

Unofficial Union County Election Results

General Runoff • July 26, 2016 • Votes By Precinct*

Candidate	Blairsville	Coosa	Choestoe	Jones Creek	Owltown	Ivy Log	Suches	Trackrock	Dooley	Gumlog	Pat Colwell	Absentee and Advance Voting included in Precinct Totals	TOTALS	Percentage
State Representative, District 8 - REP														
Matt Gurtler	75	74	91	108	80	79	50	57	63	65	87	35	607	74.90%
Kent Woerner	37	32	15	27	26	31	25	17	8	16	38	13	208	25.10%

Colwell...from Page 1A

Georgia. Your backdrop is two to 10 miles.

"I would tell him every night - you've got the skills, use your eye and hand coordination and smoke that first one as soon as it gets out of the thrower, because then you've got more time for the other one."

McGillis coaches Union County 4-H Shotgun, and is certified under an array of shooting organizations, including the National Rifle Association, Amateur Trap Shooting Association, National Sporting Clays Association and USA Shooting.

USA Shooting sponsors the National Junior Olympics, and Colwell competed in two events mid-June, the Single Trap and the Double Trap.

The Double Trap event, in which Colwell placed third, is quite different from the 4-H shooting to which he has grown accustomed. In 4-H, the clays fly between 49 and 54 miles per hour. Double Trap clays fly 75 miles per hour, and in varying directions from multiple trap machines.

Those who place in the Top Two positions during the National Junior Olympics can move on to the Junior National Team, where they compete in Junior World Cup shooting events that open up the doors to Olympic trials.

Colwell has already said he looks forward to competing again next year, and that he had a great time in Colorado Springs - he and his mother were able to stay with a cousin stationed at Fort Carson.

"It was interesting, because you got to meet all the kids that were the best in their area or their state," said Colwell of the experience. "You got to see other state's really good shooters, and you got to meet other shooters from your state that weren't involved with 4-H, or other extracurricular activities that involved shooting other than USA Shooting."

Coach McGillis said that, along with placing at an international shooting competition, Colwell has gained valuable experience in his exposure to such a high level of shooting competition.

"We're looking forward



Here, 16-year-old Patrick Colwell takes his place on the winner's dais after achieving Bronze for his shotgun shooting in Fort Carson, Colorado

to the development of the new range, where we can train more kids for international shooting besides 4-H," said Coach McGillis. "This is going to be a tremendous advantage for Union County. And seeing as I'm the only USA Shooting instructor that has anything to do with the 4-H, I'm personally

not retiring until I get a kid on the Olympic team."

Colwell joins the ranks of two former Union County 4-H Shotgun Team members - Haley and Haden Green have also done exceedingly well in past National Junior Olympic Championships.

Gurtler...continued from Page 1A

the ballots at 1,471 total votes to Woerner's 493.

Woerner, a former elementary school principal, was able to edge Gurtler by 61 votes in their home county, but it wasn't enough to sway the remainder of the district, which encompasses all of Union, Towns and Rabun counties, along with a portion of White County.

In Towns County, Gurtler received 726 votes (62 percent), and in White County 154 votes (59 percent).

In the May 24 Primary, Gurtler was unable to obtain more than 50 percent of the

required electorate to avoid the Run Off Election, as he collected only 35 percent of votes to Woerner's 23 percent.

Gurtler will run unopposed in November for the District 8 seat, which has been held for eight years by Blairsville attorney Stephen Allison, who decided earlier this year not to run for re-election.

NGTC to conduct campus emergency exercise drills August 5th

North Georgia Technical College will conduct three emergency preparedness drills next week - one on each campus - that will involve faculty and staff along with multiple law enforcement agencies. No students will be participating since the college is between semesters.

The Blairsville campus drill will be Friday, August 5. Each drill will be closed to the public. The drills also will involve multiple EMS agencies, two local hospitals and the local media. This large scale exercise is designed to help all potential responding agencies in the area prepare for responses in the event of this type of scenario.

North Georgia Technical College thanks all the agencies involved for their efforts and advanced planning and time given to make this exercise possible for the community.

Masons donate to FUMC's 'Backpack to School'

By Lily Avery
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

First United Methodist Church of Union County coordinated a "Backpack to School!" community event on Saturday, July 30, held at the church.

"Backpack to School!" is a free event to provide families in the community with book bags and various other school supplies for the fast approaching new school year.

The event expected close to 300 children of all ages to come out to receive supplies and enjoy a day of activities and family fun.

Allegheny Lodge #114 supported the program with a financial donation of \$500, made on Wednesday, July 27,



L-R: Doug Shea, Past Master of Allegheny Lodge #114, Tricia Wallace of First United Methodist Church and coordinator for 'Backpack to School!', and Ronny Benfield, current Worshipful Master of Allegheny Lodge. Allegheny Lodge donated \$500 to the cause

to Tricia Wallace of FUMC, who helped to coordinate the community event.

First United Methodist

Church hopes to make "Backpack to School!" an annual event.

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