

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Proposed voting site may violate law

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Some citizens are questioning a contested vote of the Hoke County Board of Elections asking the state's permission to make changes to the county's one-stop absentee voting plan.

Earlier this year the board voted two to one in favor of asking the

state to allow a second one-stop absentee voting site in the Puppy Creek voting district and to move the precinct's voting site from the Puppy Creek Fire Department to the Matthew Rouse Jr. Community Resource Center. The board voted two to one at a special called meeting Monday in favor of asking the state's permission to hold one-stop voting Sunday, April 29 from 2-6

p.m. at the county Board of Elections office, which is already the county's designated one-stop early voting site.

In both votes, Chairwoman Gloria Barnes Hill and Secretary Brenda Oxendine Jacobs voted in favor of the changes while board member Robert E. Vaughn voted against the motion.

The changes are not final. The petitions must be approved by the

state before the changes can be made, according to state law.

"You cannot do the one-stop voting unless you get permission from the state board," County Attorney William Fields said.

Technically the board is attempting to amend the county's one-stop voting plan, he said.

However, state law places restrictions on which locations can be used

as one-stop voting sites. The State Board of Elections won't approve a plan to hold one-stop voting in a building that doesn't meet the requirements, and the request to whoever oversees the building must be made at least 90 days before one-stop voting begins.

"In providing the site or sites for one-stop absentee voting under this (See ONE-STOP, page 6A)

State championship in sight



The Bucks' Jayvione Parker blocks a shot by Apex's #10 Austin Debevec in the game that sent the team to the regionals. At right, Hoke County fans were on their feet for most of the game. (Hal Nunn photos)



Bucks go to regionals

By HAL NUNN
Sports writer

With a standing-room-only crowd and folks being turned away at the door, the #2 seed Hoke County High School Fighting Bucks, along with their fans, are headed to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Regional tournament tomorrow night to take on the Trojans

of Pine Forest at 8:30 p.m. in the Crown Arena. The win last week over the Apex Cougars propelled the Bucks into the statewide scene and two wins away from a possible state championship. The Bucks fought a tough Apex team that plays in the Trine 9 conference in Raleigh and the defensive battle produced a lower scoring game than we have seen (See BUCKS, page 7A)

This Week



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Four now challenging commissioners

Pace picks up in local election filing, state races get candidates, Congress too

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Two Republican candidates and two Democratic candidates have filed to challenge incumbent Democrats James Leach and Bobby Wright for seats on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

Republicans John Harry and Elda Thacker have filed to run for positions on the board.

Democrats Freddy McPhaul, Vet-

erans Service officer for Hoke County, and Lonnie Baldwin have filed to run for commissioner.

McPhaul announced last year that he would seek a seat on the county commission. Baldwin and Harry announced this week that they will also challenge Leach and Wright for a position on the board. Thacker filed last week and Baldwin and Harry filed Monday.

Now that there are four Democrats running for the two seats, registered

Democrat voters will have a chance this May to select the two candidates from their party that they want to see on the ballot in November. However, unless another Republican candidate files for election, Harry and Thacker will automatically become the Republican nominees for the commission race.

Incumbent Kristy Newton has also filed for re-election as Hoke County's District Attorney.

Candidates for the Hoke County

Board of Education and the soil and water conservation supervisory positions will file for election this summer. The primary election is set for May.

N.C. General Assembly

House of Representatives incumbents Garland Pierce, a Democrat from Wagram representing state House District 48 and Ken Goodman, a Democrat from Rockingham representing state House District (See FILING, page 5A)

Two file for board of commissioners

Lonnie Baldwin

Running for: Hoke County Board of Commissioners
Status: Candidate
Experience: Not previously elected
Education: Degree from Howard University
Position: Paid



Lonnie Baldwin announced this week that he will run for election

Raeford native and U.S. Army veteran

John Harry

Running for: Hoke County Board of Commissioners
Status: Candidate
Experience: Not previously elected
Education: Master's degree from Kansas State in Adult and Occupational Education
Position: Paid



Longtime Hoke County resident and Navy veteran John F.

(Profiles continue on page 6A)

Bond is \$1 million for sex offender

A registered sex offender who once worked as a New Hanover County Sheriff's deputy was arrested in Pender County last week on charges alleging that he sexually abused two Hoke County children.

Jarmal Akfpon Flood, 40, of N.C. Highway 210 in Rocky Point was



Flood

arrested on charges of one count of (See FLOOD, page 5A)