

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Powell tops primary, Hunt, McNeill next

### Victorious over 6 others, they'll face a Republican challenger in November

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer  
Hoke County commissioner Jean Powell squeaked ahead of the pack of nine to claim victory in the Democratic Primary Tuesday. The vice-chairwoman will be

joined in November by second place challenger Tony Hunt and Ellen McNeill in third place as they square off against Republican challenger Tim D'Annunzio.

Powell received 1,733 votes. Hunt, a former commissioner, placed sec-

ond with 1,685 votes, and newcomer Ellen McNeill, followed with 1,638 votes.

A Raeford resident, D'Annunzio is owner of Paraclete Body Armor in St. Pauls, supplying equipment to the military and private sector.

Incumbent commissioner Bill Cameron lost his bid for re-election, but earned the fourth highest vote of 1,557. Other challengers for the three commissioners seats available were Ray Owens in fifth at 1,286, Jim Davis in sixth with 1,118, Jean

Hodges with 1,117, Clyde Shepley with 529 votes, and Charles Patterson, trailing with 277 votes.

**Reaction**  
Powell, retired Hoke-Scotland district attorney, was distinguished (See PRIMARY, page 4A)

## Peterkin returns

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer  
Sheriff Hubert Peterkin yesterday triumphed over three challengers, receiving almost 85 percent of the votes to become the first African American to win a second term as sheriff of Hoke County. Not since the late sheriff Dave Barrington has another sheriff won a second term.

The 44-year-old Peterkin faces no opposition in the November general election.

He received 3,404 votes soundly defeating Charles V. Daniels who received 548 votes. Daniels, who is currently serving as a Hoke commissioner, relinquishes his seat in December. Placing third in the sheriff's race was retired Raeford as-

(See PETERKIN, page 4A)



Elected: Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin (left) joins Ellen McNeill and Tony Hunt in a celebration of victory following Tuesday night's Democratic Primary.

### This Week



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## Proposed city budget holds line on taxes

### Water, sewer rates would increase under plan presented to Raeford City Council

BY PAT ALLEN  
Editor

The proposed city budget holds the tax rate steady but water and sewer will cost citizens more.

City council members are studying the budget for fiscal year 2006-07 presented to them Monday night.

Presented by City Manager Richard Douglas, the budget adheres to the current ad valorem tax rate of 48 cents per \$100.

Speaking of "pretty tough budget preparation," Douglas said the proposed general fund budget is \$3.621 million — approximately 10 percent more than the \$3.283 million

budget for the current FY. The proposed \$2.450 million budget for the water and sewer fund is approximately 10 percent more than the \$2.219 million budget the city currently operates under.

Douglas pointed out that, from the recent county-wide property revaluation, the city will realize only a \$147,851

increase based on the existing property tax rate. "The value of real property has increased from \$171,833,810 to \$212,401,480 but the value of personal property has decreased this year from \$59,628,275 to \$50,815,554," he said in a memo to the council.

The proposed general fund

budget provides for a 3.4 percent cost-of-living increase for employees, longevity pay and potential 5 percent merit raises for all employees.

To balanced the general fund budget, almost \$200,000 would have to be appropriated from the city's fund balance.

"The proposed fund bal-

(See BUDGET, page 5A)

## City hopes grant will attract downtown business

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

A small city grant recently awarded to the Raeford Hoke Economic Development Commission may soon become a catalyst, attracting national chains to open up re-

tail stores in greater Raeford, according to Hoke Economic developer Don Porter.

Not limited solely to downtown Raeford, a \$12,500 grant from Advancement Inc., a regional non-profit organization for business advancement based in Lumberton, will

help the RHED to identify suitable retailers. Porter said efforts would be concentrated to lure retailers most likely to be interested in operating in Raeford's entire downtown area.

Porter, who received unanimous support last week from

RHED's board to proceed with the request for the grant, said

it would be a "win-win" situation (See GRANT, page 7A)

## Antioch church calls home flock to celebrate 173rd anniversary

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

In its 173 years of history Antioch Presbyterian Church survived unscathed a camp-out by Union troops on the church grounds during the Civil war. It has seen 16 ministers. Now it's calling its flock of primarily Scottish descendants home.

From across America, current and former members of the church are returning for Homecoming 2006 this Sunday, May 7 at 11 a.m.

In commemoration of

the south Hoke church's anniversary, the Rev. Leighton McKeithen, retired senior pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, will deliver a sermon titled "Heaven." McKeithen's sermon will follow a welcome by the Rev. Ian Rankine, officiating minister at Antioch Presbyterian.

"I think he has probably preached in every Presbyterian church in the area," Rankine said. "He is dearly loved by our congregation, and he knows the Bible from memory.

"He knows every song so he does not even need to open a hymn book."

Sarah Leach, elder and member of the session governing body of Antioch Presbyterian, said more than 250 invitations have been sent to guests. A special cookbook dedicated to a revered member, Sara Currie Watson, who died four years ago, will also be on sale. Some of the recipes are from "way back when," Leach added.

With the morning worship service brimming with the (See ANTIOCH, page 7A)



Little jingle girl  
Kristen Renee Oxendine, 8, of Pembroke, with hundreds of bells sewn to her regalia, dances the sacred healing dance at Saturday's Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center's spring pow wow.