

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXXI, No. 43

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

Single Copies 50¢

## Winslow, Downum, Burr take Wardville precinct

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

For two Chowan County Board of Commissioners incumbents, Tuesday was another day of victory at the polls — in the one precinct, Wardville, reporting at press time.

Incumbents Harry Lee Winslow and Jerry Downum won handily in the Wardville

precinct.

Winslow, seeking to be re-elected to his District 1 seat, garnered 314 votes, or 78 percent of all ballots cast. Challenger John Sams won 88 votes, or roughly 22 percent of ballots cast.

All vote totals from Tuesday were unofficial until Nov. 9.

At press time, totals for the Dossey Pruden-Bill Gardner Jr. race for the District 2

county commissioners seat were unavailable.

Current District 2 Commissioner George Jones did not seek reelection.

Results for incumbent commissioner Ralph Cole's race against challenger George Bradham for Cole's District 3 seat were also unavailable.

Downum, seeking to retain his at-large seat, at least did so in Wardville by winning 72 per-

cent of all ballots cast, or 190 votes. Challenger Robin Sams won 71 votes, or about 28 percent of all votes cast.

In Wardville, state Rep. Bill Culpepper, D-Chowan, edged challenger Dan Beall, a Republican, by 80 votes, 232 to 152.

Also in Wardville, voters rejected Amendment One by 46 votes, with 61 percent of all ballots being cast against the proposed amendment.

Voters there did, however, support amendments Two and Three, by 84 percent and 71 percent margins, respectively.

Statewide, incumbent Democratic Gov. Mike Easley was projected to win his second 4-year term in office. At press time, with 12 percent of the precincts statewide reporting, Easley had won 56 percent of the vote, while Republican

challenger Patrick Ballantine had garnered 42 percent of the vote.

In Wardville, Easley collected just two more votes than Ballantine, 196 to 194.

Also at press time, the U.S. Senate race between Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Richard Burr was too close to call. Burr won 55 percent of the vote in Wardville, garnering 227 votes to Bowles' 168.

## Perry bids council adieu

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

With reluctance, the Rev. Jerald Perry Sr. resigned his Ward 3 Edenton Town Council seat last week, having moved into a new home across town.

Perry, formerly of Dillard Avenue, and his wife moved to the Oak Hill subdivision on Oct. 28. He resigned the seat he'd held for 15 years on Oct. 27.

"I regret the fact I had to give up my seat because I moved out of my district," Perry said Monday. "I'm proud to have served the Town of Edenton."

He won't be enjoying much additional free time. His church holds services on council's traditional Tuesday meeting nights.

"I'll be back in (Whoseverwill Church of God in Christ)," he said of the church where he pastors, "to carry on myself."

Two councilmen live in Perry's new ward district. Jerry Parks holds an at-large seat and Jimmy Stallings represents Ward 1. Perry doesn't intend to challenge either one.

"I have the utmost respect for both of them," Perry said. "(But) if either (Stallings or Parks) opted not to run again, I would certainly put my name in for that position."

He also has no future plans to seek the town's mayoral post. Perry said he'd been asked in the past, but preferred the fact that

See PERRY On Page 3-A

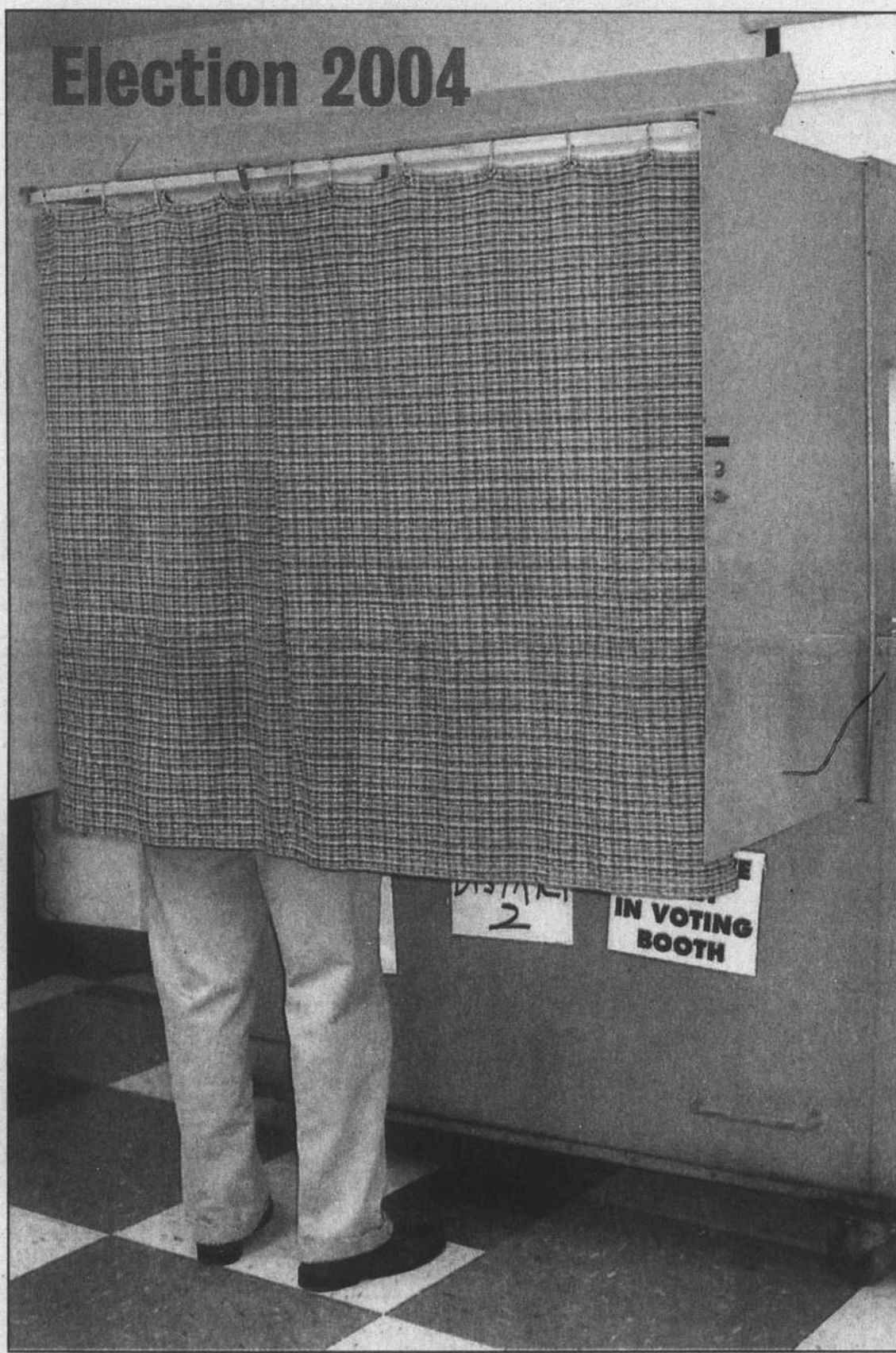


Staff photo by Sean Jackson

Former Edenton Town Councilman Jerald Perry Sr., right, chats with U.S. Senate candidate Erskine Bowles during the Democrat's stop in Edenton last week. Perry resigned his Ward 3 council post earlier in the day.

## Decisions, decisions

### Election 2004



Staff photo by Earline White

Chowan County voters turned out to the polls in strong fashion Tuesday, joining the millions across the state and country who cast ballots during the first wartime presidential election in a generation.

## County may move 'into the zone'

BY SEAN JACKSON  
Staff Writer

A County Line Road resident hopes Chowan County can aid any others who may face the dilemma she and her husband are facing.

In her letter to the editor of *The Chowan Herald*, Debbie Whitehurst laments the fact that adjacent property will soon be home to four chicken houses. It's a circumstance Whitehurst and her husband, a Chowan County sheriff's deputy, didn't envision when they were given their lot 15 years ago.

She says county-wide zoning would erase such future plights.

"It's too late for me," Whitehurst said, "but it doesn't have to be for" other Chowan residents. "Now is the time for county-wide zoning."

County Manager Cliff Copeland said the Chowan planning board and county commissioners are aware that county-wide zoning may be needed in the future. Edenton-Chowan planner Elizabeth Bryant has been meeting with local civic groups about the issue, Copeland said.

"Certainly, there's a planning initiative," under way, he said.

Bryant will bring the results of her study to a joint planning-commissioners board meeting in the future, Copeland said.

At that point, the two governing bodies will decide if another study is needed, or if the county should hire a consultant to work on a possible zoning ordinance.

*"Certainly, there is a planning initiative" underway.*

— County Manager  
Cliff Copeland

Copeland said he is aware of the Whitehursts predicament.

"We wanted to help (them)," he said, "but there wasn't much we could do" without a zoning ordinance to enforce.

Unlike the county, the Town of Edenton has a zoning ordinance. It's Historic District has strict covenants, which, among other things, dictates what colors residents can paint homes and what types of fences can be erected in that district.

Copeland said the county traditionally has been cautious about such restrictions.

"Most people don't want to tell other people what to do with their property," the county manager said.

### INSIDE

- Calendar ..... A2
- Church ..... C5
- Classifieds ..... D1-6
- Editorials ..... A8
- Football Forecast .. B6
- Learning ..... C3
- Obituaries ..... C7
- Society ..... C2
- Sports ..... B1-6

**Ghouling Around!**  
Fall festivals, trick-or-treaters, arrived in Edenton and Chowan County over the weekend. — C1

## Long lines, headaches, satisfaction awaited Chowan voters

BY EARLINE WHITE  
Staff Writer

Voter turnout was massive Tuesday at all six polling places in Chowan County. While it was incredible the number of people who showed up to cast their ballots, several citizens in Chowan were irritated at the long wait. Others maintained their cool as they selected who they hope to be the future leaders of our state and country.

Edward Taylor was one citizen who thinks more planning should go into the local voting process.

"It is absolutely ridiculous that District 2 had only one

machine working at this poll [East Edenton]," he said. "I realize that things break down and changes are to be made but I had to wait thirty minutes to vote. There really ought to be more people checking voters in."

Bonnie Alexander was on hand at the same site, the old D. F. Walker School, with her daughter, Megan, to cast their votes. Megan drove from Greenville, where she attends ECU, to cast her vote.

"This is the first time I have had to wait," Bonnie said about the 20-plus minute line forming in front of her.

On the other side of the fence were those voters who

didn't mind the wait. Bernice Brooks took advantage of the opportunity to talk to those around her. "I talked the whole time," she said, "I saw my friends and neighbors and I learned something today. I learned that there are more people in Edenton with a last name beginning with A-L than M-Z." Bob Brooks, Bernice's husband and a 'mixed' voter, preferred the old voting place at the Rescue Squad building. "There used to be a better layout. The Rescue Squad building was so big that there was no clutter like there is here at the Agricultural Center."

Meanwhile, the line to vote wrapped in circles inside the building.

Blair and Christina Currie also cast their ballot at the Agriculture Center. "We've been waiting over an hour," Blair said. "Chrissy was planting bulbs in the yard when I told her that we should go now and vote. Regardless of the wait, we are happy to do it. Voting is a privilege and it's always better to see a big turnout than none. This turnout shows that people are interested in the way the government is being run," Blair Currie said.

"People today have a drive-thru mentality and don't want to wait," Glen Anderson, owner of Acoustic Coffee, said of the disgruntled voters leaving in a huff. Anderson refused

to comment on whom he was voting for but said, "both candidates should drink more coffee."

This was a special occasion for Anne Charles and Simon Earnshaw who recently obtained citizenship in this country. Originally from England, Earnshaw said, "I can't quite comprehend the process. In England the only thing you need to vote is your voter registration card. Here you show that, get a pass and get into another line to actually vote."

Charles commented on the differences between the two

See TURNOUT On Page 9-A