

Smith-Ingram urges decisive action by Dems

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

State Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram used the biblical story of the Golden Calf Saturday to rally fellow Democrats around the goal of electing Democratic candidates to the General Assembly.

Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes Chowan County.

In a her keynote address at the Chowan County Democratic Party's meet-the-candidates dinner, Smith-Ingram cited the ex-

ample of Moses' destruction of the golden calf in the biblical book of Exodus to urge those audience to "get rid of this bull" by electing Democrats to the General Assembly.

Smith-Ingram, who is serving her first term in the N.C. General Assembly, blasted legislative Republicans on teacher pay, sharp reductions in economic development incentives, rejection of Medicaid expansion and investment of \$12 million a year in private schools.

"Education is the greatest civil rights tool of the 21st Century," she said, but North Carolina now ranks 49th among the states in pay for teachers.

"I don't know about you but I call that some bull," Smith-Ingram said.

Smith-Ingram urged the Chowan County Democratic Party to come together and work very hard to put Democrats back in power.

"We are tasked with grabbing the bull by the horns and serving notice that we are putting you out," she said.

Democrats must support their candidates financially and the candidates themselves must do their

homework, beat the bushes, meet people and talk to them, Smith-Ingram said.

Counties east of I-95 need investments in education and infrastructure to be able to compete in the global economy and provide good jobs for their citizens, she said. The counties in her district have more that unites them than separates them, she said.

The state needs to coordinate a rural economic development strategy with schools and community colleges, Smith-Ingram said. All children deserve a free and appropriate high-quality education, and Democrats

should partner with anyone who supports that, she said.

Those who have served time in prison need opportunities to get jobs so they don't head back to prison in order to have a place to sleep, she said.

All workers deserve a livable wage and everyone regardless of gender deserves equal pay for equal work, she said.

Chowan County Democratic Party Chairman Bill Miller thanked Smith-Ingram for her message to fellow Democrats.

"If I were ever running against you as a candidate I would be scared to death,"

Miller told Smith-Ingram. "You are a great speaker and I thank you very much for everything that you do."

As she began her speech Saturday, Smith-Ingram explained that she had to dig herself off the porch that afternoon in order to get to the event because so much snow and ice had fallen at her home in Northampton County.

"But where there is a will there is a way," she said, adding she had given her word to Miller that she would be there and she believes it's past time to insist that elected officials keep their word.

Local candidates rally support for their party

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Democratic candidates for the at-large and 2nd District seats on the Chowan County Board of Commissioners in this year's election rallied the party faithful behind their candidacies at a meet-the-candidates dinner Saturday night.

Don Faircloth Jr., candidate for the at-large seat currently held by Commissioner Keith Nixon, and Derrick Wadsworth, candidate for the 2nd District seat currently held by Commissioner Alex Kehayes, were among the candidates who spoke during the event at Leon

Nixon's Catering.

Nixon and Kehayes, both Republicans, did not seek reelection, so there will not be an incumbent on the ballot for those seats in the General Election in November.

Neither Faircloth nor Wadsworth has opposition in the March 15 Democratic Primary, but both will face Republican opponents in the General Election.

The Republican candidates are Brian Ferraraccio for the at-large seat and Patti Kersey in the 2nd District.

Faircloth thanked everyone for coming out and showing support for the Democratic Party.

He said he had lived his

whole life in Chowan County.

Faircloth told the crowd he started working full-time at Edenton Construction in 1990 as the janitor's assistant. Later he learned drafting and then went to night school at College of The Albemarle to study computer-assisted drafting.

Now he's the president of Edenton Construction Company, he said.

Faircloth said he was a past president of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and a volunteer fireman with the Edenton Fire Department.

Running a business has

taught him the importance of not spending money you don't have, Faircloth said. Sometimes in running a business you have to make hard decisions in order to do what is right, he said.

Faircloth said he has the ability to make tough decisions based on the facts at hand. He likes to deal with problems head-on, he said.

"I am here for the future of our county," Faircloth said.

Faircloth said economic development and public education need to be high priorities.

He also said the county's first responders need to have the training and equipment that they need.

Wadsworth said he had a career with the state in corrections, working 30 years with the department.

Later he served on the State Parole Commission for four years, appointed by Gov. Beverly Perdue.

It was a honor to serve on the Parole Commission but the work was challenging, he said.

Wadsworth said it was especially difficult when he had to vote to revoke parole for someone on a life sentence, because he knew he was sending that person back to prison for the rest of their life.

Wadsworth noted he had served on the county

planning board, the Cupola House Association and the Edenton Historical Commission.

Register of Deeds Lynn Gilliard also addressed the crowd.

