

# The News-Journal

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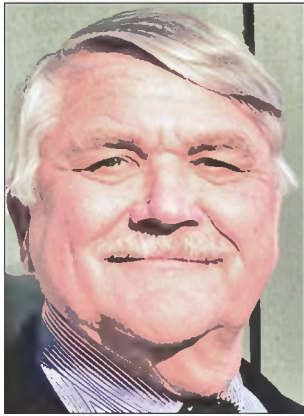
RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

## 5 newcomers vie for commission



Angela Carter Jones



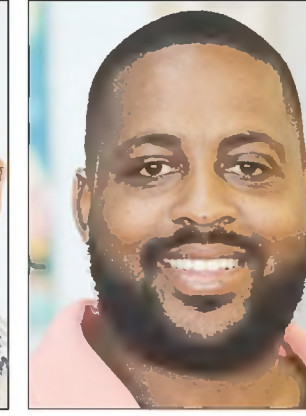
David Frump



Graham Poole



Therman Little



Terrell McMillan

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Three incumbents and six candidates are seeking election to three available seats on the Hoke County Board of Commissioners this year, with seven running as Democrats and two running as Republicans.

Democratic incumbents Tony Hunt, Harry Southerland and Allen Thomas are each seeking another four-year term on the board, and Republican candidate Clifford Overby previously (See *NEWCOMERS*, page 3)

## Raeford commits to \$6 million rehab of plant

BY KEN MACDONALD



Roy Guinn is happy to pour treated water onto his hand. It's cleaner than creek water, he says. (Ken MacDonald photo)

The years have been unkind to the Raeford waste treatment plant, and city leaders are preparing for its rehabilitation, a project that will cost an estimated \$6 million.

Yes, city residents' sewer bill will go up before it's all done in perhaps 2022, says City Manager Dennis Baxley, but, he says, it's too early to say how much. "The amount of increase necessary and implementation will be gauged next year after the impact of the meter replacement project is realized. We don't want to charge anymore than necessary to cover the debt service," he says.

With unanimous action last week from Raeford City Council to act on an engineering plan, the process is really just beginning.

"We've been putting on Band-Aids, and the Band-Aids have been getting bigger and bigger... that's the problem," says Trudy McVicker, Raeford's operations manager who's also in charge of environmental compliance. She, Baxley and Utilities Director Roy Guinn showed the plant and its challenges during a tour on Thursday.

"This fiscal year," says Baxley, "Trudy keeps showing up at the office with purchase orders that are getting bigger and bigger and bigger for replacing and repairing, so it's time to nip it once and for all, at least for the next 20 years."

The plant is humming along, adequately treating the million gallons or more of waste that comes in daily, and its output into Rockfish (See *TREATMENT PLANT*, page 12)

## Inmates clog drains, cause spill into creek

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Inmates flushing large amounts of detritus down the toilets at the Hoke County Jail ended up causing a clog in the city of Raeford's drainage system that, in turn, led to a wastewater spill into Rockfish Creek last week.

There are two sewer lines that come out of the jail, located in Raeford, and hook onto the city's sewer main, Raeford City Manager Dennis Baxley said. In one of the connections, where there's a manhole, the county installed a bar grate to catch any items that might be flushed down the toilets from the jail.

(See *SPILL*, page 12)

## Economic developer steps down

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County Economic Development Director Don Porter has resigned from the position he has held for nearly two decades, and the search is on for a new director to market Hoke County to businesses and industries.

Porter tendered his letter of resignation last month, with an effective date of June 30.

"Since assuming my duties with the county in 1999, it has been a pleasure to work with you and many others on bringing new jobs and capital investment to Hoke County, and improving

the quality-of-life for all who call it home. I look back with great pride on what we've been able to accomplish working together to leverage our finite resources," Porter wrote in the resignation letter, addressed to Chairman Alfred K. "Dooie" Leach of the Raeford/Hoke Economic Development Board.

Porter thanked the development board for its trust and confidence in him over his 19 years of work with Hoke County, and additionally stated his "heartfelt gratitude" to local authorities including the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, Raeford City Council and Raeford Mayor John K.

(See *PORTER*, page 11)



Porter speaking to a banquet audience. (File photo)



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## 'Elements of Class' team steps up

The youth step team Elements of Class, founded by Coach Jeffery Carthens last year, has been busy attending competitions and bringing home trophies at many step team events throughout the southeast.

Elements of Class was named Grand Champion in the HBCU Classic show in Sumter, South Carolina and in the Step to the Stage show in Charlotte. The group won first place in both of those competitions, as well as placing first in shows in Clinton, Rocky Mount, Greenville, Virginia Beach and Garner. Other performances include participating in National Night Out, events at the Rockfish Motorsports Speedway, Jamming for Jesus, the MLK Celebration in Lumberton and the Black (See *STEP TEAM*, page 11)



The Elements of Class step team.

## OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

The 16-month-old grandbaby was down for the weekend. She communicates mostly with sign language. If she wants MORE (smashed bananas, pummeled avocado, what looks like regurgitated peas), she taps her two little hands together and resembles a squirrel, playing with seed on my birdfeeder.

If she wants specifically BREAD, which she often does, she taps an arm and resembles one of those guys on an aircraft carrier signaling to the pilot. FINISHED is flicking her bib, like "Get this nasty pea residue off of me." There are signs for I-want-to-go-outside, I-want-to-go-inside, grandmother, grandfather, (in that order), mama, daddy, and I-want-to-ride-the-Roomba. Joking about the (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 6)