

Cagle: 'recovery slow' ...continued from page 1A

opportunity will present itself again, I feel confident about that," he said. "Who ever is elected governor will need a strong lieutenant governor who understands about living in the trenches and being a strong leader and we look forward to doing that."

Cagle said he believes the governor's race is wide open.

"There's really no clear front runner, no clear choice," he said. "There is a huge undecided vote that still exists and the candidates will have to work really hard to get their messages across to the people of Georgia. They're going to have to show No. 1, what they stand

for and No. 2, what type of governor they're going to be."

Cagle praised freshman State Sen. Jim Butterworth from District 50.

"Jim Butterworth has been a great senator," he said. "I'm very proud of him and how he has jumped into this position. He's already a chairperson and I've got a lot of confidence in him. He's got a vast array of understanding that he brings to bear here from being a local elected official.

"We're very optimistic about where he's going for the future," Lt. Gov. Cagle said. "He's got a strong position in the state senate."



District 50 State Sen. Jim Butterworth talks shop with Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle during the Second Annual Campaign Forum and BBQ on the Downtown Square in Hiwassee on Saturday. Cagle praised Sen. Butterworth for jumping in with both feet during his freshman term as a state senator on Capitol Hill. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Dunn heads to YHC ...continued from page 1A

serve as full-time athletics director for the Dahlonega university.

Dunn also has the floor experience and brings a competitive mentality to Young Harris — he played three years on the hardwood for the Saints. The North Georgia alumnus went on to serve as assistant coach at Georgia Southwestern State University before being named an assistant at State University of West Georgia in 1981. After his time at West Georgia, Dunn chose to return to North Georgia College in 1982 to serve as head coach of the men's basketball program. In 1996, his Saints went on to win the Georgia-Alabama-Carolina Conference regular season championship and also advance to the NAIA National Tournament. Dunn also was

named GACC men's basketball "Coach of the Year" that season.

"I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as director of athletics at Young Harris College," Dunn said. "This is a critical time in the history of YHC, and I am extremely excited and look forward to the challenge of helping transition the Mountain Lions into a NCAA Division II program.

"In my previous conversations with President Cox and Dr. Ron Ingle, I immediately felt their passion and commitment for developing a first-class Division II program," he said.

When asked about the vision he has for the growing athletics program at Young Harris College, Dunn said the challenge of moving YHC forward into

Division II intrigued him.

"I think the vision is one of a transition that we are making in to the premier Division II conference of the NCAA, and just having the opportunity to move the institution in this direction intrigued my interest," he said.

Dunn is married to the former Susan Reed, and together, they have an 18-year-old son, Jake.

The athletic department at YHC anxiously anticipates Dunn's arrival and the positive impact that they hope he will bring to the fledgling NCAA Division II athletic program.

His previous program was grateful for his services.

"We are grateful for Randy's many contributions, including recruitment of talented coaches to our staff, growth of our Saints Club,

increased community support of athletics, and expansion of our athletic facilities," NGCSU President Dr. David Potter said.

Since entering the NCAA in 2005, North Georgia has captured six team championships in the Peach Belt Conference, while four different squads have advanced to NCAA National Tournaments, including softball's World Series appearances in 2009 and 2010.

In the past five years, the athletic department's facilities have grown significantly. Additions include the NGCSU Baseball, Softball, and Soccer Complex.

New facilities include the construction of softball's Haines & Carolyn Hill Stadium, and baseball's Bob Stein Stadium.

Deal the front runner ...continued from page 1A

nect with local voters and get to know them personally.

With seven Republicans on the July 20th Primary ballot, Johnson said that the field has narrowed to four.

"I believe the field is right at four, based on polling and on fund-raising," he said. "Of that four, two get in the runoff. The GOP nominee will likely be the next governor."

Depending on the source, former U.S. Congressman Nathan Deal is the GOP frontrunner with John Oxendine and Karen Handel trailing by percentage points. Johnson shakes out as the No. 4 GOP hopeful for governor.

His campaign strategy: wear well and compare well.

"I've got a conservative record going back to Ronald Reagan and nobody in our primary can say that,"

he said. "I've been a part-time legislator, so I've been working in the real world. No one else in the top four can say that."

Johnson brought his campaign to Towns County on Saturday, hoping to connect with local voters and get to know them personally.

There's no doubt about it, Johnson believes he will be Georgia's next governor.

"I've got a 17-year record in the Georgia General Assembly," he said. "I've always been a solid conservative. I've been a leader in the senate and president of the senate. I've got the business experience to go along with it."

Ray McBerry believes he's the man for the job.

He is the only self-proclaimed Constitutionalist in the race.

