

Morning Roundup: Statewide candidates take primary campaign into summer

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WAXHAW--The pavement steamed in the summer heat as Dan Forest's campaign bus rolled into this small town along the state's southern border for a Fourth of July parade. On the route, a man wearing a sweat-drenched baseball hat appeared confused. "I thought elections were in the fall. Anyone know who Dan Forest is? What does the lieutenant governor do?" Such is the life of a candidate in North Carolina's runoff election. It's lonely – and hot.

More political headlines:

--Rob Christensen: When Andy Griffith helped rescue the campaign of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mike Easley in 2000, it was dubbed the "Mayberry Miracle." Griffith, who died last week, was Tar Heel Democrats' political ace in the hole, helping them remain competitive in the state while most of the South went Republican.

--During his two decades at the helm of BB&T, John Allison was known for giving new executives copies of "Atlas Shrugged," a novel by Ayn Rand, whose works celebrated self-interest, reason and capitalism. Since leaving the Winston-Salem-based bank in 2009, he has become even more involved in the libertarian movement. Last month, he was tapped to take over the Cato Institute, the libertarian-leaning think tank based in Washington. Read a Q-and-A [here](#).

--More will be on the line than who's in charge of the largest U.S. electric utility when Duke Energy CEO Jim Rogers testifies Tuesday before the N.C. Utilities Commission. The company is already facing an investigation from Attorney General Roy Cooper's office.