

The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

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No. 9 Vol. 109

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Thomas, Southerland, Hunt win primary Powell trails by fewer than 100 votes, but victors avoid runoff

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County's Democratic voters cast enough ballots Tuesday in the county commission race to put one incumbent, a former county attorney and a former state Senate candidate through the primary and into the November General Election, where they will vie with two Republican candidates for

three seats on the board.

Incumbent Tony Hunt, former county attorney Harry Southerland and candidate Allen Thomas received enough votes in the Democratic primary election to avoid a runoff, according to elections officials.

Thomas led the field, receiving 2,188 or 22.57 percent of the vote in the commission race, the most of any of the 10 commission candidates on the primary ballot. Souther-

land received the second-most votes, 1,731 or 17.86 percent, while incumbent Tony Hunt came in third with 1,374 or 14.17 percent of the vote.

Incumbent Jean Powell received 1,278 votes, the fourth-most in the race, representing 13.18 percent of the primary vote. However, the three top vote-getters received enough votes that there will not be a runoff, officials reported.

The rest of the field included Cliff Overby with 160 votes, William Brown with 281 votes, Richard Byrd with 546 votes, Michael Lindsay with 677 votes, Freddie McPhaul with 728 votes and Charles Daniels with 731 votes.

Roughly 15 percent of eligible Hoke voters turned out at the polls.

The race for the three commission seats (See PRIMARY, page 5)



Studying the numbers

Larry Long looks at primary results projected on the glass of The News-Journal office Tuesday night. Turnout for the election was about 15 percent, and results were all in by about 9:15. (Catharin Shepard photo)



Thornton D. Peterson Locklear J. Peterson

Joyride allegedly follows murder Details emerge in court

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A Hoke County man found dead on Fort Bragg last month was shot twice as he ran from suspects who allegedly lured him to a vacant home and beat him in order to steal his car, according to Assistant District Attorney Mike Hardin.

Hardin gave more details last week about the death of Tayvon Joseph McMillan, 18, of St. Pauls. McMillan went missing last month and passersby found his body near Plank Road on the military reservation. Hardin spoke about the case April 30 during a bond reduction hearing for two of the suspects.

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested Jaquan C. Peterson, 19, Dejour Peterson, 17, Joel (See JOYRIDE, page 5A)

Commission denies permit for cell tower

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled meeting Monday night did not approve a conditional use permit for a proposed 300-foot-tall lattice framework cell phone tower that drew criticism from neighboring property owners.

A conditional use permit request by Nexsen Pruett, which has constructed many cell towers in Hoke County, asked permission to put a tower on a parcel of property located at 875 Horace Walters Road. A public hearing held in February about the matter was tabled to allow the opposing parties a chance to meet and discuss the situation, but conflicting schedules kept them from ever meeting, County Planner Robert Farrell said.

The matter again came before the board Monday and was the subject of discussion from both property owners. Ultimately, Commissioner Bobby Wright made a motion to approve the permit, allowing the tower, because otherwise it would be telling a property owner he could not develop his own property. Commission Vice Chairwoman (See CELL TOWER, page 4A)

Cape Fear in lead for ambulance service

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County Manager Tim Johnson recommended Monday that the county commissioners choose Cape Fear Valley Health System to provide emergency transport services for Hoke residents, and although the board tabled the matter, board members spoke in favor of approving the

contract pending certain revisions.

The county's three-year contract with ambulance provider Med1 is up this month and the county commission chose to issue a request for proposals, allowing other companies a chance to make their case for earning the contract. Med1, Cape Fear Valley, FirstHealth of the Carolinas and American Medical Response all submitted proposals outlining how

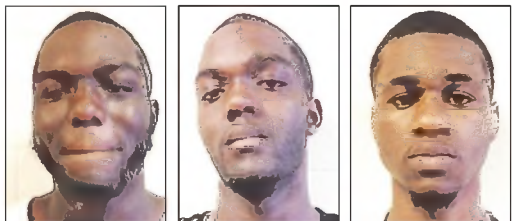
much subsidy money they would request from the county if awarded the contract, along with other details such as the baseline cost for individuals and insurance companies for each transport.

Cape Fear Valley's proposal was the best, although all four proposals met the county's qualifications, Johnson wrote in a letter to commissioners. (See AMBULANCES, page 7A)

This Week

- Calendar 2B
- Classifieds 5B
- Deaths 3A
- Editorials 2A
- Legals 2-4-6B
- Social 1B
- Sports 6A
- Worship 2B

Three arrested in armed robbery



Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office arrested three people last week in connection with an armed

robbery, according to reports.

Authorities arrested Anthony McLaughlin of the 6300 block of Arabia Road, Antwon Copeland of the 200 block of Roanoke Drive.

All were charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, three counts of possession of a stolen firearm, possession with intent to sell or deliver a Schedule VI controlled substance, maintaining a dwelling to deliver controlled substances and (See ROBBERY, page 4A)

OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

As a member of Partners in Education, once each year I get to eat in the high school culinary arts classroom, where students put forth their best efforts and whip up dishes so good it makes up for our organization's \$^&* golf tournament.

It's the Teacher of the Month and Mini-Grant Award Luncheon during which we honor some of Hoke's best teachers.

I sat with three of them—Joan Conner from Hoke High, Jennifer Kaylor from West Hoke Elementary, and Aimie Hoover from Don Steed Elementary—and listened to their stories from the classroom.

I will share two of them, first from Jennifer Kaylor: (See OTHER STUFF, page 4A)

City residents may see water rate hike

BY BILL LINDAU

If Raeford doesn't change its tax rate, the city will have \$168,500 more to spend, thanks to the revaluation of property. Meanwhile, city residents may see an increase in their water and sewer rates. Raeford City Council heard a proposal for the upcoming city budget Monday evening at its regular monthly meeting. According to City Manager Michael Wood, the recommended annual budget

includes an increase in the city's water/sewer rate and an increase in the commercial tipping fee.

Council took no action on the proposed budget in this work session. A public hearing on the budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year has been scheduled for Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, followed by a work session on the budget.

Wood said with revaluation in place for the upcoming fiscal year, "maintaining (the property tax rate) results

in a tax increase." The statement for the proposed budget has the property tax rate remaining at \$0.48 per \$100 value.

"The revenue neutral tax rate calculated using the N.C. Department of Treasurer formula is \$0.4567/\$100 of value," the memo for the proposed budget further stated, "and the tax rate needed to produce a levy equivalent to the FY2014 tax levy is \$0.439/\$100 of value.

The tax increase is (See CITY, page 5A)



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