

Judge Jeremy Clough visits with Movers and Shakers

By Mark Smith
North Georgia News
Staff Writer

HIWASSEE – Judge Jeremy D. Clough oversees the Juvenile Court of the Enotah Judicial Circuit, and he spoke with the Mountain Movers and Shakers group on Friday, July 27, at the Sundance Grill.

Clough grew up in Marietta, got his undergraduate degree in communications at Lee University in East Tennessee, then went to law school at Georgia State University.

He interned at the Cobb County District Attorney's Office and got his first job out of law school in 2003 handling misdemeanor cases in Towns and Union counties for N. Stanley Gunter, who was district attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit at the time.

As a prosecuting attorney, Clough spent a lot of time out in the field with law enforcement.

"I learned what you see in a courtroom is a lot different than the way things actually happen out in real life," said Clough.

In 2008, Clough took a transfer to White County, where he served as a senior assistant district attorney in charge of that office, handling the serious felony caseload focusing mainly on violence and sex crimes.

Seven years later, in 2015, he was appointed to the Juvenile Court.

"Because of the rules of confidentiality, you don't see a whole lot about us in the newspaper," said Clough. "If we're in the newspaper, usually it's because something has gone very badly wrong."

"About 80 percent of what we do is children who are removed from their parents because of abuse or neglect."

The remaining nearly 20 percent of Clough's cases deal with delinquency, or children breaking the law, and a small percentage of his cases deal with Children in Need of Services (CINS), or children who run away or are truant



Judge Jeremy Clough of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court spoke to the Mountain Movers and Shakers in Hiwassee on Friday, July 27.

Photo by Mark Smith

from school.

"Some people think juvenile court should be a much more casual environment than Superior Court. I don't take that view," said Clough. "If you're coming into court and people have forcibly removed your child from your home, I think you have the right to feel like you're treated with all the dignity and seriousness that that case deserves."

And because he values seriousness and dignity, Clough focuses on timeliness and professionalism in his courtroom.

"Normally, by the time somebody appears in our courtroom, somebody's made a bad choice," said Clough. "That doesn't mean they don't deserve to be treated with respect. They're human beings. They're created in the image of God. They have the right to be treated with dignity and respect in the proceedings."

That's one reason for the formality. Another is to maintain security in the courtroom.

"When I was ADA, I saw a couple of fairly good fights

in courtrooms. Our goal is to avoid that, because we don't want anybody to get hurt," said Clough.

One of the many administrative duties of the court is to appoint legal representation for a parent or a child if they can't afford an attorney. Additionally, Clough scrutinizes every bill that is submitted by court-appointed attorneys.

Family Treatment Courts, the juvenile version of Accountability Courts, is another facet of the Enotah Judicial Circuit discussed by Judge Clough that Friday morning.

Too often, people with addictions are sentenced to prison or ordered into drug rehab programs, only to return down the line with the same problem.

What Family Treatment Court does is address whatever the underlying problem is that brought the parent to the point of having their children taken from them so they don't return to the system with the same problem.

Turn Arrow...from Page 1A

"And you've got to wait, and you've got to wait, and you've got to wait."

"Especially now in the summer, where traffic is increasing, that's a nice thing to have there. And we've been working closely with the county on that. We need to give the county props, because they're the ones that followed up over and over again."

Bradshaw said GDOT determined initially that the traffic at Main Street and Bell Creek Road didn't meet the state's requirements for a turn arrow, but he asked them to study the intersection again

during the county's busier summer months.

The rest is history. "We were happy to get that done," said Bradshaw. "The only thing that GDOT hasn't addressed that is a major concern – and it was our No. 1 priority – is the center turning lane going out US 76 West from Hiwassee toward Young Harris. There needs to be a center turning lane all through there (to the Junction)."

GDOT took a look at installing a dedicated center lane connecting Hiwassee to Young Harris but determined that there wasn't enough

pavement for the proper lane widths.

"I understand that it's not an easy fix, but it's going to have to be fixed, and we're going to continue to pursue this," said Bradshaw. "I talked to Georgia Sen. (John) Wilkinson several months ago, and he said that, probably this fall, he would set up a meeting with Russell McMurry."

"He's the commissioner of the DOT, and the senator and I will visit him. I'm not going to let it go. We're going to keep pushing this."

Indictments...from Page 1A

Thomas Dewey Duckworth Jr., possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of methamphetamine; three counts possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony; possession of drug-related objects.

Amber Michell Graham, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of methamphetamine; three counts possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony; possession of drug-related objects.

