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RENEWAL OF SPIRIT

Hundreds gather together for Holbrook camp meeting

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Mountain of debt may be next crisis

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BridgeMill teen wins state pageant

Cherokee Tribune

CHEROKEETRIBUNE.com | SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2009 | 50¢

Happy Independence Day

HERO ON GUARD

Cherokee Tribune/Amber M. Eberly

Charles Pierce of Canton sits in front of a M-60 Army Tank at the Canton Armory, the same model as the first one he ever used in the Army. After serving as a sergeant first class in both the Army and Army National Guard, Pierce now is a member of the Georgia Department of Defense and supplies logistics and support for the Guard unit stationed at the armory.

Canton veteran reflects on duty

New Ga. Department of Defense employee stresses importance of Independence Day

By Ashley Fuller
afuller@cherokeetribune.com

Charles Pierce had mixed emotions as he watched the Army National Guard unit based in Canton ship off to Afghanistan earlier this year.

"It is hard to see them go over there without me," the Canton resident said. "You want to go over there with them, but then you know the dangers, and it would be nice to stay with family, but then you feel guilty that they are going to the front."

Pierce first joined the Army in the summer of 1984, and signed up as an active full-time member of the Army National Guard in 2000, serving as a sergeant first class in both.

He retired from the National Guard last fall, but has returned to the Canton Armory as a member of the Georgia Department of Defense, providing logistics and support for the troops at the armory.

Pierce spent time overseas while in the Army, stationed in Germany during the 1980s and near the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea, where he was on "permanent defense."

He deployed with the Canton National Guard unit on its missions to Bosnia in 2001 and to Iraq about four years ago. The unit currently is on a one-year

See **Veteran**, Page **3A**

CHARLES PIERCE FILE

AGE: 42
RESIDENCE: Canton
OCCUPATION: Georgia Department of Defense member supplying logistics and support for the Army National Guard unit at the Canton Armory
MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Retired from the Army and Army National Guard after serving as a sergeant first class with both
EDUCATION: Attended Central Texas University
FAMILY: Wife, Michele; four children

PEDALING PATRIOTS

County children wheel out red, white and blue ribbons for annual holiday ride

Left: Olivia McKean, 8, daughter of Allison McKean of Woodstock, rides her decorated bike during The Sunshine House of Woodstock's third annual Fourth of July Bike Parade. **Below left:** Shelby Carlson, 4, left, daughter of Jodi and Brooks Carlson of Roswell, and Madison Judy, 4, daughter of Amanda and Bobby Judy of Woodstock, watch the other age groups ride their bikes. **Below right:** Brendon Dye, 3, son of April and Tommy Dye of Woodstock, rides his decorated bike.

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Cherokee Tribune/Amber M. Eberly

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Palin resigning as Alaska's governor

By Rachel D'Oro
Associated Press Writer

WASILLA, Alaska — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin abruptly announced Friday she is resigning from office at the end of the month, a shocking move that rattled the Republican party but left open the possibility she would seek a run for the White House in 2012.

Palin, 45, and her staff kept her future plans shrouded in mystery, and it was unclear if the controversial hockey mom would quietly return to private life or begin laying the foundation for a presidential bid.

Palin's spokesman, David Murrow, said the governor didn't say anything to him about this being her "political finale." He said he interpreted

AP

See **Palin**, Page **3A**

British Embassy staff to be tried

Iranian cleric accuses UK of instigating riots

By Lee Keath
Associated Press Writer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Iranian authorities have barred journalists for international news organizations from reporting on the streets and ordered them to stay in their offices. This report is based on the accounts of witnesses reached in Iran and official statements carried on Iranian media.

A powerful cleric said Friday that Iran will put British Embassy staffers on trial for fomenting postelection turmoil, a step that would likely increase Iran's isolation and alienate Western nations that have been trying to keep options open with Tehran despite its crackdown on protesters.

The announcement fueled calls in Europe for tougher action against Tehran. Britain is pressing for members of the European Union to pull their ambassadors out of Tehran to protest the staffers' arrests last week.

The standoff is a test of how far Iran's clerical rulers are willing to go to shore up their position at home after the wave of protests — even if they risk wrecking possibilities for dialogue between Tehran and the West, a major policy goal of President Barack Obama that Tehran cautiously welcomed.

After quashing the street demonstrations, Iran's leadership has been trying to erase any lingering doubts about the legitimacy of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad by portraying the unrest as sparked by foreign meddling, not by public anger over the June 12 election, which the protesters said was fraudulent. Prosecuting the detained Iranian members of the British Embassy staff could help boost its case

See **Tried**, Page **3A**

Powerful sedative found in Michael Jackson's home

By Michael R. Blood
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The powerful sedative Diprivan was found in Michael Jackson's home, a law enforcement official said Friday as the city planned for a massive crowd at the singer's memorial service.

Diprivan is an anesthetic widely used in operating rooms to induce unconsciousness. Also known as Propofol, it's given intravenously and is very unusual to have in a private home.

The law enforcement official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about the matter.

A Los Angeles Police spokesman, Lt. John Romero,

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■ **Police plan for memorial**

■ **Ex-wife makes move for custody of children**

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OUTSIDE

Partly sunny

91 HIGH | 66 LOW

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LAST PITCH

Friends, family remember Billy Mays

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