

Byers seeks District 3 Board of Education Seat

My name is Cindy Byers and I am running for Union County School Board District 3. I would like to start off by saying "thank you" to all of those who supported me in the Republican Primary Election for Union County. I'm excited about this opportunity and I feel I can bring a unique perspective to the school board. For those of you who do not know me, please allow me to introduce myself.

I graduated from Hayesville High School in Hayesville, NC and attended Gardner Webb University in North Carolina. My family is from this area with my father, the late Allen Cook, from Murphy, NC and my mother, Mildred Davenport Cook, of Blairsville.

My husband of 25 years is Charlie Byers. He is employed by Vulcan Materials Company as the Plant Manager in Rabun Gap, GA. We have three children ranging in age from 8 to 22. My oldest son, Sean, is a brain cancer survivor. He graduated from Union County High School in 2008, and currently works at Walmart as a door greeter. CJ is a senior at Union County High School. He plays varsity basketball and football. Alyssa is currently a second grader at Union County Primary School. She will have another 10 years before she will graduate from our system. I feel I have a unique perspective of our school system having been involved in so many different aspects of the education process for the last 17 years from the special needs department to the

gifted program.

I am a successful business woman and I have worked in the insurance field for more than 25 years. Currently, I am an independent contractor for Moore Insurance Services, based in the Blairsville office. I am an active member of Harmony Grove Baptist Church and I enjoy singing in the choir.

After living in the Atlanta area, my husband and I decided to move back and make Blairsville our home. One of our main reasons for choosing Union County was the school system. Throughout my contact with the school, I have always been impressed with the quality of education our children receive. We are fortunate to live in a community dedicated to our children's future. However, I feel we can do better.

Currently, we are facing a challenging time as a community with the down turn in the economy and the increase in cost. If I am elected to the school board, I will continue to uphold the highest standard of education and look for ways to reduce or eliminate expenses. One way to do that is to carefully review incentives that will optimize instructional effectiveness while reducing the overall cost to the taxpayers. As a fiscally conservative candidate, I will work hard to do just that.

I will dedicate myself in trying to find ways to improve efficiency and to find innovative ways to do more with less. I will research ways that other school systems are operating at a lower cost.

I will vote to cut taxes when possible. I will work dili-



(L-R): Charlie, Cindy, CJ, (front) Alyssa and Sean Byers

gently within the system to help prepare for inevitable economic downturns in the future. I will contribute a positive attitude and focus on what is truly best for our children.

Morale at our schools is at an all time low. I will strive to relay an appreciation for our teachers and acknowledge the value they bring as educators. I will communicate with our educators for their ideas of ways to implement cost effective strategies while focusing on the children so that they are prepared for this ever changing world.

If elected, I will represent the people of our community to the best of my ability. I will strive to represent the taxpayers, the parents, and the employees of the school system while keeping focused on what

is best for the children.

I love this community and especially our school system. The community, the administrators, the teachers, and the students went the extra mile to assist my family when Sean was so sick. Our system went above and beyond the "standard" education process, to assist Sean to be able to graduate from school with honors and a regular diploma. It would have been easy for people to give up on him. They didn't. I want to give back to the system that was so supportive to me and my family. I promise I will bring this same passion, commitment, and perseverance to my service to the school system.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Allison...continued from Page 1A

vate law firm after his graduation from John Marshall University.

"We moved to Blairsville because the location and the people reminded us of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and it was close to where I was raised in Gwinnett County," Rep. Allison said.

When asked why he decided to get involved in the state politics, Allison declared, "I didn't like the way I was being represented and thought the values of the Constitution and my faith were being ignored so I decided it was time for me to try and do something about it."

Since winning his first term in 2008, Allison has been very busy. He has voted more than 2,000 times on legislation that impacts the mountain



House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison launched his reelection bid in Young Harris last week. Photo/Lowell Nicholson

communities within Georgia House District 8.