Gilliard said she had successfully completed the Advanced Register of Deeds School. She has 19 years of experience in the Register of Deeds Office, she said.

The Republican candidates in the commissioner contests emphasized in statements at the time they filed to run their commitment to transparency, in the case of Ferraraccio, and experience as an effective leader, in the case of Kersey.

White, Winborne speak to Democratic supporters

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The two candidates for the Democratic nomination in the race for county commissioner in Chowan County's 1st District made their best pitch before the party faithful Saturday night.

James White, who is challenging incumbent Commissioner Emmett Winborne in the March 15 Democratic Primary, told attendees at the Chowan County Democratic Party meet-the-candidates dinner that he was committed to serving the people of the district in fairness

White said he had always been a giving person and that was why he was running for county commissioner.

"It's another opportunity for me to help somebody," White said.

Winborne, meanwhile, said the county must be vigilant to prevent the fiscal crisis that surfaced in 2008 from happening again.

Winborne said the financial crisis might be "somewhat over" but county officials must never forget



WHITE



WINBORNE

the lessons of the crisis.

"Just a few short moves and it could happen again," Winborne said.

White told the audience he was a native of Chowan County, born on a farm on Sandy Ridge Road. His father farmed 35 acres with two mules and as he grew up he helped his father farm.

White said his father didn't have a lot of education but did have a lot of wisdom, telling him that what ever he did he should do his best

and give it his all.

White called Mary White, his wife, "my shining star."

Winborne said that over his years of service he had established great working relationships with other commissioners and school board members to pursue the best education for the county's children.

He said he had worked to ensure the budget reflects the needs of citizens while keeping taxes low.

Winborne also mentioned the need to support the sheriff's office and fire departments. He also called for county officials to work together to create opportunity for investment in the county and not

to oppose opportunity when it comes the county's way.

Winborne said he had been around a long time and seen a lot happen in the county in the past 10-15 years, such as the fiscal crisis.

The county must get its water system in working order, find more jobs and investment for the county, build the tax base and turn the job situation around, he said.

Winborne said county officials need to "bird-dog the county budget," looking for greater efficiency.

The county is now starting to perform maintenance on buildings that had been deferred.

SNOWFALL

Continued from 1A

immediately and worked to contain and stop the occurrence. The areas around the discharges were cleaned and disinfected Friday night.

The weather also was not without impact on plans and activities. Some churches cancelled services Sunday morning and the Edenton-Chowan Schools operated on a two-hour delay Thursday.

Superior Court Judge Quentin Sumner, who

lives in Rocky Mount, did not hold court Friday in the voluntary manslaughter trial of Josh Byrum because of inclement weather.

The Chowan County Democratic Party held a meet-the-candidates dinner Saturday night, and a

number of statewide candidates who had planned to attend, did not make it, citing weather-related concerns. Attendance at the dinner was 192 despite moderate snowfall Saturday evening, which organizers described as strong attendance.

In the wake of the town sewage discharges, on Saturday the town cleaned the downstream piping associated with the overflows. Recent smoke testing has identified areas where storm water is entering the sanitary sewer system which during extreme heavy rain events causes these overflows.

Repairs are being made to the system and town staff will continue to inspect manholes in the vicinity of the overflows to identify where inflow and infiltration is entering the system and make the necessary repairs to stop the inflow and infiltration.

The weather system also involved cold temperatures and strong winds.

On Saturday, winds were from the northwest at 16 miles per hour, with gusts up to 34 mph reported. There was one-tenth of an inch of precipitation reported.

The low temperature was 30 degrees and the high was 44.

The low temperature Friday dipped to 26 while the high reached 47.

There was 1.62 inches of precipitation reported Friday. Wind speed was 7 mph from the northeast, with gusts up to 31 mph.

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Chowan County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council announces \$75,906 for 16-17. Needed services: Mentoring, Parenting, Interpersonal Skills, Tutoring, Vocational, Experiential Skills, Mediation, Restitution, Teen Court, and Psychological Assessments.

For additional information and the full RFP call Nancy Hodges at 252-947-1565 or Dee Spruce, 252-333-8919. Program applications are due noon March 11th. A grantwriting workshop will be offered February 3rd at Perquimans County Board of Education, Hertford; register by calling 252-355-9013.

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Tourism Development Authority
2016 Meeting Schedule
Meeting at 12:00 noon
Meetings are held at the Edenton Town Council Chambers
504 South Broad St., Edenton, NC unless otherwise advertised.

- February 23, 2016
- April 26, 2016
- June 28, 2016
- August 23, 2016
- October 25, 2016
- December 6, 2016

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