

Runoff Elections...from Page 1A

and reasonable rates for services under its jurisdiction, including aspects of electric, natural gas and telecommunications provision, according to psc.ga.gov.

County is in a more conservative region of the state, reflected in the district competitions that saw clear Republican winners supported locally by an 81.48% turnout of active registered voters participating in the election.

More than half of Union County's voters took advantage of early in-person voting, with the remaining split fairly evenly between absentee by mail and Election Day voting for a total of 15,645 votes cast.

For District 51 State Senator, Republican Incumbent Steve Gooch successfully fended off Democrat June Krise with 83% of the districtwide vote. In Union County, he won 81% to Krise's 19%.

In the District 8 State Representative race, Republican Stan Gunter beat Democrat Dave Cooper with 82% of the vote districtwide to earn the seat. Union Countians supported Gunter with 83% of the local vote.

For U.S. Representative in the 117th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Republican Andrew Clyde defeated Devin Pandey with 79% of the vote to earn the seat. Here in Union, Clyde earned 83% to Pandey's 17%.

For President of the United States, despite being behind in Georgia, local voters chose Donald Trump and running mate Mike Pence to serve another four years, with 81% of Union Countians voting for the president over candidate Joe Biden and running mate Kamala Harris.

Many national media outlets had called the race

for Biden as early as Friday, bestowing upon him the title of President-Elect, though it appeared that potential voting irregularities were still being investigated at press time, and votes were still being counted in the national election.

For Public Service Commissioner District 1, Republican Incumbent Jason Shaw had a slim 50.14% lead in the contest, keeping him above the runoff threshold by press time Monday.

For the Georgia ballot initiatives, all three enjoyed support at the state level, and Union Countians voted the following:

Amendment 1 carried locally with 83% of the vote. This amendment will ensure that specific fees, such as the \$1 old-tire disposal fee charged in new tire purchases, are dedicated for their intended purpose instead of being allocated elsewhere, as is current practice under state law.

Seventy-four percent of Union County voters said "YES" to Amendment 2, which will enable citizens to freely sue the state in an attempt to challenge "state or local laws that violate

the Constitution of Georgia, the U.S. Constitution, or state law."

Concerning Statewide Referendum A, 69% of Union County voters said "YES" to establishing "a tax exemption for certain real property owned by charities," which will benefit some nonprofits like the local Habitat for Humanity.

Also on the ballot were uncontested elections for eight local offices, with the following seven incumbent officials set to be sworn in again in 2021:

Superior Court Clerk Judy Odom, Sheriff Mack Mason, Tax Commissioner Lee Knight, Surveyor Jason Henson, Coroner Benny Erwin, Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris and District 1 Board of Education Member Janna Akins.

The District 3 Board of Education seat will go to newly elected member Julia Barnett, who won a primary challenge earlier in the year to become the lone candidate running in the General Election.

At press time, all results were expected to be certified at the state level by Friday, Nov. 13.

Pumpkin Winners...from Page 1A

Bradley, Mickey Cummings, Union County Farmers Market, and the Road Department for sharing their equipment for the contest.

The Georgia 4-H Pumpkin Growing Contest is sponsored by the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association. 4-H is the youth program of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

For more information about this program or other 4-H activities contact Timothy Jennings at the UGA Cooperative Extension Service at 706-439-6030.

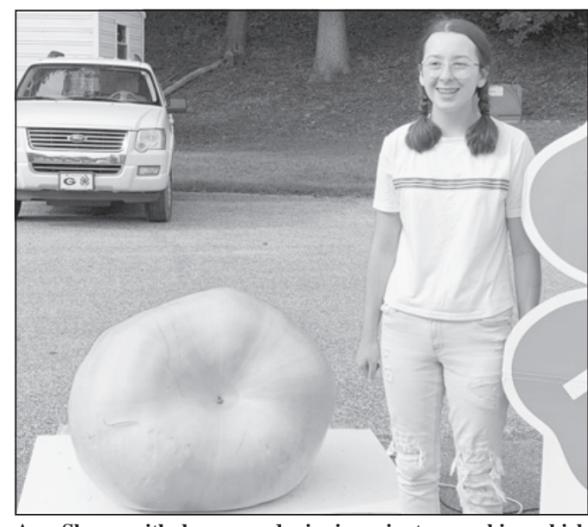


4-H'er Natalie Payne won Second Place in all of the state with her 432-pound giant pumpkin. Photo/Submitted

Civil War author to speak

Civil War author/historian Gregory C. White will give a talk to the David W. Payne Camp 1633, Sons of Confederate Veterans at their monthly meeting, Thursday, November 12th, at 7 PM, at the Davenport Veterans Building in Blairsville. The topic will be Moses Dallas: Confederate Naval Pilot/American Slave. Dallas was an African-American Naval Pilot who played a crucial role in the Confederate capture of the USS Water Witch near Savannah in 1864.

The public is welcome to attend. NT(Nov11.GI)SH



Ava Sharp with her award-winning giant pumpkin, which weighed in at 316 pounds for a Third-Place finish. Photo/Submitted

Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution receives "Best Salute to Veterans" award



(L-R): Stephen Weaver, David Cook, Jared Ogden, Jack Dugger, Mike Pittus, Sid Turner, Devon Turner

"Best Salute to Veterans"... That is what the award reads that was received by the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) on Saturday, October 31 from the town of Andrews NC. Yes, seven brave compatriots arrived in Andrews, NC and in the light of a full moon, before daylight, and on the coldest day of the fall, began assembling their award winning patriotism float honoring all veterans of the United States of America. In fact, most are veterans themselves and are not youngsters but have an average age of mid seventies. Promoting patriotism is a major goal of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution and the local chapter very actively does just that.

The Andrews parade drew many citizens showing respect for our veterans and the chapter was proud to be able to participate. After the parade, the celebration for veterans continued at the Andrews Regional Airport with a vintage aircraft show, car show and free refreshments. Many attendees visited the SAR float seeking historical and organization information from the seven color guard members. It was a great opportunity to provide a historical perspective to young school children who often do not have this information presented to them.

The Andrews parade float was designed and built by the Turner family of Blairsville consisting of Compatriot Devon, father and Compatriot Sid, and mother Bonnie. It is assembled on a 5' x 14' tandem axle trailer and takes about an hour for assembly.

The chapter is very small with only 30 members but is nationally recognized by the SAR as the best chapter for its size in the world. The chapter offers help to all men who may qualify as members, with completing their applications. Becoming a member of the SAR provides a family history for generations to come. For more information about the SAR and the Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter contact President, Jared Ogden at 779-855-0007. NT(Nov11.ZS)CA

The float and the chapter color guard have won over a dozen awards for its patriotic theme in the towns of Andrews, and Murphy NC, and the towns of Hiwassee, and