Allison is involved in five different legislative committees and became the State House's Chief Deputy Whip in January.

He has helped pass legislation every year of his two terms that have benefited his district and has become known as a representative that speaks the truth among his peers. Allison is proud to have been a part of House Bill 33 that requires a line item budget review for cuts in state budgeting which took two years to pass and House Bill 87, which is one of the strongest immigration bills to be passed in the country.

He also is a staunch advocate of the second amend-

ment.

"I believe law abiding citizens should be able to carry a firearm anywhere a criminal can," Rep. Allison said. "This would be a strong deterrent to criminals who use a gun to commit crimes."

"Do you think that a criminal is concerned about a misdemeanor gun charge while they commit a crime?" he asked. "That is the least of their concerns."

Another concern for Allison is the quality of health care the mountain communities receive.

"We are working on a bill now that would allow the state to provide funding to match doctor salaries at rural hospitals," Rep. Allison said. "This would entice more

physicians to consider moving their practices to the mountains."

On hand to support Allison were several local candidates including Towns County Sheriff Chris Clinton, who introduced Rep. Allison to the crowd, 9th Congressional District candidate Doug Collins, Bill Kuykendall, a candidate for Towns County Tax Commissioner, Tashina Eller, a candidate for Towns County Coroner, and Steve Gerdes, a candidate for Towns County Sole Commissioner.

Also there to provide support was former State Director of the Georgia Republican Party Kevin Harris.

In closing, Allison said first and foremost, he believed in the constitution.

"I believe our constitution and our freedoms are under attack and I would encourage everyone to go to the polls and vote this November," Rep. Allison said. "It is important for voters to be heard regardless of their political affiliation."

"It has been an honor to represent you during this past term and if you vote for me this year, then I will see you next year and if you don't, then at least your voice has been heard. God bless you all and God bless Georgia."

Veterans...continued from Page 1A

Tony Dyer, Martha Cone and Buddy Moore were in total agreement about the changing of names from School Street to Veterans Memorial Drive.

"Everyone that lives on that street is in agreement that Veterans' Memorial Drive is an appropriate name for that street," Blairsville Mayor Jim Conley told the Council.

Veterans' Memorial Drive leads to the Union County War Memorial. A sign already advises motorists that to get to the War Memorial, one must follow School Street.

Council member Cone did have one unusual request before any signs were erected noting the name change.

"I want to see that sign before it goes up," she said. "We need to make sure that sign reads 'Veterans' Memorial Drive' instead of Veteran's Memorial Drive. If it reads Veteran's Memorial Drive, then we're only honoring one veteran. Seriously, it needs to read Veterans' Memorial Drive."

Cone, a retired school teacher, made her point about how the sign should read to the Council.

The idea for the name change was the brainstorm of

veterans Alvin Dyer, Charlie Hunter and Chuck Honaker.

They approached the Council at the June Council meeting about the name change.

Mayor Conley admitted then that there were no streets in Blairsville dedicated to veterans and that the Blairsville City Council would give the street name change every consideration.

"We weighed how folks living on School Street would be affected," Mayor Conley said. "We gave this proposal the utmost and most serious consideration. We wanted to make the right decision."

An early evaluation by

the Council indicated that no businesses would be affected by a name change.

The results of a recent survey among School Street residents sealed the deal, Mayor Conley said.

"I know that this will mean a lot to our veterans," Mayor Conley said. "We're proud to do this for them."

It's too late to make the change in the new telephone books. They hit the streets this week.

Just remember to take the street name change into account, when looking up a telephone number, or street address of someone who lives on School Street.

Bagpipe instruction

The Appalachian Saint Andrew's Pipes and Drums Bagpipe Band is offering free instruction to all who want to learn how to play the Great Highland Bagpipe or to learn Regimental Drumming.

The band meets each Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon in the Parish Hall of Saint Clare's Episcopal Church for instruction and practice.

For further information, call 706-781-3382 or 1-828-557-3812. NT(Aug15,21)CA