

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

## Hoke Veterans Service officer resigns

### McPhaul says he didn't like being questioned about his campaign for board

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County Veterans Service Officer Freddie McPhaul resigned from his job last week, claiming that a county official questioned his campaign tactics while campaigning against two incumbent county commissioners.

McPhaul resigned Thursday, May 10, two days after failing to win the Democratic nomination for a seat on the county commission. Asked why he resigned, McPhaul replied, "Ask your commissioners."

McPhaul claimed the county manager approached him with questions about comments he made while both working for a county office under the commissioners' jurisdiction

and campaigning against two of the incumbent commissioners.

"He was questioning the fact that I was speaking on things that the commissioners felt I was attacking them, talking about them. I was," McPhaul said. "I felt



McPhaul

like they weren't doing their job. But I felt like that didn't have anything to do with me doing my job."

McPhaul was one of two Democratic candidates challenging incumbents James Leach and Bobby Wright in the primary. Leach and Wright received a majority of the votes in the primary election last Tuesday.

(See MCPHAUL, page 6A)



#### Topping ceremony

Clockwise from left: Cape Fear Valley Health System Chief Executive Officer Mike Nagowski points out where a special beam is meant to rest on top of the incomplete Health Pavilion Hoke facility. Construction workers and hospital officials signed their names to the steel beam before a worker raised it to the top of the building, which is still under construction. The hospital system plans to begin construction later this year on a 41-bed hospital on the same site. Health Pavilion Hoke will offer a variety of outpatient services including imaging, a pharmacy and more. The hospital will offer a 24-hour emergency room, operating rooms, labor and delivery rooms and acute care beds. (Catharin Shepard photos)



Authorities use dogs at a Hillcrest mobile home park to hunt for the robber. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## Search for gunman prompts lockdown

### Two schools affected by manhunt

East Hoke Middle School and Scurlock Elementary School went on lockdown Monday while authorities searched for and eventually arrested a man accused of robbing an H&H Homes real estate agent during an open house.

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office responded Monday to a report of an armed robbery of a real estate agent at a newly built house on Equestrian Way. The victim provided a description

of the robber and officers soon spotted his vehicle on Fayetteville Road near Doc Brown Road.

Officers chased the man along Fayetteville Road until he pulled over, jumped out of the car and fled on foot. The Sheriff's Office put the two schools in lockdown to prevent the man from fleeing to the campuses. The Hoke County Sheriff's Office and the Raeford Police Department worked together (See GUNMAN, page 4A)

## Senate race goes to runoff in July

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The District 21 North Carolina Senate race will go

to a runoff after two candidates received support from voters.

Former Hoke County Democratic Party Chairman Robert Benjamin Clark III and Cumberland County commission member Billy King will compete in a second primary for the seat left open by Sen. Eric Mansfield. Mansfield, a Democrat, campaigned for lieutenant governor but was defeated in the primary. No Republican candidates filed to run for election in the race.

The newly redrawn District 21 includes Hoke County

and parts of Cumberland County. Hoke County voters cast 117 more ballots for newcomer Allen Thomas Jr., a 25-year-old born and raised in Hoke County, than they did for Clark. However, the more heavily populated Cumberland County voters favored King and Clark.

King received 4,329 votes, or about 25 percent of the ballots, while Clark received 3,510 votes, or about 20 percent of the ballots.

The runoff primary is set for July 17.

Hoke voters will be able to vote in several local, state

and national races this fall. Candidates up for election after the primary include:

County commission (two seats, four-year term): James Leach\* (D), Bobby Wright\* (D), John Harry (R), Elda Thacker (R)

District attorney: Kristy Newton\* (unopposed)

(See RUNOFF, page 4A)

## Alleged Lucky Charm cafe robbers not so lucky

The Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested two suspects last week in connection with an armed robbery at the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes Internet gambling café on U.S. 401 Business Highway.

Shortly before midnight May 9, three armed men

entered the Lucky Charm Sweepstakes and demanded money. The men threatened and endangered the life of the clerk and held a firearm to a customer's head during the initial struggle, according to the Sheriff's Office. (See UNLUCKY, page 4A)

## Child found unresponsive in pool dies in hospital

An 18-month-old child died last week, days after falling into his family's backyard pool, authorities said.

Tyler Easton "Turtle" Schulte died Thursday, May 10, three days after he was found in the family's swimming pool at their Plaza Drive home near the Hoke/Cumberland County line. His mother, Dawn Schulte, was on the phone with emergency communications and reporting the toddler missing when she discovered him in the swimming pool and jumped in to pull him out, according to the Hoke (See POOL ACCIDENT, page 4A)



Tyler Schulte



Wanda Cohen (left) talks about local produce being sold at the Hoke Farmers Market Saturday. The market is open on Saturdays downtown 9 a.m.-1 p.m. across from the courthouse. It's also open at the Rockfish Community Center on Tuesdays from 2-6 p.m.

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