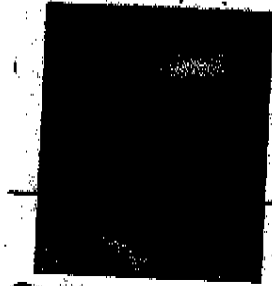


Optional Rules 330/0, 40.0 acres.

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Crossroads Report

By Kent Brunette

Hearne's March 3 recall election

to herself as "one tough grandma with two hip replacements and a knee replacement" as she handily won re-election.

I moved back to my hometown in 2003 after a twenty-year absence when I lived and worked in Washington, D.C. "You think you know politics after having lived in Washington all those years?" commented a high school classmate. "You ain't seen nothin' yet until you've experienced Hearne politics."

Currently trying to recall Drennan's cousin for "malfeasance, incompetence, and lost voter confidence," Maxine Vaughn is now in a similar predicament. Guilty of nothing but voting her conscience and not her race, Vaughn was one of three council members who supported Mayor Ruben Gomez's right to vote on the council since she felt he was voting in the best interests of all Hearne citizens. The other two are not being recalled, just Vaughn.

With early voting in Hearne's recall election already begun, I've done a little investigating into Hearne's recall election past. Although it is often threatened, the use of a recall election is rare. I couldn't find anyone who could "recall" any other such election attempts at the county, school, or city levels in the past ten years, except for the one against Thelma Drennan, Maxine Vaughn's cousin.

Angered that someone of their own race didn't support their political agenda, former Mayor Johnson, City Council Members Hazel Embra, Joyce Rattler, LaShaunda White, and the Hearne Citizen's Oversight Committee are anxious to get Vaughn off of the council. Recent computer telephone calls demonstrate this interest. In a town with a 40/40/20 racial mix, rather than having a diverse council comprised of representatives of Hearne's different ethnic and racial groups -- Anglos, Hispanics, and African Americans, their agenda is to have working racial

In that attempt (which did not garner enough signatures to make it past the Hearne City Council), Councilperson Drennan fell into disfavor with some when she refused to give then-Mayor Milton "Tweety" Johnson a pay raise. So, Johnson and some of his cronies tried to get her off of the council. With accusations flying around against her, Ms. Drennan referred

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control of the council.

If the absence of petition signatures is any indication, Vaughn has not lost voter confidence in Hearne's Caucasian and Hispanic communities. Overwhelming numbers of petition signatures came from African Americans. Johnson and others gathered signatures in Hearne's housing projects, in northwest neighborhoods, from selected shoppers at local supermarkets and convenience stores. Some people who signed the petition said they didn't even know what they were signing.

Your vote counts. Remember that Dr. Marc Catalina recently lost his council seat by only one vote. Whatever your views, vote early or on Election Day. Voter apathy runs rampant in Hearne. At a time when the city is progressing, don't let a handful of voters decide Hearne's fate. Please go to the polls and vote your conscience!

Early voting dates and times are: February 19 through February 27, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at City Hall Building B, 209 Cedar

Street in Hearne. Two additional early voting dates are: February 17 and February 18, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., also at the Hearne City Hall, Building B. Election Day voting is Tuesday, March 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Hearne Depot, 309 N Mar-

ket Street.

Crossroads Reports appear periodically in the Robertson County News. The views expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Hearne, Hearne's 4A and 4B Sales Tax Boards, Hearne Chamber of Commerce, or Robertson County News.

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HISTORY

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lunch, Ms. Kuzel presented a program focusing on her Smitherman heritage. The Smitherman family had eleven children, all graduates of Calvert high school. The three sons served in a military capacity, two in the Air Force and one in the Army. Calvert residents will remember one as "Uncle Buddy Smitherman" who returned to Calvert after finishing his military career to serve his father's (Brant Smitherman) last term as Constable. Additionally she told stories about each brother and sister, including Ruby Smitherman Yount, who is known for her cloth art depicting her childhood memories that have become collectables.

Ms. Kuzel also spoke of Eugene "Unk" Smitherman who was owner and operator of radio sta-

tion KMIL in Cameron, Texas famous locally for his "Uncle Henry Shod Program" and Jewel Smitherman Williams taught school in Rockdale for 43 years before retiring. Finally, she told childhood stories of herself growing

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