

Allison...from Page 1A

2014 through March 7, 2014. The federal primary date has been changed from the third Tuesday in July to May 20.

To combine the state and local elections, set by state law as the third Tuesday in July, the Georgia General Assembly will have to change that legislation.

Unofficially, it will happen to avoid the cost of two election dates. Officially, the primary for state and local elections is still the third Tuesday in July.

At the meeting, Rep. Allison spoke on a diverse range of issues, including the Second Amendment, the difficulty of passing legislation, the looming threat of a Democratic takeover of Georgia, and the fact that, in his words, "we are losing the fight for morality in this country," citing recent laws passed by liberal states like Colorado and California.

However, the biggest surprise to everyone is that the election dates are being changed. Next year, the federal primary elections will be held on May 20. The General Election remains set for November.

A change in election dates may have consequenc-



Union County GOP members listen to State Rep. Stephen Allison.

es for voter turnout, Allison said.

Rep. Allison said that he was bragging about voter turnouts in Towns and Union counties in the last election.

Only three counties in the state of Georgia broke 80 percent voter turnout in the last election, and Towns and Union were two of them.

However, it could be possible that some aren't aware that the elections have been moved and simply forget to vote.

Rep. Allison admitted that reelection is a big issue right now.

However, throughout his presentation, he stressed one thing — that he was unwilling to sacrifice his personal integrity for reelection.

"If I don't represent the

values that you hold dear, find someone else, and run them against me, and beat me," he said.

He noted that some of his colleagues might not necessarily share his beliefs.

Political paralysis occurs when a candidate becomes so worried about what the voters want him or her to do, that he or she seizes up in fear he or she might not get reelected.

That might be in part why it's so hard and takes so long to pass legislation.

Thankfully, Rep. Allison is unaffected by paralysis.

He just wants voters to vote — indeed, he stressed the vital importance of voting. Otherwise, in the near future, Democrats who want to take everyone's firearms away might overrun Georgia.

"We have a law on the books here in Georgia that says if the governor declares martial law, he can take all your firearms," he said. "But all I hear is 'that'll never happen.'"

He warned, "For the first time since 2004, the Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party think Georgia's ripe for a Democrat to be elected statewide. Not only the governor, but they're also going after our Senatorial seat."

Former President Jimmy Carter's grandson, Jason Carter, is running for governor in 2014.

Former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn's daughter, Michelle Nunn, is running for U.S. Senate. Both are running on the Democratic ticket.

With a Democrat in the Governor's Office, Georgia might closely be compared to Colorado, where it's now legal to smoke marijuana.

Rep. Allison also mentioned California's recent addition of unisex public bathrooms to try to avoid prejudice against transgendered persons.

"We are losing the fight for morality in this country," Allison declared.

As Allison said multiple times, America is a Constitutional Republic.

"You have a voice every two years to overthrow your government," he said.

The election is coming up in 2014. Rep. Allison urges locals to take responsibility and continue to vote their conscience in large numbers.

Reece... from Page 1A

ing will be conducted in the pavilion.

Authors of books or CDs in the Gift Shop, primarily from the local area, will be present for signings on Saturday the Nov. 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They include Jackie Elsner and her CD *Ballad of the Bones*, featuring 20 Reece poems set to old ballad tunes and sung a capella; Ethelene Dyer Jones and her book of poems co-authored by her son Keith, *Mother and Child Reunion*; Sylvia Dyer Turnage, signing her illustrated booklet, *The Choestoe Story*, as well as her CD, *Clark Dyer's Flying Machine*; and Eva Nell Wike with her book about the life and times of her Uncle Johnny Mull, entitled *Fiddler of the Mountains*.

Persons seeking gifts for Christmas will find discounts on selected items. All of Reece's books and those about Reece are available, as well

as a wide selection of books by local and regional authors and books especially related to Appalachia, such as Cherokee Indian literature. Both of the oral history DVDs featuring interviews with people who knew Reece can be purchased: *The Bitter Berry and Friends* and *Voices: Finding Byron Herbert Reece*.

The public is encouraged to attend on one of these two days.

A Union County native, Hub Reece, who died at the age of 40, farmed, worked and cultivated the land in the Wolf Creek bottoms. "The Mountain Poet" spent his free time reading the works of literary greats, and writing prose about the Mountain way of life.

During his short-lived career, Hub Reece, who attended, but did not graduate from Young Harris College, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, earned two Guggen-

heim awards, and served as writer-in-residence at UCLA, Atlanta's Emory University, and Young Harris College in Towns County.

In his lifetime, Reece had his work published in the *North Georgia News*, and later went on to compose four books of poetry and two fiction novels. His work, which included *Ballad of the Bones and Other Poems*, was highly acclaimed, earning esteemed literary praise and national attention. Other works included novels, *Better a Dinner of Herbs*, and *The Hawk and the Sun*.

Hundreds of unpublished Hub Reece poems still exist today, Kay said.

Atlanta Constitution Executive Editor and later Publisher Ralph McGill once said that Reece was "one of the really great poets of our time, and one to stand with those of any other time."

Bids... from Page 1A

The project involves replacement of aging 2-inch PVC water lines with modern 6-inch lines that withstand the need for water pressure. Simultaneously, it also entails upgrading water meters with uber modern Automated Meter Reading technology, Mayor Conley said.

Chip McGaughey, an engineer for EMI, read the bids, as they were unsealed last week by Mayor Conley.

The largest part of the project will be water system improvements from Pat Haralson Drive to Deep South Farm Road, which entails larger water lines going under Pat Haralson Drive and to the end of Deep South Farm Road.

"We've got the hospital out there and if there's a break on Haralson or Deep South roads, we're in a bind and their lacking water pressure. It's a must do project," Conley said.

The Meter Replacement Project will upgrade meters for City customers to AMR meters, Automated Meter Reading, Mayor Conley said.

The new meter reading system would be more cost effective, save on human error and be more efficient than the outdated meters resulting in a possible gain in revenue, he said.

The projects will be done in unison, and the City will save on support costs, Mayor Conley said.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, House District 8 State Rep. Stephen Allison and District 51 State Sen. Steve Gooch were instrumental in pushing for the GEFA loan, said GEFA Executive Director Kevin Clark.

The current interest rate is 1.82 percent, but the City gets a 1 percent reduction because it is combining the Meter Change Out program with the water improvement project.

"Blairsville will pay .50 percent interest on the 20-year loan, which includes principal forgiveness of up to \$423,250 if all loan funds are drawn. The loan qualifies for a 1 percent interest rate reduction because it is a water conservation proj-

ect," Clark said.

The total project cost is

\$1,693,000 with GEFA providing the entire amount.