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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Annexation foes again protest to council

60 county residents fill city hall to demand area west of city not be annexed



Citizens line up to address Raeford City Council Monday.

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

An impassive Raeford city council listened as foes of forced annexation on College Drive/Palmer Street sent a resounding message on Monday evening they did not want "taxation" or "representation" from the City of Raeford. "Abandon it," one anti-an-

nexation resident requested. No one spoke in favor of annexation at the public hearing. Sixteen people spoke against annexation.

"Speak now or forever hold your peace," Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. told one anti-annexation speaker after the city council adopted for the meeting, a policy of al-

lotting five minutes speaking time per person.

In an overflowing city hall, more than 60 county residents — many senior citizens — offered support to speakers at the emotionally charged public hearing, which formally served as the prelude to a vote by the city council on November 6 on

whether to proceed with an involuntary annexation. The council's plan calls for adding 131 residences, encompassing 133 acres, into the city limits. The increase in tax revenues is estimated at \$176,000 for the city.

Presenting a petition with the signatures of property (See *FOES*, page 6A)

Early voting turnout strong

More than 100 voted on first day

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke Board of Elections opened the doors at the county commissioners assembly room on October 19, marking the beginning of one stop voting prior to the November 7 Election Day.

Political supporters are dispersing everything from long-stemmed flowers to campaign fliers to entice potential voters as candidates vie for local positions. Political signs flank the parking lot outside the Hoke elections boards' headquarters, and candidates are still holding barbecues and fundraisers, hoping for a share of early votes before the final day of election.

"We have our AutoMark voting machine set up also for disabled voters," Hoke Board of Elections supervisor Caroline Shook said. "A few people have used it. It is a special machine that assists challenged citizens.

"It is available inside." Shook said during the first four days 400 people voted in the one-stop process, with 112 voting on the first day alone.

"We seem to be averaging more early voters than during the one stop voting prior to the May Democratic primary," Shook said yesterday before a Hoke Board of Elections meeting. "We are going over the absentee ballots by mail each Tuesday with our elections board, but those absentees will not be counted until after Election Day."

Located at the Pratt Building on North Main Street, the one stop voting area offers ample parking, but even curbside service is available, when requested, for disabled voters who opt not to go inside the building, Shook indicated.

Open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and on the last day (Saturday, November 4) from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., the Board of Elections office is welcoming citizens who come to vote. Precinct officials, Hoke elections (See *VOTING*, page 9A)



Got milk?

A roll of paper towels? That would complete the experience of the perfect cupcake for Carson Edison, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the treat at Parks and Rec.'s dedication of a new building, held Tuesday.

Gunman sought in killing

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Detectives at the Hoke Sheriff's Office are working steadily to "crack the case" in the murder of an Ashley Heights man last Tuesday evening. Two gunmen are sought in the slaying, according to Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

Anthony Brewington, in his early 30s, of 148 Ashmont Road, was hit with a single gunshot during the twilight hours, killing him instantly after two masked men apparently barged through the unlocked door of his home near Aberdeen.

Details are still sketchy, but six other people were in the home, which is located near the Moore County line, at the time of the killing at 6:38 p.m. on October 17.

"We have several solid leads, and we do anticipate arrests in this homicide," Peterkin said. "There appeared to be no forced entry so we are not ruling out the possibility that Mr. Brewington was killed by somebody he was acquainted with among his circle of friends.

"Mr. Brewington was the first to see the two men as they walked into the front door so he may possibly have (See *GUNMAN*, page 3A)

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Former rec director pleads to embezzlement charge

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke Superior Court special chief judge Thomas Haigwood accepted a plea of "guilty" from ex-Hoke athletic director Jose Yepez on Friday for embezzlement of county funds by a county

officer and obtaining property by false pretenses.

In the sentencing, Haigwood granted a 16-month minimum to 20-month maximum suspended sentence to Yepez, who misappropriated Hoke County funds last year. Yepez served as the supervi-

sor of Parks and Recreation for seven months. He was fired by County Manager Mike Wood in August 2005.

Commissioner Charles V. Daniels was credited with reporting the initial allegations against Yepez to Hoke district attorney Kristy M. Newton.

A local business owner came forward with information.

Yepez, represented by Fayetteville-Raeford attorney David Courie, pleaded guilty in a plea arrangement rather than face a jury trial that was scheduled in November, according to Hoke assistant dis-

trict attorney Byron Beasley, lead prosecutor for the case.

Beasley indicated Yepez did not proffer any statement during his sentencing. After Yepez fled the state last year, the Hoke Sheriff's Office and DA's office located him (See *YEPEZ*, page 6A)



By KEN MACDONALD
Publisher

Two words sure to strike terror into the hearts of anyone in any household: "family conference." Yes, the reckoning of relatives, the domestic summit, the "conferencia de familia."

Unless you're the caller of the conference, say, if you're the child, it's as dreaded as your turn to do the Sunday dishes.

If you're lucky the FC is called to

warn you and your siblings for the final-time-and-I-mean-it, that when you use the last sheet of toilet paper it is mandatory that you replace the roll, or next time you will use the facilities outdoors and your toilet paper will be leaves, preferably poison ivy ones.

Or "From now on," the mother might say to the teenagers, "if you leave your clothes in a pile at the foot of the bed, they will be gathered up while you're at (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 3A)

Raleigh attorney cites new evidence in renewed request to D.A. for probe

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Raleigh attorney Christopher Brook sent a second request on Monday to Hoke District Attorney Kristy M. Newton, urging her to reconsider her denial to investigate Hoke Sheriff Hubert Peterkin on allegations of misconduct.

Supporters of Peterkin, including Hoke commissioners James Leach and Jean Powell, commission vice chairwoman, have indicated the

allegations may be politically motivated.

Almost one month ago, Newton said after Brook's initial request that there was "no investigation" against Peterkin. As the Democratic nominee for Hoke sheriff, Peterkin is seeking a second term of office.

His accuser, former Sheriff's employee Lissa Jones, resigned on good terms as his administrative assistant in July, according to Hoke's person- (See *ALLEGATIONS*, page 3A)