

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Nine Democrats file on opening day



Caroline Shook rings a bell to open filing.

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

The opening day of election filing at Hoke's board of elections was energetic as nine Democrats — four of them incumbents — filed for either a local or state office.

At elections board offices in Raleigh, Scotland and Robeson counties, three Democratic incumbents for the N.C. General Assembly and one Democratic contender for a Hoke-Scotland district judgeship filed.

Following filing day, the Hoke County Civic League met

on Monday night, endorsing seven of those who filed and one candidate who still plans to file.

First and only candidate in the Hoke Board of Elections door at noon on Monday to file for the 2006 election was incumbent Hoke sheriff Hubert

Peterkin, who is seeking a second term of office.

Hoke District Attorney Kristy M. Newton and Hoke Register of Deeds Onnie Dudley, both accompanying him, endorsed Peterkin. The Civic League also endorsed Peterkin (See *FILING*, page 7A)

## Ethanol plant gets permit

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Clean Burn Fuels has been given the okay to build its \$100 million ethanol-producing plant in Hoke. The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued the final air quality permit last week, according to Jack Carlisle, founder of the Cary firm.

Carlisle plans to headquarter the future Clean Burn Fuels eight miles southeast of Raeford and 12 miles from Interstate-95.

"We needed this permit in place," Carlisle said. "We have already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars, and we are sold on Hoke County for our plant."

"The main thing is that we are progressively going forward in an orderly manner with the project."

Carlisle plans to meet today with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (See *PLANT*, page 4A)

### This Week



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Local actor Sean Smith takes a break on the set of the play, "Streetcar Named Desire," where he performs in the leading role.

## Teacher moonlights as actor

### In play, movies

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

An aspiring Hollywood film star and local actor will perform center stage tonight in Pinehurst in the classic adult drama, "Streetcar Named Desire," and two major independent movies this spring.

When the curtain opens at the Sandhills Theater Company's production of the post war-1940s play, Hoke High school teacher Sean Smith will perform in the lead role of Stanley Kowalski — made famous by the brawny, brooding Marlon Brando.

Set in the French Quarter of New Orleans, "Streetcar" originally opened on Broadway, but in 1951 was converted to a movie starring Vivien Leigh, Kim Hunter and Brando. Smith, also an up and coming movie actor, captures the essence of the smoldering, swaggering character of "redneck" Stanley. The play opens at 8 p.m., playing through February 19 at the Fair Barn in Pinehurst (See *TEACHER*, page 5A)

## Steed takes helm, board decides to build school

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke's board of education is reviewing personnel requirements for the future school superintendent, declaring he or she must meet specific requirements as a resident of Hoke County.

Applications to recruit a superintendent to replace Allen Strickland, who retired on Feb. 1, are currently being accepted by the school's human resources director, Sharmaine Butler. The position will close on February 28. The board plans to hold two special meetings in March prior to its regular meeting to review the pool of applicants.

An elementary school is also in the works as the next capital project that

the board will undertake, according to school board chairman Russell C. Smith.

Cost for the construction could go as high as \$15 to \$20 million. The school would be constructed on land donated by James Hendrix, who recently pledged 50 acres located on Philippi Church Road for that purpose.

"I think an elementary school is our first and foremost immediate need," Smith said prior to the board's approval of the project. "The county commissioners want us to give them a specific plan of what kind of school we want to put on that land."

School board members Tom Pilkington and Hank Richards led the board in unanimously voting to build the school. Upchurch Elementary School is projected to be so crowded

next year, with almost 900 students, that Hoke interim school superintendent Don Steed has recommended a cap of 43 students per class. After that quota is reached, students could be placed on a waiting list to attend West Hoke Elementary School, which is less populated. The board will decide next month on options for overcrowding in Hoke schools.

The board decided, based on a recommendation from Steed, to

hire Shuller, Ferris and Lindstrom Architects in Fayetteville to design the proposed school. Steed said the architectural firm would provide the board with three options for different sizes and costs.

"We do not want it to be too big because then your core capacity such as the cafeteria would not have the necessary resources for 850 students," Smith said of past experience (See *SCHOOL BOARD*, page 6A)



BY KEN MACDONALD  
Publisher

Heard the word "\$#!" used a lot Saturday afternoon.

Like changing smoke detector batteries, visiting the dentist and washing the truck, driving to Fayetteville is something I have to do about twice a year, and over the weekend it moved to the head of the list of unpleasanties. I must have missed the memo that the

weekend before Valentine's Day is the shopping equivalent of Black Friday, so I ignorantly headed out with my daughter and a friend for a few quick errands to the mall, a couple of clothing stores, a crafts store, and — shhhhhhh — Circuit City.

I was in my wife's Honda, and not my poor pitiful 4-cylinder truck, or I'd have never made it across the traffic into the mall. "Man, this looks like Christmas," (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 2A)



Keith McDougale visits the grave of his brother Stephen Pittman, who died in a 2001 vehicle accident at the age of 22. (Snow story, page 3A)