Samuel Dwaine Hedden, aka Samuel Dwayne Hedden, Sam Hedden, Samuel D. Hedden, violation of Racketeer Influenced

and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act; five counts sale of marijuana; three counts sale of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance; three counts sale of methamphetamine; distribution of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance; possession of marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of drug-related objects; recidivist.

Catherine Annette Prince, sale of methamphetamine.

Barry Hunter Collins, five counts possession of a Controlled Substance; possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of marijuana, more than an ounce; possession of marijuana with intent to distribute; three counts

possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony; three counts of drugs not in original container; two counts possession of drug-related objects.

Phillip Daniel Goss, trafficking methamphetamine or amphetamine; possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of drug-related objects; failure to register vehicle.

Angelica Latrelle Millwood, trafficking methamphetamine or amphetamine; possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute; possession of drug-related objects.

BRMEMC...from Page 1A

Of course, members will also be able to vote in person at the annual meeting, which will be held at the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center on Saturday, Sept. 8, beginning at 8 a.m.

Next week, the EMC Board will hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the proposed bylaw changes that will appear on the ballot.

All EMC members are invited to attend the Town Hall Meeting, which will take place

at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 7, in the main lobby of the EMC headquarters at 875 Main Street in Young Harris.

Members will be asked to approve two changes to the EMC bylaws in this year's election.

One of the changes will include the definition of "member in good standing" as it relates to the qualifications for a member to run for the board of directors, and secondly, the membership will be deciding

whether or not voting for director candidates should be limited to each candidate's home county.

This second amendment was proposed on the floor of the 2017 annual meeting, and it would prohibit a member in Union County from voting on a candidate running in Towns County, for example.

Historically, the membership has always been able to vote for candidates in all the counties.

Amateur Radio License testing

The Union County Amateur Radio Club is again conducting FCC amateur radio testing for all levels on August 4th (first Saturday of the month). The tests will be given at the Union County Community Center/Blairsville

Chamber of Commerce (2nd floor), 129 Union County Recreation Road. If you are interested please contact John Walters at 706-897-4419 for more details and reserve your seat for the test. \$15 is charged to cover cost of materials. Test-

ing starts at 9 a.m. Walk ins are welcome but the testing committee leaves at 11 a.m. See <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>. Tech exams will be using the new set of questions. See you there. NT(Aug1,216)CA

Kemp defeats Cagle to earn spot in Nov. 6 General Election

By Shawn Jarrard
Towns County Herald
Editor

It's official – Republican Brian Kemp will face Democrat Stacey Abrams in the Nov. 6 General Election race for the office of Georgia governor.

Kemp, who is currently serving as Georgia's secretary of state, earned his spot on the November ballot by defeating Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle in the July 24 Republican Primary Election Runoff.

Statewide, Kemp earned 406,638 votes (69.45 percent) to Cagle's 178,877 (30.55 percent), as a total of 585,515 Georgians attended the polls to cast votes in the runoff contest to select the Republican nominee for governor.

Locally, Kemp's margin of victory virtually mirrored statewide results, as Union County supported him 69.88 percent (2,257 votes) to Cagle's 30.12 percent (973 votes).

The other July 24 runoff races concluded as follows:

Geoff Duncan narrowly edged out David Shafer to clinch the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor.

Statewide, Duncan received 279,226 votes to Shafer's 277,496 to win the election with 50.16 percent of the vote to Shafer's 49.84 percent.

Here in Union County, Duncan took the contest with 1,731 votes and 56.07 percent of the vote to Shafer's 1,356 votes and 43.93 percent of the



Casey Cagle and Brian Kemp pledge to unify Georgia Republicans at a "unity rally" on Thursday, July 26, two days after the runoff election.

party's nomination photo: Facebook primary.

vote. On the Democratic side, the only race to go to a runoff was the nomination for state school superintendent.

In the July 24 runoff, Otha E. Thornton Jr. secured the Democratic nomination over rival Sid Chapman, earning 86,691 votes (59.1 percent) statewide to Chapman's 59,998 votes (40.9 percent).

In Union County, Chapman received the majority of support in the race, garnering 70 votes (68.63 percent) to Thornton's 32 votes (31.37 percent).

Thornton will face Republican incumbent Richard Woods in the November election for state school superintendent.

Come November, Raffensperger will face off against Democratic challenger Josh Barrow, who won his

FBLA...from Page 1A



2018 FBLA National Leadership Conference participants: Chase Williams, Chase Rogers, Emily Williams, Taylor Cornett, Danny Reagan, Ryan Tyler, Andy Chambers, Kaitlyn Crowder, Corrina Luckenbach, Sara Beth Hobbs, Kyra Tallent, Nick Bradley and Kenzie Smith.

