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If it happened, it's news to us



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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Draft has \$31 million for Hoke State Senate budget allocates millions for courthouse work

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The State Senate budget draft includes \$31 million in grant funding for Hoke courthouse repairs and renovation.

Senate Bill 105, the Appropriations Act 2021, is only a draft of the state budget. It's subject to changing as legislators work to add, remove or otherwise adjust what's included. The bill was first introduced back in February.

State Sen. Ben Clark of Hoke and Cumberland counties was one of four Democrats who joined Republicans in voting recently for the state budget proposal in the General Assembly. The budget could bring infrastructure money to both counties, the legislator said Monday.

Democrats Sen. Kirk deViere of Fayetteville, Sen. Paul Lowe of Winston-Salem and Sen. Don Davis of Greenville voted with Clark and state Senate Republicans to pass the proposal. Republican state Senators

Brent Jackson, Kathy Harrington and Ralph Hise were the primary bill sponsors.

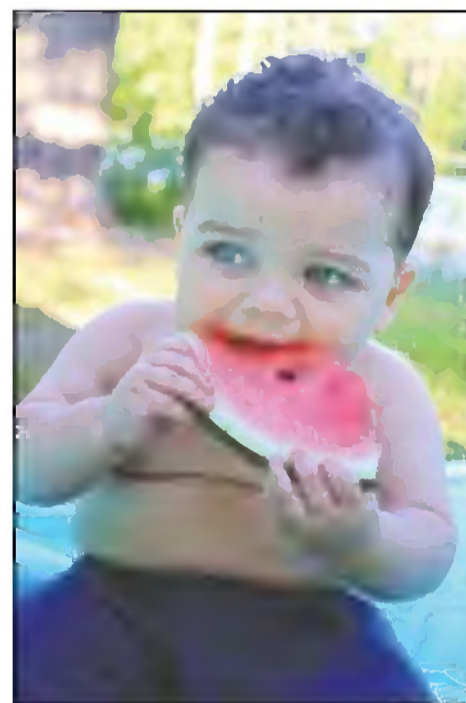
Clark noted that he expects "numerous" changes before all is said and done with the budget.

"The budget that passed out of the N.C. Senate is not the final one; it is the initial one. This document will go through numerous changes before a final one is voted on," he wrote in an email Monday.

Asked about his decision to vote aye on the budget and what benefits it might have

for Hoke County, Clark said that there were several reasons why he voted for the draft proposal. Bringing state funding for infrastructure in his district was one of those reasons.

"I voted yes on the initial budget for several reasons including significant funding for critical infrastructure projects in Hoke and Cumberland counties, expansion of Medicaid to women post-childbirth, and the removal of language usurping authority (See *SENATE BUDGET*, page 4)



OhSnap!
The News-Journal photo contest is back for July 4th, and winning with a close-up tongue photo (left) is Brittney Carpenter whose daughter Molly enjoyed a snow-cone at Ft. Bragg's 4th celebration. Some other notables—there were quite a few—are, clockwise from above: Levi Simon Henderson, captured by Wanda Henderson, enjoying watermelon; Iza' Bella Rodriguez, photographed by Tamika Graham, also with a slice; and Jaxson and Lainey Faulk with sparklers, photographed by Elizabeth Smith.

Sheriff announces reelection bid

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Incumbent Hoke County Sheriff Dr. Hubert Peterkin announced that he will seek another four-year term in office next year in the 2022 elections.

Peterkin made a campaign announcement on Facebook to celebrate the start of his run for another term. He is currently serving the remainder of his fifth four-year term in office, with 19 years on the job since he was first

elected in 2002. He has served in law enforcement for the past 34 years.

Peterkin said he wants to continue in the position because there's work to be done. He looks forward to coming to work every day, he said.

"I always said if this job ever got to the point where all I could do is come sit down...but I can't do that. There's a lot of things that we can do. I'm still excited," Peterkin said. "And to be able to make a difference, we see the dif-

ference that we're making in this county with this administration. I'm just as excited as being sheriff as I was before. I love this county, I love the people."

Asked about things accomplished in his current term, Peterkin said his top priority had been to improve deputy retention and increase their pay. After losing multiple deputies to higher-paying law enforcement offices, Peterkin reached out to the commissioners for support. After discussing the (See *SHERIFF*, page 4)

Two file for mayor

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Two people have filed to run for the office of City of Raeford Mayor in the first days of the open filing period for the 2021 municipal elections.

Incumbent Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill, and candidate Chris Parker have filed to seek election to the office, meaning the race for the seat is

contested this year, according to the Hoke County Board of Elections.

Filing is open for the 2021 municipal elections in Raeford from now until noon Friday, July 16. Besides the office of City of Raeford Mayor, two Raeford City Council seats are also up for election this year. All of the city offices on the ballot are nonpartisan and so (See *FILING*, page 4)

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