

# The News-Journal

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## Citizens seek to name road after McPhatter

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Family and friends of the late Dr. Neil McPhatter are seeking to honor him by having a road named after him in the community where he served as a pastor and leader for over 40 years.

McPhatter, who died in April at the age of 91, was the first African-American ever elected to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners. He

served on the board for 17 consecutive years. He was also well known for building and leading St. Andrews Holiness Church in Raeford.

Family members hope the Department of Transportation will allow them to rename a section of Bridges Road in memory of their loved one.

Resident Julius Blue said he knew McPhatter well and grew up attending his church, as did many other people.

"I was born and raised at that

church back in the early '60s. It was the first church in Clay Hill. It was started by him," Blue said. "I live within walking distance from that church and there's hardly anyone who was born and raised on Clay Hill that wasn't touched by that church and by this man."

Many other residents spoke up to support the road name change at a public hearing Monday night at the regularly scheduled commissioners' meeting.

Billy Bronson said he knew McPhatter and had a close family tie to St. Andrews Holiness Church.

"My mama got saved at his church, and she always talked about how she had a good time at St. Andrews," Bronson said during the hearing.

St. Andrews Assistant Pastor Mildred Blue started attending the church when she was a child. "Dr. McPhatter did so much for this (See MCPHATTER, page 4)



McPhatter



Gregory McCall (left) and candidate Jeremy Hollingsworth brave an Election Day drizzle at Raeford #2 voting site. Some 27 percent of voters cast ballots in the city council election. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## Sheriff warns of scam, break-ins

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A phone scammer is trying to steal money from citizens by telling them they could be arrested if they don't pay up, according to Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

Multiple county residents have reported receiving scam phone calls from someone claiming to be from the county Clerk of Court's office, Peterkin said

last week.

The caller told the victims that there were arrest warrants against them and offered them the option of paying off the warrants over the phone, authorities said. But that's not how arrest warrants work and the calls are not coming from the clerk's office, even if caller identification displays the office name and number as victims reported.

"Please be advised that (See SCAM, page 9)

## Former police chief cited in Raeford wreck

Former Raeford Police Chief Kevin Locklear was cited in a car wreck this weekend that left him on medical leave from the Red Springs Police Department, according to authorities.

Locklear was driving an unmarked police car on Palmer Street in Raeford around 7:30 a.m. Saturday when he reportedly reached across the seat of the vehicle to pick something up and accidentally activated

his blue flashing lights. His Dodge Charger crossed the center line and hit an oncoming car, according to a report.

Locklear went to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst for treatment of injuries, and was later released. He was placed on medical leave from his job as assistant chief of the Red Springs police pending a possible (See LOCKLEAR, page 9)

## Incumbents return

### Jordan, King, Conoly lead council race by 2-to-1 margin over challengers

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Raeford City Council incumbents Robert "Bobby" Conoly, John Jordan and Mary Neil King were reelected Tuesday and will

serve on the board for four more years.

With all voting precincts accounted for, Conoly, Jordan and King each received over 22 percent of the vote over candidates Shirley (See ELECTION, page 9)



Conoly (left to right), King, and Jordan

### This Week

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## Group's effort a sign of respect for old cemetery



A new sign is dedicated at the cemetery. (Catharin Shepard photo)

A committee of people who have worked to restore the community cemetery between Upchurch Elementary School and Silver Grove Missionary Baptist Church gathered Saturday to dedicate a new sign marking the site.

The cemetery was once an eyesore with overgrown weeds covering the property. Volunteers in the community worked to clean it up over the years, with several groups and individuals donating money and time to help restore it. The Civic League was one of the organizations that initially helped raise money

to remove the weeds and keep the area clear. Today, the volunteer committee oversees it. The group holds a memorial balloon release and remembrance service Memorial Day weekend every year.

Local public officials including Hoke County commission Chairman James Leach and Raeford City Council members John Jordan and Mary Neil King attended the ceremony. Rev. Benita Thomas, Pastor Francis Leggett and Pastor Jennell Morris-Powell took part in the event, and Joyce Stewart presented the welcome and remarks.

## OTHER STUFF

So, we were eating Sunday dinner at my sister's house, all of us having attended church earlier and some of us still in our Sunday-go-to-meetings. It's the closest thing to formal dinner in the MacDonald household and always has been since I grew up in that house on Magnolia Street. It's probably the least appropriate setting for letting loose with the s-word.

But I had decided that, yes, the spaghetti did need a little parmesan cheese, and reached across the table and fetched a small bowl of it. When I grasped the serving spoon, I suddenly registered a searing pain in my fingertips—the spoon I was trusting for cheese was attacking me—and that's when the word came out, and it wasn't just a quick under-the-breath thing either. "Shhhhhh#!" I exclaimed, trying to soften the word but not quite succeeding. Even as the word was coming out, it was

(See OTHER STUFF, page 9)



### Mouth painter holds exhibit Sunday

The Raeford-Hoke Museum will host artist Barbara Kay Lively on Sunday, November 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Parker-Ray House. The painter's work will be on exhibit and will be for sale. Born with cerebral palsy, she began mouth painting at age 11. She earned an associate degree in fine arts from Broward Community College in Florida and is a member of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. She is currently a resident at Autumn Care's Raeford facility.



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