



**IN CONCERT**

**ALBEMARLE MUSICIAN JOHN PARR PERFORMS TONIGHT ON WATERFRONT**

**OLYMPICS** Va. Beach gymnast delivers gold in all-around event **1B**

**LOCAL** Perdue lets watered-down sea-level rise law take effect **3A**

# THE DAILY ADVANCE

Friday, August 3, 2012

WWW.DAILYADVANCE.COM

50 cents

## WEATHER



Ryan William/Weeksville Elementary

### T-STORM

Today: 92  
Tonight: 75  
Complete forecast on 2A

## Albemarle Life



### Fresh faces at Art Walk

Outer Banks artist Katy Caroline, who painted this image of a beach cottage at sunrise, will be the featured artist at Arts of the Albemarle's First Friday Art Walk, today from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown Elizabeth City. — 7B

## State

### Cops ready for convention

Police officials in North Carolina have been preparing for a year to provide security for the Democratic National Convention this summer in Charlotte. They say they're now ready. — 3A

### NC schools get mixed grade

North Carolina's annual report card for public schools shows four out of five are meeting expected student learning growth targets, but fewer than half are reaching all the objectives. — 3A

### Alligator shows up on beach

A 10-foot alligator has been relocated after it showed up on Holden Beach, moving in and out of the surf and attracting dozens of people. — 3A

## Web Poll Results

www.DailyAdvance.com  
poll from Thursday, Aug. 2

### Did you eat at Chick-fil-A on Wednesday?

#### VOTES

Yes, because I wanted to support Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy's right to free speech. **111**

Yes, but not because I wanted to support Cathy but because I just like Chick-fil-A. **8**

No, because I wanted to support the boycott. **30**

No, because I like to eat elsewhere when I eat fast-food. **22**

**TOTAL**  
171



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## TODAY'S INDEX

Classified **4B-5B** Opinions **4A**  
Comics **6B** Region **3A**  
Lifestyles **7B-8B** State **3B**  
Lottery **2A** Sports **1B-3B**  
Obituaries **6A** TV Guide **8A**



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# Happy birthday, Coasties



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Local Coasties play a game of volleyball during Coast Guard Day at the Elizabeth City base, Thursday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Amber Vargo (left), the wife of a Coast Guardsman, and her friends, Coasties Kristin Brunk (center) and Samantha McEntyre (right), help the band out with a song during Coast Guard Day, Thursday. Local volunteers host the annual celebration of the anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard's founding as a tribute to local Coasties.

# 1,000 mark Coast Guard Day

## Coasties appreciate large community effort

By **WILLIAM F. WEST**  
Staff Writer

**A**irman Jack Lacey knew there was community support for the Coast Guard in Elizabeth City. He just didn't realize how much.

On Thursday, Lacey was one of scores of local Coast Guard personnel and their families treated to a barbecue lunch and an afternoon of fun during the annual Coast Guard Day at the Elizabeth City base.

The event, held each August and sponsored by Elizabeth City businesses and organizations, is part of a week-long series of community events held to celebrate local Coasties on the anniversary of the Coast Guard's founding. This Saturday, the Coast Guard turns the big 222.

Lacey, who is currently training at the Aviation Technical Training Center to become a rescue swimmer, said he truly appreciated the work that went



Coastie Preston Armstrong tosses a corn sack during a game of cornhole at Thursday's Coast Guard Day.

into planning and putting on the event.

"It's a very good feeling to know that people think of us," Lacey said. "And we definitely love the support."

The food — large helpings of fried chicken, hush puppies, beans and barbecue — wasn't too bad, either.

"Good stuff — can't get enough of it," he said.

Petty Officer Clark, who was attending his second Coast Guard Day at the Elizabeth City base, also was appreciative of the community volunteers' efforts.

"It's nice to know we are appreciated and that our job isn't going unnoticed," Nygaard said.

Nygaard, who works at the Aviation Logistics Center, also likes the event because it gives Coasties a chance to enjoy quality time with their families and other Coasties.

"You get the chance to bring our families together and meet with the other families and join in one big family," he said.

Charlotte Underwood, tourism director for Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County, was one of the dozens of community volunteers helping feed the hungry Coasties and their families.

See **COASTIES**, 3A

# School grad report mixed

Only 3 of 7 schools show rate increases

By **PETER WILLIAMS**  
Staff Writer

Even though graduation rates improved at only three of seven area high schools last year, six of the seven posted rates higher than the statewide average that for the first time ever topped 80 percent.

According to state data released Thursday, the two high schools in the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools district — Northeastern and Pasquotank — showed the largest improvement on graduation rates during the 2011-12 school year.

## Coming Saturday

A majority of area schools met their expected growth targets on annual end-of-grade and end-of-course testing.

Pasquotank County High School's graduation rate rose from 74 percent in 2010-11 to 85.6 percent in 2011-12 — an 11.6 percent increase.

Northeastern High School's graduation rate, meanwhile, grew from 88 percent to 88.6 percent, the highest of any public high school in the Albemarle.

Superintendent Linwood Williams was pleased with the report, which was released by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

"We are working hard to make sure our students graduate from our system ready for college or careers," Williams said in a press release. "This is demonstrated by the continued increase in our graduation rate and the number of schools meeting or exceeding expected growth."

Williams was referring to the fact that nine of 12 Elizabeth City-Pasquotank schools met their expected growth targets on the ABCs of Public Education

See **GRAD RATES**, 6A

# Ex-Dem helps open GOP Victory Center

## Davis co-chaired 2008 Obama campaign

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Chowan Herald

**EDENTON** — Who better to help open the local Republican Victory Center in Edenton than a former Democratic congressman who now stumps for GOP candidates?

Local Republicans thought Artur Davis was the right choice, so the former congressman from Alabama who

co-chaired President Obama's first presidential campaign was invited to help open the Chowan GOP headquarters Thursday morning.

Davis, who only switched parties about three months ago, seemed at home in front of the mostly Republican crowd.

"I once was lost, but now I am found," Davis shouted to some 60 spectators gathered outside the GOP headquarters in Edenton's downtown.

Davis urged the crowd to

See **DAVIS**, 3A



RITCHIE STARNES/  
CHOWAN HERALD

Former Democratic Congressman Artur Davis of Alabama (left) speaks at the grand opening of the GOP Victory Center in Edenton, Thursday.