusive Easter Eggs. Below, Montana Esters was the lucky prize winner at Sunday's First Ridges Resort Community Easter Egg Hunt. Photos/Charles Duncan and Jessica Keaton

Speedy delivers once again



James 'Speedy' Harkins has donated 15 birdhouses for the Backyard Habitat at the Towns County Schools. Harkins, a veteran police officer for the city of Hiawassee, presented the birdhouses to Towns County Middle School Assistant Principal Darren Berrong last week. Over the years Harkins has built and donated birdhouses to Union County and Fannin County schools, the Union County Nursing Home, the DHR Center for Handicapped Persons in addition to his generosity here in Towns County. He also has built a doghouse for Towns County's K-9 Cop, a custom built house for Tigger, the Nursing Home Cat, and has donated a custom-built swing to Vogel State Park in Blairsville. A veteran of 29 years of public service, Officer Harkins does wood-working as a hobby and as a stress reliever. Photo/Charles Duncan