

# The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

75¢

No. 7 Vol. 113

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

## Elections panel rules for Clark

### Hearing finds senator running for reelection does live in Hoke County



Clark (left) fields a question from his attorney during a hearing Monday. (Catharin Shepard photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

North Carolina State Sen. Ben Clark provided sufficient evidence at a hearing Monday to prove that he resides in District 21, a three-member Board of Elections panel determined.

Attorneys for Clark and James O'Garra, a Spring Lake alderman who filed the initial challenge in February, each argued their case Monday night before the three-person panel at the Cumberland County Board of Elections. Panel members Robert Vaughn, Harvey "Butch" Raynor and Jeff Long oversaw the hearing.

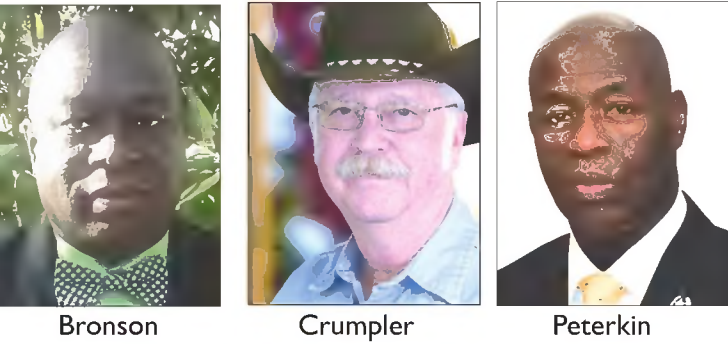
Vaughn is a Republican from the Hoke County Board of Elections, while Raynor is a Democrat and Long a Republican from the Cumberland County Board of Elections.

Long voiced concerns about the matter during a brief public deliberation between the three panel members and did not cast a vote. Because not voting counts as an "aye," the final vote was technically unanimous in Clark's favor. However, O'Garra could still pursue an appeal of the decision with the North Carolina Board of Elections.

Clark, the incumbent, is (See CLARK, page 5)

## 3 candidates for Hoke sheriff share views on issues

### We also put questions to state house, senate candidates



Bronson

Crumpler

Peterkin

To help Hoke County residents get an idea of where the candidates stand on various issues of local interest, *The News-Journal* sent out questionnaires to each of the candidates seeking election to the office of Hoke Sheriff, State Senate District 21 and State House District 48. Candidates Darin Bronson and Kemp

Crumpler and incumbent Sheriff Hubert Peterkin are competing in the Democratic primary race for Hoke County Sheriff.

Candidate Dr. Naveed Aziz, from whom we didn't hear, and incumbent Sen. Ben Clark are running in the Democratic primary, with the winner going on to face Republican candidate Timothy LEEVER,

who also didn't respond, for state Senate District 21.

Democrat incumbent Rep. Garland Pierce will face the winner of a Republican primary between candidates John Imbaratto, who didn't respond, and Russell Walker for state House District 48. (See *Candidates*, page 10)

## Early voting starts Thursday

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

One-stop early voting for the primary election begins Thursday and runs through Saturday, May 5, with hours set for citizens to cast their ballots ahead of the May 8 primary. Beginning Thursday,

April 19, Hoke residents registered to vote can participate in one-stop early voting by stopping by one of two locations open for early voting.

The Board of Elections located at 227 North Main Street in Raeford will offer one-stop early voting April 19-20 9 a.m.-6 p.m.,

April 23-27 9 a.m.-6 p.m., April 30-May 4 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and weekend voting too: April 21 9 a.m.-2 p.m., April 22 2-6 p.m., April 28 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and May 5 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Voters also have the option of one-stop early (See *EARLY VOTING*, page 12)

## That phone call you got isn't from the Board of Elections

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

The Hoke County Board of Elections warned this week of a possible phone call scam in Hoke County asking victims to give the caller personal information or risk not being able to vote in the upcoming election — which isn't something the elections board does, according to officials. Elections assistant

Daryel Garnes warned people not to give out information over the phone if they receive such a phone call. A Hoke resident contacted the Board of Elections Monday about a scam call she received over the weekend.

"She had received a call on Sunday that she had until Sunday to reregister or she wouldn't be able to vote in the primary," Garnes said.

The phone call sought

information including the woman's Social Security number and other personally identifying information that the Board of Elections doesn't ask for, he said.

"The Board of Elections doesn't ask for that kind of information. We don't ask you for your Social Security number, the most we would ask for is the last four of your Social Security number,"

(See *SCAM*, page 10)



**Enjoying the playground**  
Trinity Ferry (top and left with director Ann Henderson), and Kylie Oxendine enjoy improvements to the playground at the nonprofit Children's Developmental Center. Chief among upgrades: a squishy, softer surface. Donations are still accepted. (Ken MacDonald photos)

## Schools to seek \$5 million from county

### Likely to seek enlargement of Hoke High, not new school

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Hoke County Schools will seek about the same amount of local funding this year as in recent years with the exception of one request for additional money.

The Hoke County Board of Education voted Monday to approve a local funding request of \$5,067,000, which breaks down to about \$542 per child for each of the pro-

jected 9,000 children who will attend local schools in 2018-19, and the 350 students expected to attend charter schools paid for with public money.

The board additionally asked for another \$350,000 in supplementary funding for classified personnel, which would drive the amount of local funding per child up to about \$579. Should the commissioners approve the additional funding, the county (See *SCHOOL BUDGET*, page 7)

## OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

In an episode of *Fawlty Towers*—what? Never heard of it? Get thee to Netflix this instant—Basil's wife tells him to hustle with making menus for their hotel. "You could have had them BOTH done by now if you hadn't spent the whole morning skulking in there listening to that racket."

Basil: "Racket? That's Brahms! Brahms' *Third Racket!*"

Perfect example that music is in the ears of the beholder.

(See *OTHER STUFF*, page 5)

