

## Straight-party ballots doom local GOP

### Goodwin loses statewide race

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Strong Democratic voter turnout, especially straight party ballots, proves costly for local Republican candidates.

Home base wasn't kind to several of Edenton-Chowan's contested GOP candidates vying for local and state races. No local Republican candidates were victorious in Chowan

County where 2,484 voted straight ticket for Democrats, compared to 1,300 for Republicans. Those local defeats left Republicans questioning their home support and the perils of straight party voting.

Chowan County Board of Commissioners' Chairman Eddy Goodwin who was seeking to unseat veteran incumbent Democrat Elaine Marshall not only lost statewide by more than 300,000 votes, but failed to carry Chowan County. On election night, the tally showed he lost Chowan by

three votes. Further canvass, however, revealed that he tied the Democrat with 3,625 votes.

Goodwin took the local slight personal in light of the commissioners' accomplishments when the county faced fiscal peril, calling it a "real slap in the face." In addition to helping rescue the county from the brink of bankruptcy, Goodwin referred to his military service as further proof of his sacrifice.

"If you can't carry your home county, what does that say about you?" Good-

win said on election night. "It hurts if you can't carry your own county, but I put myself out there. But the people have spoken loud and clear, and that's it."

Goodwin had opted to forgo a re-election bid for commissioner, instead hoping to become the next secretary of state. He was the top vote getter in the May primary out of four seeking the GOP nomination. After a call for a runoff, Goodwin was again victorious.



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Commissioner-elect Greg Bonner (left) talks with voters at the East Edenton precinct on Election Day alongside Republican challenger Earl Willis.

See **BALLOTS, 2A**

## Shooting suspect turns self in

From staff reports

One of three suspects wanted in a drive-by shooting has surrendered to police.

Jerod Montrey "Trey" Littlejohn, 28, turned himself in to Edenton police last Tuesday (Nov. 6), according to police Chief Jay Fortenbery. Once he heard about the warrants for his arrest, Littlejohn surrendered at the police department, Fortenbery said. He was jailed under a \$20,000 bond, but has since been released after posting bail, the chief added.



Littlejohn

Littlejohn has been charged with discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling and felony conspiracy to discharge a weapon into an occupied dwelling.

Two other men wanted in connection with the Halloween shooting remain at large. Police continue to look for Darrell Levon Boyce, 36, and Mykel Cameron Vanterpool, 28, for the Oct. 31 shooting at the corner of Oakum and Albemarle streets. Police recovered 18 shell casings at the scene and discovered that gunfire also pierced a house, barbershop, and two vehicles. Although there was a crowd at the scene, no one was hurt in the shooting.

Various blocks along Oakum Street have been marred by recent shootings whereby stray bullets have struck other residences and cars.

Littlejohn could be a key figure in at least two of the shootings. In addition to his current charges, his residence was one of the homes struck by gunfire in a previous shooting. Fortenbery said it's unknown when the residence was struck. He added that there is no credible evidence whether Littlejohn's suspected involvement in the latest shooting was retaliation for a prior shooting.



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## Dems Winborne, Bonner, Rountree post wins

### Elliott returns to school board

By RITCHIE STARNES  
Editor

Democrats made a clean sweep in all of the county's contested races, sending two commissioners, and a register of deeds to elected office. In a non-partisan school board race, a registered Democrat defeated a registered Republican for an at-large seat.

Voters were especially kind to incumbents. Emmett Winborne defeated Republican Ron Cummings 1,355 to 952 for District 1, Seat 1 on the Board of Commissioners.

"I was happy and humbled, and glad to win," Winborne said. "I appreciate the support of the people that voted for me and their confidence in me."

Winborne, one of two farmers on the board, spent election day picking cotton while his opponent handed out political cards at the precincts. He expressed no regrets about his absence then, adding



CHOWAN HERALD PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Register of Deeds incumbent Sue Rountree (left) campaigns at the West Edenton precinct last Tuesday. Rountree defeated political newcomer Jackie Laverty.

that voters already know before then who they're going to vote for.

"I really don't think it cost me any votes," Win-

borne said. "People have to understand that serving as a commissioner is not my living. I still have to make a living."

Even with the respectable showing, Cummings said from the Rocky Hock precinct last Tuesday that he really didn't expect

a victory on his maiden voyage in politics.

"I thought I'd get my name out there for the first time and then make a serious run at it next time," Cummings said.

In another race for commissioner that guaranteed a political newcomer, former Edenton police chief Greg Bonner outpaced Earl Willis by a nearly 3-1 margin for Seat 1, District 3. One day after the election, Bonner was all smiles.

"I feel great. I am happy that the voters supported me and want me to represent them," Bonner said.

Bonner credited his tenure as police chief as proof to his commitment to community and sound decision making.

"I'm very aware of how local government operates," he added. "I believe that with the job experience I've had that I can sit at the table with the other commissioners and I can make decisions that will be in the best interest of the community."

In his second defeat in

See **ELECTION, 3A**

## Second run proves victorious for Steinburg



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

N.C. House Republican-elect Bob Steinburg (left) greets a family after they voted at the West Edenton precinct on Election Day.

### Victory overcomes a nasty, costly campaign

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

As supporters file into his Granville Street home and help themselves to a smorgasbord resting on the dining room table, he alternates between sitting and walking with a phone pressed to his ear, sometimes one at each.

For much of election night, Republican Bob Steinburg bounced between anxiety and cautious optimism. It was clearly more nervous when Chowan County was first to report vote totals

that showed he had lost his home county by 133 votes. Two years earlier he also lost Chowan in an unsuccessful bid to upset incumbent Tim Spear, D-Washington.

A dejected Steinburg sat stunned by the news that he had not carried Chowan where he lives and maintains a civic presence.

"I just sat here numb. Again, I live here," Steinburg said. "If I'd lost Chowan, it was indicative that it was going to be a dogfight."

Right after Chowan's numbers came in, Steinburg's campaign consultant called to inform the 64-year-old candidate that he would be victorious. This

See **STEINBURG, 3A**

## Land enticed early Albemarle settlers

### Area unstable prior to Edenton's founding

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Prior to the founding of Edenton 300 years ago, settlements in the Albemarle began as early as 1653 when the region was "fairly wild."

That was the description given by Marty Matthews, adjunct history professor at the N.C. State University and Curator of Research at the Division

of State Historic Sites for the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, while explaining the early attempts to settle the area of what's now known as Edenton. In an effort to lure settlers here, or to a raw frontier, it had to be appealing.

"A lot of the people (that ended up here) had not been landowners in England. It was an opportunity for a better way of life," said Linda Eure, site manager for Historic Edenton Visitors Center.

See **SETTLERS, 3A**



MAP COURTESY OF N.C. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A 1657 map shows the home of Nathaniel Batts, the Albemarle's first white settler. His house is marked at the fork of the two rivers on the right. If you look closely, you can see a house drawn at the fork.

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