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Candidate gets a late start at pumping the voters

By LUCY WARE MORGAN
 St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

NEW PORT RICHEY — Miller Newton, taking his Democratic congressional campaign to service stations, was "fired" Wednesday. He arrived to pump gasoline late.

Newton, who is also Pasco County's circuit clerk, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in service stations throughout the 5th Congressional District talking with customers about the high fuel costs.

Newton is scheduled to pump gasoline — and prospective voters' hands — today at Monihan's Standard Station, Alternate U.S. 19 and Sunset Point, in Pinellas County, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Newton is one of five candidates seeking the Democratic nomination for the seat now held by U.S. Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Port Richey.

Scheduled to work at D & J's Union 76 station in New Port Richey at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Newton did not show up until 11:30, a half hour late.

"He'd be fired if he was really working," quipped station manager Daniel Schmiedl.

Newton said he was delayed getting out of Wildwood, where he pumped gasoline earlier in the day.

Talking with customers and service station employees, Newton criticized Congress, President Ford and Kelly for their energy policies.

Newton also called for federal tax incentives to encourage power companies to use coal instead of oil to generate electricity. He said the switch can be accomplished without air pollution and would reduce U.S. dependence on foreign nations for oil.

Newton found service station customers in universal agreement on one issue — the price of gasoline is too high.

He said service station owners, limited by oil companies to 10 cents a gallon profit, are also hurt by rising oil prices because they have to cut their profits to remain competitive.

Newton said he believes Congress should authorize a "crash" energy program similar to the effort that landed men on the moon.

The 5th District includes Citrus, Hernando, Pasco and Sumter counties and parts of Lake, Orange, Seminole and Pinellas counties.



Democratic candidate Miller Newton called on Congress to authorize a "crash" energy program.

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