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Five contend for 3 seats on school board Two file in last hour, will face three incumbents in November election

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer
Two contenders for Hoke Board of Education filed just an hour before the deadline Monday. The Rev. Ray Owens Sr. and Della Maynor-Bowen will square off against three incumbents who filed on opening day.

Owens, pastor of Freedom A.M.E. Zion Chapel Church, and Maynor-Bowen, who ran unsuccessfully for a school board seat in 2004, are vying to unseat two of the three incumbents in the upcoming nonpartisan election in November. Although they were the last candidates to file this

week, both had previously expressed an interest in running for the school board. They will compete against incumbents Russell C. Smith, school board chairman, Tom Pilkington and Irish Pickett. Smith and Pilkington are seeking third terms of

office while Pickett is running for her first permanent term after replacing William Hollingsworth II. Pickett was appointed by the school board to fulfill the unfinished term of Hollingsworth after he resigned in March. Maynor-Bowen said she had

known she "would run again" for the school board, but it was only a question of when. "I just decided to do it," she said. "But, my decision was not sudden." As Hoke retired register of deeds, Maynor-Bowen served as (See SCHOOL BOARD, page 5A)

McDuffie makes bid official

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer
Red Springs Police Chief Troy McDuffie filed a declaration of intent on Monday to run for Hoke sheriff. He also submitted a required petition, containing 270 signatures of registered voters.

Of those, 217 were certified by the Hoke Board of Elections Tuesday as valid registrations. One of the 53 rejected signatures was disqualified because the person signed as the bogus "John Hancock," an error the board deemed to be a "mistake." Another voter is being sent a letter by the board because he signed his wife's name, which is illegal on a voting petition. The elections board approved the petition after an hour review, comparing petition signatures with signatures on voter registration cards.

McDuffie will be the (See MCDUFFIE, page 7A)



Dora Mae Bullard Clayton A. Bullard

'Grandmom, grandpop' busted for drugs

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Brown-bagging took on a new meaning when the Hoke Sheriff's Office raided the home of an unsuspecting South Hoke "grandma and grandpa" on Friday, arresting them on multiple drug charges, according to Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

"Officers in our narcotics unit loaded up brown evidence bags with a cache of handguns, rifles and a deadly SKS assault rifle that can penetrate almost anything," Peterkin said. "A stash of drugs and almost \$1,000 in cash were also uncovered."

The search of the residence and entire operation took almost six hours, according to the sheriff.

"Our K-9 squad led by Angel and Aaron was vital in helping us locate the drugs," he said.

Peterkin said sometimes people mistakenly think only younger people are involved in illegal drug operations.

"These were mature people supplying drugs," Peterkin said. "Their granddaughter was sitting on the sofa when our team

(See DRUG BUST, page 7A)



Sheriff Hubert Peterkin looks over weapons and drugs confiscated in Friday raid in South Hoke.

This Week



'Dream team' plans Hoke High improvements page 1B

Con artists prey on elderly page 8B

Numerous drug, robbery arrests made page 3A

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City council sets timeline for western annexation Plan to add 131 homes, four businesses would expand tax base by \$12 million

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

If things go as planned, the city of Raeford's borders will have expanded by 132 acres by January 1, 2008.

The city council adopted a Resolution of Intent and an annexation timeline at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday night.

The Lumbee River Council of Governments, which drew up a study of the area proposed for annexation, describes the study area as located between or adjacent to West Prospect

Avenue and West Palmer Street on the north and west and the property on either side of College Drive and Cole Avenue to the east and west. The area is currently served with city water, and sewer lines are adjacent to the area. The area encompasses 131 residences, four commercial sites, and three each institutional and governmental sites with the properties valued at more than \$12 million. It holds a population of 340, according to estimates.

The schedule of annexation procedures were presented by LR

Chief Administer James Perry. He said once the annexation "clock" is started, by law, specific criteria and times have to be attended to. "There can be a little variation from the timelines but not much," he said.

A special meeting will be called to approve the annexation report/services plan with a statement of financial impact to be delivered on August 21 at 7:30 p.m. A map and list of property owners will be posted with City Clerk Betty Smith.

Notices of intent and public meet-

ings will be mailed to property owners August 28-30. Residents in the planned annexation area are invited to attend a public informational meeting at City Hall on September 25 at 7:30 p.m., and a public hearing will follow on October 23 at 7:30 p.m.

The annexation ordinance is to be adopted by November 6 at the city council's regular meeting. This will be followed by filing a map with the Register of Deeds and the Board of Election. Clearance with the state (See ANNEXATION, page 2A)



Shakera Graham: "It's the kids."

Graham uses radio show to reach teens

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

"It's about the children," Shakera Graham says about her half hour show, "Now Generation," that airs on WMFA in Raeford and WSKL in Sanford every fourth Saturday morning at 9-9:30.

It was a reluctant Graham who took on the radio show just for teens in 2003. After moving back to Hoke County from Sanford, Regina Carpenter, host of "Town Talk," encouraged her to begin the show as a "really serious ministry" to work with teens.

"I had no cool about radio," says Graham, who had her doubts until

she prayed for insight.

Armed with her new new-found courage and the conviction that God would use her to encourage or mentor teenagers through the media, Graham's first show aired November 2003. She remembers the show well; it was about date rape, chosen because she had met victims of the crime.

The show's format features teens talking about issues they face. Graham is the host but sometimes teenagers also serve in that capacity. "The show helps teens open up more and is a venue for them," Graham believes.

Now Generation first reached out to high school students then Graham

realized middle school students also have a "great need."

Graham goes to the high schools once a month for program ideas. She leaves registration forms and questionnaires for teens to fill out and that is how guests are selected. Her guests and guest hosts don't all come from Hoke; some are from Cumberland and Moore counties.

"Now Generation" has dealt with teen pregnancy, peer pressure (a popular topic), learning to maximize education, healthy teen relationships, and choosing friends wisely. "Who are you rolling with?" is the

(See GRAHAM, page 8A)