

State Representative Stephen Allison (R-Blairsville) To Seek Reelection

Representative Stephen Allison announced today he would seek reelection to the State House of Representatives. For the past six years Allison has represented house district 8 which consists of all of Rabun, Union and Towns Counties and the northern parts of White County. "It's been an honor to represent the people of the 8th District at the State House and I'd be honored to continue to be their voice in Atlanta for the next two years" stated Allison.

Representative Allison serves on five committees in the Georgia House of Representatives, including the Appropriations, Energy and Telecommunications, Game, Fish, & Parks, Judiciary and Juvenile Justice Committees. Since 2012, Representative Allison has served as Chief Deputy Whip for the Majority Caucus under former Majority Whip Edward Lindsey and current Majority Whip Matt Ramsay.

During his first three terms, Representative Allison passed multiple pieces of Legislation which included HB667 on behalf of the Attorney General of the State of Georgia, HB 866 an amendment to the Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Act and SB 33 the Zero Based Budgeting Act. He has also passed legislation supporting state firefighters as well as legislation creating a motor



vehicle tag supporting prostate cancer awareness. He has also helped to secure state funds for infrastructure projects throughout the district and to renovate the libraries in Blairsville, Young Harris and in Hiawassee. In his tenure in the house he has been named Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Firefighters Association and he was awarded the "Defender of Liberty" award from the American Conservative Union, America's Oldest and Largest Grassroots Conservative Organization.

"I'm proud of what has been accomplished during my time in the Georgia General Assembly and I believe that there is much left to be done. Our campaign promise since 2010 has been "Effective Representation Delivered" and I am proud to say I have delivered on that promise. I will

continue to be a conservative voice for North Georgia and I will continue to fight for limited government, more personal responsibility and for a better environment for small businesses to create jobs. I want to keep this district one of the best places in Georgia to work, play, retire and raise a family" stated Allison.

Representative Allison has been a practicing attorney in Blairsville for almost 17 years and has been married to his wife Regina for 18 years. The couple has two sons, Thomas Jackson Allison and Nathanael Greene Allison who attend Union County Middle School.

For more information visit Stephen Allison's campaign website at www.voteallison.com.

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Championship...from Page 1A

tion. Busbee prepared for the competition, which was held at the Georgia International Convention Center, with the assistance of her Healthcare Science Instructor, Sandra Cook.

Upon her arrival in Atlanta, she competed against 13 other regional finalists from throughout Georgia, starting with a 50-question written exam.

The following day, she was faced with several challenging scenarios in which she had to diagnose illnesses and injuries, determine the proper treatment and then administer medical care, just as she would if she were a professional first medical responder.

Not only did she apply a triangular bandage in order to immobilize a broken arm, which sounds much easier than it actually is, she also treated a severely bleeding wound, in addition to giving CPR to an adult and an infant.

While some of these things sound easy and almost mundane, one must remember that she performed her duties in a triage setting with observers judging her every move.

Upon completion of the events, Busbee wasn't sure how she fared, but the actions of one of the judges caused her confidence to sky rocket, and proved to her that she had a chance.

"One of the judges hugged me afterwards and told me that they were proud of me and started talking about Nationals," Busbee said. "So I knew that I did good but I still wasn't 100 percent sure."

What's even more im-



Courtney Busbee will use her competitive drive off the softball field in June as she heads to Kansas City for SkillsUSA Nationals.

pressive, unlike high school sports, SkillsUSA is not divided into classifications by enrollment. Busbee was competing against every school in the state, regardless of size or location.

Busbee, also an All-Region and All-State catcher for the Union County Lady Panthers softball team, hopes to become an emergency room physician someday and is looking to further her education while continuing her softball career at the next level.

"I want to play college softball for four years while getting my Pre-Med and two schools that I'm looking at are West Georgia and Georgia College," Busbee said.

The next step in Busbee's quick rise to "healthcare superstardom" is to compete at the National SkillsUSA competition.

She and Cook will arrive in Kansas City in time for the June 23 through June 27 Nationals. It's here where they will find more First Aid/CPR competitive challenges.

"I'm very proud of Courtney and her accomplishments," Cook said. "She has worked hard to be a state champion and I know she will represent Georgia very well at Nationals."

"I would like to thank God and I want to thank Ms. Cook for helping me," Busbee added. "I'd go in so many mornings just to talk to her. I also want to thank Ms. (Jennifer) Ludlum and Union County High School."

The North Georgia News would like to congratulate Courtney Busbee and Sandra Cook on their State championship and wish them the best of luck at Nationals in June.

Market...from Page 1A

for parking was purchased by the county last year from Bob Head, who allowed the county to buy the land to benefit the Farmers Market.

The construction of a third shed is underway to allow more vendors to fill the needs of the ever-increasing crowds at the Market.

Although the improvements have been on the drawing board for a couple of years now, the new addition was a project that Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris couldn't give a green light to until the parking requirements were met.

"We didn't want any more vendor room until we got more parking," he said. "Otherwise, we would just dilute the business. But once we secured the land last year, and got the bridges built so it could be used, we decided to go ahead this year. We're hoping that more people will come now because there is more parking."

Last year, prior to the extension, the Farmers Market featured less than 60 booths under the roof provided by two sheds. Now with a third shed, more than 80 booths will be available, which will hopefully result in less vendors setting up shop in the parking lot, or in the back of their truck, fewer tents, and will allow foot traffic to flow smoothly between the sheds.

But Commissioner Paris is quick to note that the county could see every booth filled as early as this summer.

However, he feels that this current expansion should last anywhere from 3-5 years, and when adding on becomes necessary once again, there will be plenty of room and plenty of options on the table.

"It may not (fill up) at first, but once the vegetables come in, and all the farmers are there, we feel confident that it will be full," he said. "It may even fill up before then. I hope it continues to grow and we have to put up another shed on the other side of the creek. We've got a little longer than a quarter-mile along the creek so there is lots of room for expansion, at some point in the future we could put another shed or two in there, but that's way down the road. As for now, we're just really pleased at the way things have gone."

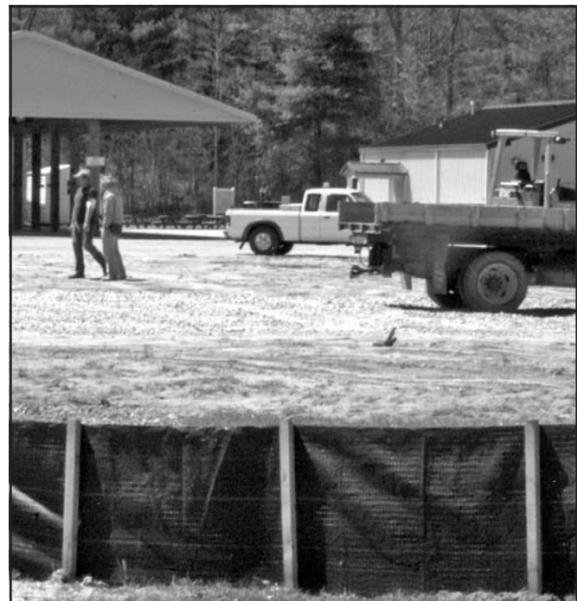
Before the official June opening of the Farmers Market, the market will be holding two festivals next month.

The Ramp Festival takes place the first Saturday in May 3, and Strawberry Festival is scheduled for May 24.

Patriots... from Page 1A

frontation with British troops, several Patriots were killed, thus marking the beginning of the war for American Independence."

The public is invited to attend the event at the Historic Union County Courthouse.



Construction of expanded facilities at the Union County Farmers Market are on schedule. Photo/Todd Forrest