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votes throughout the district.

The district-wide win by Collins in the GOP runoff makes him the heavy favorite to win the Nov. 6th General Election against Gainesville Democrat Jody Cooley. North Georgia traditionally votes heavily Republican.

"I am thrilled to be the Republican nominee for the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia," Collins said. "I want to thank everyone for their prayers, support, and encouragement over the past year. I am looking forward

to winning in November and taking our Northeast Georgia conservative values to Washington."

Collins has represented Georgia House District 27 since 2007.

He currently serves in the United States Air Force Reserves. He also has a law practice in Gainesville.

Collins won 15 of the 20 counties that make up the 9th District Congressional seat. In Union County, Zoller took 53 percent of the local vote, which consisted of

1,381 votes. Zoller claimed 738 votes to 643 for Collins.

District-wide, Collins took 54.62 percent of the vote. Overall, he captured 39,002 to Zoller's 32,406 votes.

In neighboring Towns County, Collins took a slim victory over Zoller, 421 votes to 392 votes.

Collins claimed victory in Towns, Lumpkin, Hall, White, Fannin, Franklin, Stephens, Jackson, Hart, Gilmer, Banks, Madison, Elbert, Clarke and Rabun counties.

Zoller won Dawson,

Forsyth, Union, Pickens and Habersham counties.

Collins' next task: win in November.

He'll face Cooley, the former Gainesville City School board member, who has a law practice in the Queen City.

If history follows its historical suit, Collins should be the next Congressman from Georgia's 9th Congressional District.

Early voting for Nov. 6 elections begins Oct. 15. Last day to register: Oct. 9.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign

If you drink and drive anywhere in Georgia, be aware that law enforcement in every corner of the state are joining agencies throughout the nation for this year's Labor Day campaign of "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over."

The campaign will last through Monday, September 3rd. In Georgia, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) will be launching a zero tolerance campaign against impaired driving. This means that if you mark the end of summer with booze and a

barbecue, you'll be lamenting more than the start of a new school year if you get behind the wheel. No matter where you drive in Georgia, if you're Over The Limit, you'll be Under Arrest.

The statewide impaired driving crackdown will include a high-visibility enforcement campaign to curb alcohol impaired driving in August and through the Labor Day holiday weekend, which begins at 6 PM on Sept. 3 and continues until 5:59 AM on Sept. 7.

Why such focus on drunk drivers? Because despite all 50 states outlawing driving with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or more, 2010 still saw more than 10,000 people die in crashes involving an impaired driver. Here in Georgia, we experienced 298 alcohol-related fatalities on our roads in 2010. That represents one quarter of all traffic deaths.

GOHS Director Har-

ris Blackwood said police officers, deputies and state troopers all over the state will be aggressively looking for impaired drivers during the crackdown and will not hesitate to arrest anyone caught driving impaired. There will be no warnings and no excuses.

"On average, there is one alcohol-related traffic death every 51 minutes in this country," said Director Blackwood. "Here in Georgia, we're trying to reduce this tragic loss of life by getting impaired drivers off our roads. We know campaigns like this help reduce drunk driving crashes by as much as 20 percent so we're using Labor Day to reinforce the zero tolerance policy that exists in Georgia 365 days a year."

Across the country in 2010, 147 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes during the Labor Day weekend. We also know that many of those killed were young drunk driv-

ers getting behind the wheel at night. Of the 147 deaths, 80 percent happened between 6 PM and 6 AM. Among 18-to-34-year-olds killed during that weekend, 54 percent were alcohol-impaired.

"We want to remind everyone that it is illegal to drive impaired and we hope this campaign will reinforce the message to never get behind the wheel if you've been drinking," said Director Blackwood. "Those who choose to break the law can face jail time, loss of their license and steep financial consequences. It's simply not worth the risk."

For more information on the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober. For more information on Georgia's efforts to combat impaired driving, visit www.gahighwaysafety.org.

