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From the Oconee to the Apalachee

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First Day of School

Oconee County students returned to school for the 2006-07 school year Monday. Oconee County Primary School Principal Pat Points said the day was going well. "It's been very smooth - all the busses were on time, we've eaten lunch on time - it couldn't be better. The children are enjoying seeing friends and meeting their new teachers." Left, Sharon Golden's first grade class reads a book titled, appropriately, "First Day of School." Golden is a new teacher in the Oconee County school system this year.

ROB PEECHER/Oconee Leader

Gov. Perdue attends soggy fundraiser at Harris Shoals

By ROB PEECHER The Oconee Leader

The rain didn't do much to dampen enthusiasm among Oconee County Republicans Saturday as Gov. Sonny Perdue and U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson joined U.S. Rep. Charlie Norwood at a fundraising barbecue at Harris Shoals Park.

The election season fundraiser drew a large crowd of statewide Republican candidates - among them Casey Cagle, the GOP's nominee for lieutenant governor. Cagle is



U.S. Rep. Charlie Norwood and Gov. Sonny Perdue chat Saturday.

seeking to replace Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, a Democrat, who is his party's nominee in the gubernatorial race against Perdue.

Bob Smith, the Oconee County incumbent state representative facing opposition from Democrat Becky Vaughn, helped host the event.

"It looks like a Bob Smith party," Norwood cracked as the rain poured down. Norwood, Chambliss and Isakson all addressed the crowd using the

loudspeaker in a sheriff's patrol car. Perdue, who in spite of the rain shook hands and talked to people individually, did not give a speech.

"I didn't have the opportunity to speak, but if I had, I would have told everyone that this is going to be a competitive race and we plan to run hard," Perdue said under the shelter of an oak tree. "We plan to run on our record and on positive issues and we will defend negative attacks

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OCAF show to put pottery in 'Perspective'

By JOY ASHLEY The Oconee Leader

Thousands of people from across the state will flock to Watkinsville this month to take part in an event celebrating the talents of Georgia's best potters, including 10 potters from Oconee County.

"Perspectives: Georgia Potters and Collectors," sponsored by the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation (OCAF), is an annual exhibition and sale that will be held August 26 through September 14 to showcase the talents of 50 Georgia potters. Launched just four years ago by the volunteers of OCAF, Perspectives has quickly grown into the largest contemporary pottery show and sale in Georgia.

"The mission of Perspectives is to promote Georgia potters and to showcase the very best pottery being made in the state today," said Bob Marable, Perspectives 2006 planning committee chair. "The first year we invited 35 potters to participate in the show, and then 50

every year since then."

The OCAF planning committee carefully selects and invites potters from around the state to participate in the prestigious event, which will include three major exhibits and a sale of nearly 4,000 pieces of pottery. The sale will be open to the public. Eligible potters have to be

Georgia residents who have been working independently and consistently as potters for at least the last three years.

"We try to pick a wide range of potters - from very well known potters to some younger potters that are trying to find their way," said Nancy Green, a member of the planning committee and a participant in Perspectives 2006. "I believe we have a great representation of potters in the state participating in this show."

Perspectives 2006 will kick off with a free public Opening Gala at 6 p.m., Friday, Aug. 25

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