June 27 and July 2.

Participants from around the country journeyed to the conference to sharpen their core business skills, expand their networks, and compete in more than 60 business and business-related events.

Towns County FBLA proudly represented Georgia with 13 competitors who advanced as state winners to earn their place at nationals.

This is a record number of students from Towns County High School advancing to nationals.

Competitors included: Chase Williams, Chase Rogers, Emily Williams, Taylor Cornett, Danny Reagan, Ryan Tyler, Andy Chambers, Kaitlyn Crowder, Corrina Luckenbach, Sara Beth Hobbs, Kyra Tallent, Nick Bradley and Kenzie Smith.

These young business leaders worked tirelessly the entire year to make it to this level of competition, advancing from region to state to national level. Their dedication and strong work ethic paid off as the results were calculated.

Junior Danny Reagan competed in Graphic Design, a technical event. Reagan designed a publication set and presented to judges at National Leadership Conference, or NLC.

"I had an amazing time in Baltimore and was fortunate to compete in an event that I really enjoy," said Reagan. "While there, I enjoyed being surrounded by some of my best friends. It was great!"

Senior Chase Williams competed at NLC for the third time, this year in Future Business Leader, the premier event of FBLA.

The Future Leader event consists of an online knowledge test on the competitor's knowledge of FBLA, and also business areas such as accounting, management, economics, business law, computer concepts and current events.

Then, FBLA competitors are asked to submit their resume and participate in an intense interview process.

Williams has played a vital role on the local, state and national level of FBLA throughout his high school career. He served as Towns County FBLA President this year, as well

as Region 13 President for the past two years.

"FBLA has been a huge part of my life, and what an extraordinary way to conclude my time in this great organization by competing in Future Business Leader at NLC in Baltimore," said Williams.

Junior and first-time competitor Kaitlyn Crowder competed in Word Processing, and she said, "All the hard work and time spent studying was well worth making it to NLC, because it was an experience of a lifetime."

Ryan Tyler is also new to competitions and made it to NLC his first year, competing in Spreadsheet Applications.

"Competing in FBLA Nationals was an awesome experience, and I hope to go back to nationals next year in San Antonio," said Tyler. "I also want to get more involved in FBLA leadership on the local and state level."

Seniors Kyra Tallent and Sara Beth Hobbs returned for a second round of NLC competition, with Tallent competing in Word Processing and Hobbs in Spreadsheet Applications.

"Competing nationally is an opportunity of a lifetime," said Tallent. "It was great seeing my hard work pay off and meeting so many new people."

Nick Bradley, having one of the Top Scores at state in Entrepreneurship, represented Georgia FBLA as part of a Georgia Super Team.

After placing first at the State Leadership Conference, Kenzie Smith competed in Client Service. Andy Chambers, after placing first at SLC, competed in Computer Applications. Corinna Luckenbach wowed judges in the business presentation event at NLC.

Second year team competitors and juniors Emily Williams and Taylor Cornett competed in the Business Ethics event.

"FBLA offers such incredible opportunities that us students would generally not receive otherwise," said Williams. "Not only do we get to learn about the business world and its many intricacies, but we learn about our fellow peers and travel to new and exciting

places."

Added Cornett: "FBLA is an incredible organization and provides great opportunities. Our advisors are some of the best role models, and the people involved are always so encouraging. I look forward to another full year of competitions, adventures and learning."

Chase Rogers competed in Word Processing at NLC and was called to the big stage to be recognized for making the Top 10 in his event, placing fourth in the nation! Congratulations Chase on a job well done!

"It is a great honor to be able to represent Towns County on a national level," said Rogers. "I want to thank my advisers and Georgia FBLA for this fantastic opportunity."

The Awards of Excellence Program is part of a comprehensive national competitive events program sponsored by FBLA that recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas.

For many students, the competitive events are the capstone activity of their academic careers. In addition to the competitions, students immersed themselves in educational workshops, visited an informative packed exhibit hall, and attended motivational keynotes on a broad range of business topics throughout the conference.

The 2018 National Competitive Events Team from Towns County would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support throughout their journey including:

Our Superintendent, Dr. Darren Berrong; our principal, Dr. Connie Hobbs; Assistant Principal, Mr. Jim Melton; and Counselor, Mrs. Lana Parker; the Board of Education; our parents and families; our teachers; our corporate sponsors; and the Hiwassee community.

A special thank you is in order to our FBLA advisers, Mrs. McConnell and Mrs. Taylor, for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the members of Towns County FBLA.

Corporate sponsors for NLC include: Towns County P.T.S.O., Lake Chatuge Rotary Club, and Stephanie W. McConnell, Attorney.