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financially as the U.S., the two most feasible ways to spur economic development are improving the infrastructure and allowing research and development grants to universities to create new technologies that would in turn produce jobs.

"One big thing, too, that would take very little money is there's a huge backlog of patents at the patent office," Turner said. "You could probably generate one or two million jobs by just funding the patent department correctly."

But Turner's basic mantra for most issues dealing with economics is that there isn't one easy answer.

"It took us 30 years to get here, and you're not going to have a quick fix," he said. "It's going to take anywhere from another three to five years to dig out of this hole."

A similar problem faces the question of national debt. Turner says the country spent 30 years building up that debt, and two years aren't going to magically repair that.

"We need to at least freeze spending where it's at, and maybe inflation can cut away at the deficit," he said. "My position on the debt is you can't do it with tax cuts. That's ridiculous. You have to have spending cuts and tax cuts."

Coble, a fiscal conservative, also believes cuts are necessary. McDonald says Coble's slogan has long been a pencil, representing the sharp cuts the representative would like to make in government spending.

"He thinks the spending is way too high," McDonald said. "It always has been. He looks first at what is the cost for the taxpayers."

One huge cost has been military expenses for the War in Afghanistan, a conflict that seems to have no end in sight. Though Coble has voted to dispatch troops in the past, McDonald says the Congressman would like to see the soldiers draw out as soon as possible.

"He thought we never had an exit strategy," McDonald said. "He voted to dispatch the troops, and still supports that, but he says looking back now that he regrets that since we didn't have an exit strategy."

Turner actually sits on the same

page as Coble on this issue, emphasizing the need for a plan.

"We need to pull out of there totally by next summer, have a nice timetable of removing the troops," he said. "We went there to deny Al Qaeda a base, but those guys don't need real estate to operate."

When the mission expanded to creating a democratic state, Turner says the country doesn't have the time or the resources to invest in such a drastic goal.

On offshore drilling, Turner says he doesn't support it, but until the U.S. finds alternative energy sources the nation's addiction to oil leaves little choice, he says. Coble on the other hand supports offshore drilling but thinks the decision should be left up to individual states.

Coble says he will continue to oppose government-run health care but will seek to achieve health care reform, while Turner says the health care reform package didn't go far enough and that a single-payer health care system is needed.

Staff Writer Erin Wiltgen can be reached at 888-3576 or at newsdesk@villetimes.com.

Mollohan graduates basic training

TIMES STAFF REPORT

Army Reserve Spec. Joseph W. Mollohan has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman.

He is the son of Tammy Large of S. Cox Street, Asheboro, N.C., and grandson of Sarah Haire of Polar Street, Lexington, N.C.

Mollohan is a 2010 graduate of Central Davidson High School, Lexington.

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help people find work and not just take care of unemployment benefits.

"We are the employment security commission, not the unemployment security commission," Michael said. "People should be encouraged that jobs are out there. Davidson County had a bigger drop [in unemployment] than most of the other counties in North Carolina."

The unemployment rates in Guilford County and Randolph County also dropped to 9.8 and 9.2 percent, respectively. Scotland County registered the state's highest unemployment rate at 14.8 percent with Currituck County reporting the lowest at 4.1 percent.

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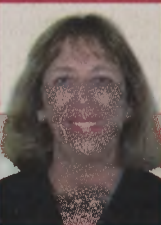
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