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best recipes in front of a large audience," said Mickey Cumming, Market Manager. "And it's an inexpensive way for those attending to get to try these menu items as well as items like all natural farm raised beef."

Leone says the evenings are so delightful this time of year. The market has plenty of seating for patrons to come with friends and enjoy a delightful time at the market.

"This is another great night to buy produce as well as indulge in some serious taste testing. So bring your family, the neighbors and friends," Leone said.

Leone says the event is an opportunity to learn what each local restaurant has to offer.

If good eating is a primary interest, and it usually is, be at The Market from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Leone said.

"You then can choose what you'd like to taste," she said. "Each tasting will be one or two tickets, and it will be a generous tasting. The idea is that for your five tickets, you will have had dinner. More importantly, you'll get a chance to try dishes from restaurants or food suppliers you haven't had a chance to sample."

"Please mark your calendar, bring the kids, gather with your friends from work, or put your grandmother in the car and head over and support this effort of community collaboration," she said.

The Market also has a special event planned for Labor Day weekend, Leone said.

"It's time to tailgate," she said. "College football fans get a chance to show their colors this Saturday, at

The Market. Everyone loves a good rivalry on and off the field.

"Here's an opportunity to boast of your allegiance by dressing in your favorite team colors," she said. "Paint your face, wear your team boxers, top your head with a mascot cap, or wave your team flag. However you want to express yourself and your love of all that bleeds your favorite colors, we want you to bring it on out to The Market."

The Public Address system will surprise fans throughout the morning with their fight song and they get to sing along.

"So this Saturday morning, come and compete, not just to see if you can get to The Market before all the corn has been sold, but to battle your rivals in the wearing of the team colors," Leone said.

Drivers

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with a valid Georgia learner's permit, and Union County residents will have priority over nonresidents.

The dates for the classroom portion of the course will be Saturday, Sept. 22 and Sept. 29, and Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday evenings on Sept. 24, and Oct. 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

It is recommended that students bring a lunch and/or snack from home for the Saturday classes.

The enrollment deadline for the program will be Friday, Sept. 14.

The six hours of driving will be scheduled for each student upon satisfactory completion of the classroom portion of the course.

Students will meet at Union County High School on class days and driving days.

The driving times will be scheduled individually.

Students will be eligible to participate in the driver's education class if they have a valid Georgia learner's permit and provide a copy to the school system; tuition is paid in full and a completed contract is on file with the school system; students have completed an additional 20 hours of supervised driving including six hours at night, over and above the driving time provided through the program. A notarized affidavit verifying these hours will be required. The affidavit form will be available from the school system.

Contracts and other necessary forms can be picked up at the Union County High School front office.

For more details, contact the high school at (706) 745-2216.

More details regarding driving rules and regulations may be obtained at <http://www.dds.ga.gov>.

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, August 29

1pm Natural Wellness Fair - Georgia Center for Total Cancer Care
2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad

Thursday, August 30

12pm Rotary Club of Union County - Cadence Bank
6pm Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening for Magnolia's Roadside Cafe

Friday, August 31

8am Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
9am Complimentary Health Screenings - Brasstown Pharmacy
7pm Friday Night Concert Nearly Normal String Band - Historic Union County Courthouse
7pm You can be the Star Karaoke - Lodge at Copperhead
7pm Mike Watson Live - The Lodge at Copperhead

Saturday, September 1

7am Union County Farmer's Market
9am Mountain Heritage Festival - The Mountain Life Museum
6:30pm High Noon Band - The Lodge at Copperhead

Sunday, September 2

9am Mountain Heritage Festival - The Mountain Life Museum

Monday, September 3

12pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament - Lodge at Copperhead

Tuesday, September 4

8am Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting - Cooks Restaurant
10am Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening for Cornerstone Thrift Store

3pm Union County Farmer's Market

Wednesday, September 5

2pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad