

Chowan voters to help decide District 3

Race pits two Tarboro Dems

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Part of last year's redistricting, Chowan County now finds itself inside the political boundaries of state senatorial District 3 and outside previously held District 4. Local voters are seeing for the first time a pair of candidates



Jenkins Armstrong

otherwise popular to their westerly neighbors.

Voters here will now have a May 8 Democrat primary voice in the District 3 race that pits 10-year incumbent

Clark Jenkins against retired educator Florence A. Armstrong, both of Tarboro. Barring no successful write-in candidate, next month's victorious Democrat will have a clear path to the state legislature since no other challengers have filed for the seat.

This is not the first time Armstrong, 65, has attempted to unseat Jenkins. In 2010, she finished a distant third to Jenkins and behind runner-up Frankie

Bordeaux. Armstrong said her then challenge became lost in a highly-charged match-up between Jenkins and Bordeaux.

"It was like I wasn't in the race," said Armstrong, adding that she chose to stay out of the political fray between the male candidates. "I didn't consider myself a winner or loser. It was a learning opportunity for me and I'm a stronger candidate this time."

Jenkins, 64, poses a long

political resume. Prior to his decade-long tenure as senator, he served 10 years on the board for the N.C. Department of Transportation, including a stint as chairman of DOT's appropriation committee.

"During my tenure as chair we funded and built the Windsor bypass, Elizabeth City bypass and completion of U.S. 64 to Columbia," Jenkins said.

He further touts his senatorial sponsorships

as key to building a prison in Bertie County, the East Carolina Heart Center at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University as well as ECU's dental school. He also co-sponsored for the School of Pharmacy at Elizabeth City State University. Jenkins contributed to securing state funding for the expansion at Domtar plant in Plymouth.

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First Fridays starting May 4

Taking place of Music in the Parks

From staff reports

Destination Downtown Edenton and the Chowan Tourism Development Authority are teaming up to present First Fridays as a replacement event to the popular Music in the Parks.

Starting on May 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., downtown visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy shopping while being treated to live music on Broad Street.

Jennifer Harriss, DDE executive director, said that the new event replaces the 14-year-old Music in the Parks summer series in an effort to generate more activity on Friday evenings. Music in the Parks was held on Sundays when the majority of merchants are closed.

Harriss said that First Fridays would still offer a time to enjoy great music while encouraging shopping downtown in the evenings, and merchants staying open after 5 p.m.

"We think it's going to be a lot of fun for everybody," Harriss said.

Harriss said that DDE had asked merchants to stay open after normal business hours on a voluntary basis. She said that some businesses such as the Soda Shoppe and the Edenton Coffee House had already agreed to do so.

Nicholls said that organizers are enthusiastic about the possibilities that this new event will offer.

"We are looking forward to this year's First Fridays experience as a great way for everybody to enjoy wonderful entertainment, dining and shopping in the downtown area," Nicholls said.

Entertainment at the May 4 First Friday will include the music of the John A. Holmes High School Jazz Band and acoustic guitarist/songwriter Clay Willis of Edenton.

Blazing a campaign trail



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Chowan County Board of Commissioners chairman and GOP secretary of state challenger Eddy Goodwin stands between campaign signage that has been erected across the state promoting his candidacy.

Statewide race poses challenges

Goodwin aims to become 1st GOP secretary of state

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

His Southern accent with a twist of Chowan twang helps get a folksy stump started.

"They say 'you're not from 'round here are you boy?' But, it sets me apart," said a grinning Eddy Goodwin, looking to squeeze as much optimism as he can out of a grueling schedule that has him blistering state highways most of the week. As Goodwin embarks on his pursuit of becoming the last Republican standing from a logjam of four challengers in the May

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8 primary for the office of secretary of state, he's learned the meaning of road warrior.

Only the soft voice of a traveling companion breaks periods of white line fever that ensures his accurate arrival at the next stop.

"One of my best friends and campaign consultant is that woman's voice inside my GPS," Goodwin jokes.

Kenn Gardner of Raleigh, another GOP candidate for secretary of state, said his GPS quit while navigating his way in this neck of the woods.

"I knew my chances of finding

Deadwood (restaurant) in Bear Grass was absolutely nil unless I found a nearby Walmart," Gardner recalled.

Goodwin adds that he's driving roughly 2,200 miles a week while out of town about four nights a week. One swing had him in Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston Salem, Asheville, then back to Winston Salem, Wilmington, back to Raleigh, and Roanoke Rapids before home.

"It's been quite a journey," Goodwin said. "I've been in places that I would never had been if not for a statewide campaign."

Fellow GOP challenger Michael Beidler of Guilford County agrees that the statewide tour takes its

See CHALLENGES, 2A

Tea Party sponsors first candidate forum

Half candidates attend, skip

By REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Five candidates and about 40 voters seized the opportunity to attend last Thursday night's non-partisan candidate forum hosted by the Edenton Tea Party.

Alex Kehayes was the lone Chowan County commissioner hopeful in attendance while his Republican challenger Tim Phelps chose not to attend. Congressional hopefuls Frank Palombo, vying for U.S. Rep. Walter Jones' District 2 seat on



PHOTO BY RITCHIE E. STARNES

Congressional District 2 hopeful Frank Palombo (l-r) chats with Bob Steinburg, center, and Democrat Dan Whittacre, who is attempting unseat incumbent Rep. G.K. Butterfield from North Carolina's First Congressional District, at a candidate forum held last Thursday and sponsored by the Edenton Tea Party.

the GOP ticket and Democrat Dan Whittacre challenging G.K. Butterfield's District 1 took advantage of the opportunity. Of the four races represented at the forum, only one was represented by two

opposing Republicans - Edenton's Bob Steinburg and Currituck County's Owen Etheridge - who are slated for a May 8 showdown as the GOP challenger for the newly drawn N.C. House, Dis-

trict 1. On the subject of education, Steinburg and Etheridge presented similar platforms.

Steinburg said school

See FORUM, 3A

Hog Fest set for weekend

From staff reports

Fun will be the order of the day this weekend when the annual Hog Fest takes place at the American Legion Fairgrounds in Edenton.

Presented by Smithfield and endorsed by the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS), the events get under way Friday and continue through Sunday afternoon.

Cook teams and judges will be coming from as far away as Florida, Tennessee and Pennsylvania. "We have 34 teams signed up to participate this year," said organizer Roy Murray.

The Hog Fest will be open to the public from 4-10 p.m. on Friday afternoon. Cornhole boards will be set up for play and the Anything Butt Contest that features desserts will get under way. There will be a DJ playing music and barbecue plates for sale.

Saturday will feature a full day of events from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. including a craft show, a car show and children's games.

"Kids who plan to participate in the tug of war should bring a change of clothes as there will be a water pit that will be muddy," said E.C. Toppin, contact person for the event. Toppin serves as local post adjutant for the American Legion.

KCBS competition judging begins at 11:30 p.m. Live music will be headlined by Out in the Cold starting at 3 p.m.

Sundays events are scheduled to include a motorcycle show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a Gospel music show from noon until 4 p.m.

KCBS judging begins at noon with awards being presented at 4 p.m. People's Choice judging starts at 2 p.m. Tickets for those wishing to participate as judges in the People's Choice event will be available starting at 9 a.m. Sunday morning for \$10 each; those wishing to participate must be in line and ready to take part in the taste testing at 2 p.m.

Entry fee for Hog Fest is \$3 or two non-perishable food items that can be donated to the food pantry, however, starting on Saturday at 3 p.m. the admission cost will rise to

See FESTIVAL, 2A



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| MAY PLAY DAY SATURDAY, MAY 5 TH starts at 10:00 am ROCKY HOCK COMMUNITY CENTER | CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT 10:00 - UNTIL GRAND PRIZE \$100 EDENTON DANCE STARS 11:00 - 12:00PM | PEMBROKE BASS CLUB CHILDREN'S FISHING SEMINAR & CONTEST | BBQ CHICKEN PLATES CALL \$8.00 FROM 3 - 7 PM 252-221-4875 OR 252-340-3438 | OPRY BOYS QUARTET 7:30 pm - Call for Tickets | CRAFT BOOTHS • BAKED GOODS CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & GAMES FREE BICYCLE DRAWING 1:30PM BB GUN SHOOTING CLINIC & CONTEST |
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