"I looked at the candi-

dates that were running and there wasn't a Constitutionalist in the bunch," he said. "I am the only Constitutionalist and States Rights Republican in the race for governor. States' rights is the biggest single issue in this campaign."

To hear Karen Handel tell it, she's ready for the challenge of becoming Georgia's next governor.

"Bring it on," the 48-year-old Handel exclaims. "Today, Georgia faces challenges that no Georgia governor has been able to solve."

She says the challenges facing the state are lack of jobs, transportation, water, taxes, education and bloated budgets.

She says it's time to toss the good ole boy political strategy out the window.

"It's time for a proven, battle-tested, accomplished reformer to lead Georgia," she said.



Eric Johnson



Karen Handel



Ray McBerry

Trapshooting ...continued from page 1A

organizations I've ever been associated with," Sheriff Clinton said. "They actually work for the people. I am so active with the Association because they are so active and care so much for the local folks."

Support for the trap shoot event is support for at risk children, Sheriff Clinton said.

"The children are our future and all kids are special," he said. "The kids in the Youth Homes, they haven't done anything wrong, these are at risk children. The Sheriff's Association does a great job mentoring these kids and giving them a chance to be successful adults.

"To me, is there anything more rewarding or important than giving a hand to a child?" he asked. "It's a wonderful feeling to give a child a chance to succeed in life. The kids who go through the youth homes, they turn out great."

Nurtured through the

Youth Homes, many of the young people who emerge from the experience become some of our leading citizens, Sheriff Clinton said.

"Doctors, lawyers, you name it," he said. "It's certainly a cause that I believe in.

"It's a home-type environment with traditional American values," he said. "They get taken care of educationally, medically. For as long as they'll stay in school, the sheriffs will support them.

"I personally support it, I give them money and I know a lot of Towns County citizens support them," he said. "The trap shoot was great last year and it's looking really good again this year."

The event features shooting awards, silent auctions, raffles for guns, guided hog hunting trips, horseback riding, a day's use of a pontoon boat, paintings, knives, and many other items. Numerous door

prizes, which have been donated by local businesses, will be distributed to participants. A free lunch will be provided to shooters. Lunch also will be available for non-shooters and visitors, who may also participate in the raffles and silent auctions.

The event will be conducted on a regulation trap field with each shooter having 50 shots at clay targets. The highest team score and high individual scores will receive awards.

Take part in the event, either as an individual or with a team of friends. The tax deductible contribution is \$50 a person or \$250 per team. The event will have a maximum of 18 teams or 90 people. Many participants from last year have already sent in funds to make reservations. Space is going fast.

The sheriff says that even if you're not a shooter, come and participate in the various silent auctions and raffles for excellent prizes.

Relay ...continued from page 1A

who fights a battle to overcome a blood-related cancer, was the Grand Marshal for this year's Survivors' Walk.

Bradley was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma on his knee in 2009 and had knee replacement surgery soon afterward.

Relay for Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in Towns County a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.

At Relay, teams of people come together on the Downtowns Square to take turns walking or running around the square to raise money for cancer research. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event — cancer never sleeps.

Community relays began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Wash., ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into

the world's largest movement to end the disease.

Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 20 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer. Thanks to Relay participants, the American Cancer Society continues to save lives today.

Lives like Bradley Rogers.

This year's event featured booths like United Community Bank's fun for all ages cubicle, Community Bank & Trust's Shooting for a Cure, and even a booth that captured the Spirit of Relay Award, that being Towns County Schools.

Bands played, adults and children alike danced and enjoyed themselves. Most of all, they came together for a cause, just like the individuals who make Stars Shine For Cancer a success, year in, year out.

The final results of this year's financial goals should be in over the next week or so.



Top, Jamey Wood enjoys some tasty cotton candy. Below, Towns County Schools were awarded the Spirit of Relay for the 2010 event. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

Turbines ...from page 1A

doesn't cost local property taxpayers any extra funds, said Dr. Behrens, Superintendent of Towns County Schools.

The school system in partnership with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and the Green Point Wind & Solar Company, will install a fully operational system to be used as a teaching tool in the school system.

The grant, which covers the total cost of the installation, is part of the federal stimulus funds earmarked for the current calendar year. The wind turbine will be installed below the ridgeline on a rise above

the school buildings to preserve the aesthetic lines of the mountains, Dr. Behrens said.

Several surrounding school systems will be working with Towns County Schools to implement the NEED Energy Program across their own curriculum, Dr. Behrens said.

Daily wind turbine generation information will be available on the Towns County Schools Web site when the system is fully operational.

Students and local residents will have access to these details, Dr. Behrens said.