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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Willis, Allen win Raeford City Council

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Raeford City Council will see a new face in 2014, after candidate Charles Allen and incumbent Wayne Willis received a majority of votes in the 2013 municipal election. Allen, who grew up near Raeford, received

11 more votes than incumbent Shelley Wilburn, who had the lowest number of ballots among the three candidates running for the two seats. Allen is a pharmacist who works as the pharmacy director for Carlie C's IGA grocery chain. He will join the city council in January to serve a four-year term.

Allen received a total of 180 votes or 30.56

percent of the total vote. Incumbent Willis received the most votes of all three candidates, carrying the election with a total of 238 votes or 40.41 percent of all the ballots cast in the city council race. Incumbent Wilburn received the fewest votes at 169, or 28.69 percent of all votes.

(See ELECTION, page 6A)



Allen



Willis

Some teachers stage 'sickout'

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Reportedly dozens of teachers in Hoke County Schools called out sick Monday in protest against changes to education funding and other matters decided by the state legislature.

An anonymous tip delivered to The News-Journal on Monday said that as many as 26 teachers at one elementary school in Hoke, and other teachers at other schools in the county, called out sick as part of the protest.

"We are Hoke County teachers and community members who are willing to take a step to change what is happening in education in North Carolina. We love what we do and we are dedicated to children and learning. But we are ashamed of the decisions made by our elected officials in the North Carolina Legislature that has cut education funding annually since 2004," the message said.

Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson confirmed that some schools did report unusually large numbers of teachers calling in sick.

"We did have a couple of schools with larger numbers than normal. The rest of the

(See TEACHERS, page 4A)



Popular haunt

Ethan Simon (left), son of Hayden Simon, and Giovanni Patterson, son of Quame and Molly Patterson were among the throngs of children who braved the home of Donna Basurto on West Central Avenue Halloween night. Trick-or-treaters seemed to favor neighborhoods around town that were decorated and safely traveled on foot. (Ken MacDonald photo)

'Selfies' help officer catch electronics thief

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested a juvenile last week on felony breaking and entering charges after using photos from a stolen iPod to track him down.

Raeford resident Myrtle Lynch, who lives on the 100 block of Huckabee Street, reported in October that someone broke into her home and stole several electronics items, including an Apple iPod.

The iPod was set to automatically send any

photos taken with the device to Lynch's email account. After checking her email, Lynch realized the suspect had used the iPod to take photos of himself.

After Lynch turned the photos over to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, detectives used multiple sources to positively identify the suspect.

"The defendant used the stolen Apple iPod to take photographs of himself within hours of the same day after it was reported stolen," according

to a press release from the Sheriff's Office.

The juvenile suspect, whose name was withheld in compliance with state law, was charged with felony breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering and possession of stolen property. He was held under a \$1,000 secured bond.

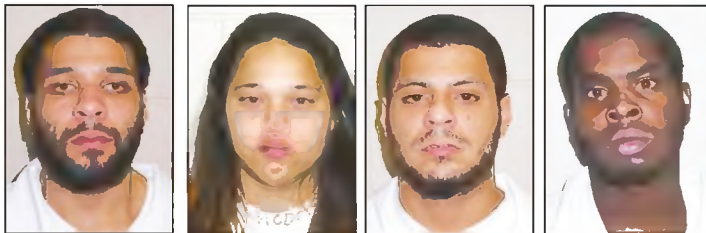
Authorities obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence and detectives are still searching for stolen property, according to the Sheriff's Office.

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Jeffrey Hunt Polly Hunt Oxendine Johnson

4 arrested for break-ins in area subdivisions

Four people were arrested last week on felony charges for a rash of vehicle break-ins in two Hoke County subdivisions.

Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested Jeffrey Dashawn Hunt, 22, of the 2300 block of Burke Street in Lumberton; Tyjohnta Eshaunta Johnson Sr., 20, of the 400 block of Sparrow Lane in Lumberton; Robert Jacob Oxendine, 20, of the 400 block of Gough Street in Pembroke and Polly Hunt, 18, address unknown.

Jeffrey Dashawn Hunt, Johnson Sr. and Oxendine were charged with 16 counts of breaking or entering a motor vehicle, four counts of felony larceny, two counts of possession of stolen goods and 11 counts of misdemeanor larceny. Polly Hunt was charged with the above and additionally one count of obtaining property by false pretense. All suspects were placed under \$200,000 secured bonds.

The arrests were con- (See ARRESTS, page 4A)

Cell tower applicants, not county must contact area property owners

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

More and more wireless towers are going up across Hoke County, and now the developers will have to foot the bill to inform nearby residents about the proposal well in advance.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to approve a proposed text amendment to the county planning ordinance that will require companies seeking a permit to build a wireless tower to first contact by mail all property owners who own land within 500 feet of the proposed site.

Previously the ordinance's wording meant that the county was paying to mail notices to property owners about public

hearings for wireless tower conditional use permits, and it was getting expensive, Hoke County Planner Robert Farrell said. Addition-

ally, the county was mailing notices to people within one mile of the proposed site. The rest of the ordinances (See TOWERS, page 3A)



Bad sign

A driver swerving to avoid a collision on Highway 401 ran into the Word of Life Temple sign, according to a State Highway Patrol report. Driver Tenorazel Washington, 28, of Fayetteville ended up damaging the sign and several concrete barriers in the church parking lot. His car was totaled.



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