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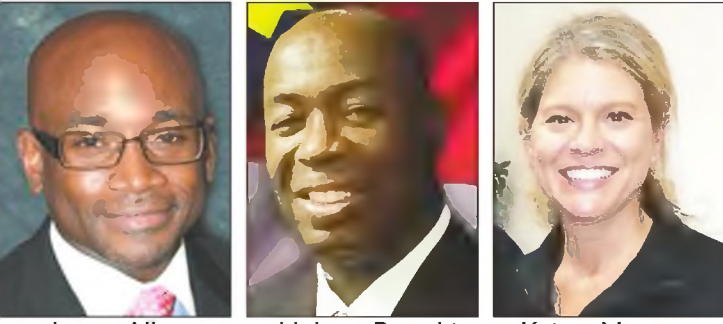
No. 47 Vol. 110

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Candidate files, withdraws complaint

Accuses sheriff of violating election law at Civic League meeting, online



James Allen Hubert Peterkin Kristy Newton

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

District Attorney candidate James Allen filed and then withdrew a complaint against Hoke County Sheriff Hubert Peterkin this week, claiming that Peterkin was breaking the law by campaigning for incumbent DA Kristy Newton while on duty and call-

ing into question some of the sheriff's alleged actions at a Civic League meeting held earlier this month.

Peterkin denied the claims and alleged that Allen's complaint was based on racial politics, an allegation that Allen said is untrue.

The complaint, a five-page letter sent by email to the Hoke and Scotland County boards of elections and to

the state board of elections on Sunday, was withdrawn Monday, according to elections officials.

The letter stated that Peterkin attended a meeting of the Hoke County Civic League, described by Allen as "a community organization of minority churches," while wearing a ceremonial sheriff's badge affixed to (See COMPLAINT, page 10)



Above: Trees blocked numerous roads in the area, including Club Pond Road. (Hal Nunn photo) Right: Mantise Andrews handles salt at Raeford Hardware Store. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Ice man cometh and shutteth down county

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

More than 2,300 households in Hoke County lost power at some point during last week's winter storm, but overall the county fared well, according to emergency management officials.

Winter Storm Jonas (so-named by The Weather Channel), which sparked warnings throughout the mid-Atlantic and Northeast, roared into North Carolina Thursday night bringing sleet,

freezing rain and a dusting of snow. Hoke was under a Winter Storm Warning from Thursday until Saturday due to the threat of ice accumulation. Early forecasts suggested anywhere from a quarter to three-quarters of an inch of ice, depending on location. The county then received about a half-inch to an inch of snow, with some areas in the northwest seeing the heaviest snowfall.

The sun was out and temperatures were warmer Saturday afternoon and

Sunday, although officials warned of the potential for black ice on roadways overnight.

Hoke schools first announced a two-hour delay, then canceled classes and activities Friday for students and staff. The school system has not made a decision about a possible make-up day. Students were back at school Monday.

Downed trees, tree branches falling on power lines and car accidents were the biggest problems in the county (See STORM, page 4)

Finance director replaced

Mayo retires

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County Finance Officer Barry Mayo resigned from his job last month and the Board of Commissioners voted last week to have Assistant Finance Officer Garvin Ferguson serve as an interim replacement.

Mayo, who retired, according to county human resources personnel, worked his last day on December 31.

The county commission hired Mayo in January 2014 to take over for Ferguson, who was at that time serving as the county's chief finance officer.

The commissioners voted unanimously at the board's last meeting to approve Ferguson as the interim finance officer.

The Local Government Commission had requested that the county appoint an interim director for the finance department, Ferguson said.

Additionally, the commissioners promoted Latonya Benjamin to serve as Human Resources Administrator I and are seeking to fill an open Human Resources Technician I position. The board also promoted Inspections Department trainee Scotty Locklear to Inspector II.

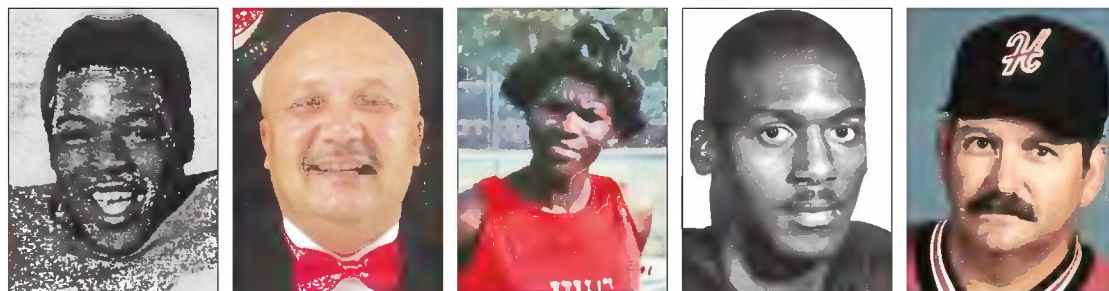
This Week

350 attend King banquet
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Five named to Hoke High Athletics Hall of Fame



Morrison Woods McKenzie Pickett Barnhill

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

The Hoke County High School Hall of Fame committee has announced the fifth induction class into the Athletics Hall of Fame. The 2016 Hall of Fame inductees are Walter

Barnhill, Marseill McKenzie, Bruce Morrison, Marco Pickett and Don M. Woods. A banquet honoring them will be held on February 5, 2016 beginning at 5 p.m. at West Hoke Middle School.

(See HALL OF FAME, page 5)

OTHER STUFF

Texting, one, two, three

BY KEN MACDONALD

What did we do before texting? My son, "Bus Boy," sent me a phone photo of himself cooking spaghetti on his school bus's cooking system. He and his wife say it's too cold in Apex to enjoy working on the project of refurbishing the bus right now, but the work they'd already done became useful when his house's power went off in the ice storm this weekend. The photo depicted what (See OTHER STUFF, page 4)



This South Stewart St. house is a total loss. (MacDonald photo)

Couple's house burns

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

A local couple lost their home and belongings in a house fire last week, according to officials.

A house on South Stewart Street in Raeford caught on (See FIRE, page 10)



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