

# SECOND FRONT



"I will showcase the 4th Congressional District and be an ambassador for it." Bonnie Girard, Republican for Congress, in downtown Blackstone

## 10-Point Pledge issued

### Petersburg woman seeks term limits, debate with Forbes

Bonnie Girard says members of Congress should serve no more than eight years.

She also wants a chance to debate her opponent, incumbent Congressman Randy Forbes (R-4th).

The Petersburg businesswoman stopped in Blackstone last week as her campaign makes its final push for what she acknowledges would be a large upset.

Mrs. Girard, of Petersburg, is challenging Forbes (R-Cheapeake) in the June 12th Republican primary. The 4th District sprawls from Forbes hometown all the way west to Nottoway County.

Mrs. Girard, who has issued a 10-point campaign pledge, is starting to hit Forbes hard on two issues where Forbes is viewed by some to be at his strongest: China and U.S. national security.

She lived and worked in China for two decades and says tough talk

by Forbes and others in Congress is laughed at by the shrewd Chinese. "It's business as usual as far as the Chinese are concerned. It's just a bunch of words with no change in the way we do business...I will propose legislation to stop the U.S. Government from selling our debt to China. I will stand up to China and lead the fight to protect our intellectual property, stop Chinese industrial espionage in the U.S., and bring American jobs back to the United States."

She also alleges that Forbes accepted some \$268,000 in campaign donations from 19 various PACs, which she claims have been cited for "defrauding the American taxpayer" by the U.S. Defense Department.

Mrs. Girard also claims that those businesses were awarded more than \$1 trillion in defense contracts between 2001, when Forbes took office and 2010. "I will not take campaign contributions from companies convicted of fraud by the U.S. government."

She asks if Forbes is working to "defend our defenders, or just to defend our defense contractors."

Mrs. Girard also says she's tired

of government hand-outs to various businesses. She says members of Congress should work closely with the private sector, serving as liaisons between local officials and business leaders. "We should be able to know our district so well, that we can pick-up the phone and call various heads of industry, and point out various assets and needs of our different communities. I will showcase the 4th Congressional District and be an ambassador for it."

Mrs. Girard said citizens in the 4th don't see enough of their Congressman.

"I will personally be in every county and city in our district, available to the people, at least three times a year, hopefully more."

Mrs. Girard said Congress is in session just a few months, and even with committee meetings, the amount of time required in D. C. is one-half a year at most.

Speaking recently to the *Courier-Record* in downtown Blackstone, Ms. Girard, who campaigned at the recent Crewe Homecoming celebration, says she also plans to attend the upcoming, June 9th Texas Festival at Kenston Horst School.

## Forbes campaign responds to opponent

Congressman Randy Forbes hasn't received an invitation to debate his opponent in the June 12th primary, says Sergio Gor, Communications Director for the Forbes For Congress campaign.

Gor has issued a response to several *Courier-Record* questions that arose from a recent interview with Bonnie Girard, who's challenging Forbes for the Republican nomination (See related story, *this page*).

Mrs. Girard says she'd like to debate Forbes, and also has pledged to support term limits.

But Gor says term limits aren't necessary.

The strongest form of a term limit, insists Gor, "is the right of the American people to vote. Every two years, the public has the opportunity to renew support for an elected official or exercise their right to vote for different representation."

Gor also takes exception with suggestions by Mrs. Girard that the Congressman might be cozy with certain defense contractors.

"As it should be, Members of Congress have no say in the awarding of government contracts. House Ethics guidelines are clear about not acting on behalf of a supporter or treating any constituent different than another. Randy Forbes is not only vigilant to steer clear of any impropriety, he avoids even the appearance of impropriety."

Gor adds: "Fraud, waste, and abuse in government is an unacceptable problem. Every dollar of fraud and waste in the Department of Defense represents a dollar not defending America and protecting our troops in harm's way. That is why Randy Forbes was one of the first Members of Congress aggressively demanding accountability of the leadership of the Department of Defense to perform a full and complete audit of every last taxpayer dollar spent on national defense."

Gor also defends the Congressman when it comes to China. "After his first official trip to China in 2003, Congressman Forbes started and continues to Chair The Congressional China Caucus... just last month, Congressman Forbes was a keynote speaker at Harvard University, discussing the growing international economic, military and political influence of China and the appropriate response from the United States."

"Most recently, Randy Forbes introduced House Resolution 616 to provide a comprehensive, strategic framework of key objectives to guide the U. S. House of Representatives in developing policy with regard to the People's Republic of China."

"Faced with this challenge, the U. S. government has failed to develop a strategic vision to guide an integrated, government-wide approach to U.S.-China relations. Lacking a forward-thinking framework, our government has been relegated to a position of reactionary policy making."

Randy Forbes's resolution moves beyond this trend to identify the key outstanding issues in our nation's relationship with China, and resolves to implement nine strategic objectives for legislators to consider when creating new foreign, economic and defense policies." Gor did not respond to the *Courier-Record* when it asked him why the Forbes campaign has not invited Ms. Girard to a primary debate.

## West named again to lead Board

Blackstone native Sam West of Chester has been re-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Citizens Bancorp of Virginia, parent company of Citizens Bank & Trust Company.

The announcement was made last Thursday by President & CEO Joe Borgerding at the company's annual shareholder meeting at the main branch in downtown Blackstone.

A retired CPA, West has served as a director since 1994. He chairs the Board's Audit Committee and is the board's designated Financial Expert. Borgerding also announced that Cliff Jenkins of Burkeville was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

## Special guests

The 50-voice Master's Choir of First Baptist Norfolk will lead a special music service at Victoria Christian Church this Sunday, June 3rd at 3:00 p.m. Joining them will also be Ryan Thomas (saxophone), and Dave and Donna Pinchbeck Thomas.

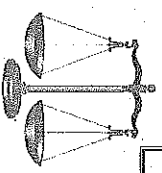
The public is invited to the church, which is located at 2100 Lee Avenue, Victoria. Call Earl Pinchbeck at (434) 696-1668 for more info.

**FREE** wedding and engagement notices are edited for style and space. Paid announcements are published as the bride wishes. Call 292-NEWS.

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**10 STEPS WineFest**  
June 23, 2012  
11 am - 6 pm

**Breast-feeding Class**  
Monday, June 11  
6 to 8 p.m.

Centra Southside Community Hospital is offering this free breast-feeding class to expectant mothers and their support.

Administrative Boardroom  
Centra Southside  
Community Hospital