

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Filing closes this week for '18 election

6 vying for Hoke Commission, 3 for sheriff, 3 for state house

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The filing period for the 2018 midterm elections closes Wednesday, with candidates submitting their intention to run for local, state and national offices.

As of Tuesday morning, six people had filed to run for a seat on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners. Incumbents

Tony Hunt, Harry Southerland and Allen Thomas filed to run for another term on the board, and will face candidates Angela Jones, Terrell McMillan and Graham Poole. All six filed to run as Democrats.

Three people have filed seeking the office of Hoke County Sheriff, with incumbent Sheriff Hubert Peterkin joined by candidates Darin Bronson and former Raeford Police Chief Kemp Crumpler in

running for election. All three are running as Democrats.

Incumbent Hoke County Coroner G. Franklin Crumpler – the longest serving elected official in North Carolina and possibly even in the United States – will seek another four-year term in office. Clerk of Superior Court Evelyn McLeod has also filed to run for another term. Both Crumpler and McLeod are unopposed in those

races so far. Crumpler is the father of Kemp Crumpler, candidate for the office of sheriff.

In state races, two more candidates filed to run for a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives. John Wilbert Imbaratto and Francis Russell Walker filed to run as Republicans. Imbaratto and Walker will face each other in a May primary, with the winner going on to face incumbent Rep. (See *FILING*, page 10)

Man killed by hit-and-run driver



McCoy

Marvin McCoy, 52, died Friday night after being struck by a car just outside of the Raeford city limits.

McCoy was apparently walking in the roadway near the intersection of Vass Road and U.S. Highway 401 when a vehicle struck him, according to information officer Trooper Pierce of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

A call to 911 came in around 9:16 p.m. Friday, with emergency responders from multiple agencies rushing to the scene to find McCoy lying on the shoulder of the road. Despite efforts to save his life, McCoy did not survive. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

(See *PEDESTRIAN*, page 4)



Steed, left, with Miranda Roberts who nominated him. (Contributed photo)

Steed presented Order of Long Leaf Pine Award

The man for whom Don Steed Elementary School was named, received the Order of the Longleaf Pine award at State Employees Credit Union luncheon. The award is the highest offered by the North Carolina governor's office,

and recognizes "persons who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through their exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments," according to the award society's (See *STEED*, page 6)



Sweet job

Kamryn (left) and Bella Votaw found a spot out of the rain Monday downtown to sell Girl Scout cookies. Their table in front of Home Food received so much attention their supply of cookies was thinning Tuesday. Cookie season closes March 4. (Ken MacDonald photo)

'Oldtimer' recalls life of hard work, family

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Walter Purcell, 83, has a lot of stories to tell after a long life of hard work with the A&R railroad, starting several businesses, raising five children and being called to study ministry. His cousin, neighbor and lifelong friend, Mernelle Baxter, convinced him last week to share his life story in honor of Black History Month.

Purcell and his family moved to the McFarland Farm in the Five Points area of Hoke County in 1949. His father, Silas Purcell, was a farmer who worked in the area. Purcell himself didn't learn how to read and write as a young man – some-

thing he went back to school later in life to accomplish. He went to work for the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad in 1954 and stayed with the company for more than 22 years.

"I went to the railroad. That's the train up there on the wall if you can see it there," he said, pointing out an old photo of himself and another man with one of the A&R engines. "I went in as a brakeman, and at that time it was 86 cents, what I was making, and I built a five-room house with that money at 86 cents an hour. That came to \$6.88 a day."

After doing track maintenance, he worked his way up to being head brakeman on the train. He spent years teaching (See *'OLDTIMER'*, page 6)



Walter Purcell at home. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Hoke EMS team finalist in international competition

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The same paramedics who respond to accidents, illnesses and injuries in Hoke County every day beat out over 20 other teams in the annual Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS) Games compe-

dition in Charlotte last week.

Hoke County EMS, contracted from Cape Fear Valley, came in third place in the finals of the international competition that tests medical first responders' skills. They beat out teams of paramedics from all across the country and even an international team from Europe to

make it to the top three. A total of 27 teams competed, including the New York City Fire Department, the largest emergency responder organization in the nation, and Cumberland County and Cape Fear Valley's LifeLink teams.

The three-person team got the chance to shine by displaying the

same skills they use every day, but this time, in front of an audience of their peers. The team practiced for about six months by running through different scenarios, Cape Fear Valley Vice President for EMS Brian Pearce said.

The JEMS Games competition (See *EMS*, page 6)

News-Journal wins 9 awards

The News-Journal staff brought home nine awards last week from the North Carolina Press Association's annual convention in Raleigh.

The awards included three first-place wins, two second-place honors and four third-place recognitions across seven different categories.

Staff writer Catharin Shepard won first place in education reporting, first place in general news

reporting and second and third place in city-county government reporting. Publisher Ken MacDonald received third place in news feature writing. MacDonald and Shepard together took home first place in online breaking news coverage for coverage of Hurricane Matthew and second place in general news reporting. Staff also won third (See *AWARDS*, page 6)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

Suffered two tortures in recent days: a liftgate fell on my head, and I had to sit through a three-hour banquet. I don't know which was worse. My sister-in-law, whose Jeep I was loading with luggage, said (now, in retrospect, I think with uncertain sympathy), "Yeah, that happens about half the time," as I felt for blood, and issued the s-word with great emphasis. "He always says that," my wife clarified to her sister, "when he gets hit on the head.

(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 4)



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