

School News

Thirty Courses Offered At Hoke Sandhills Branch

Sandhills Community College's Division of Continuing Education will offer 30 different courses throughout Hoke County this fall. From Auto Mechanics to Writing for Success, the schedule should offer something for every interest. Those who enjoy arts and crafts may choose from ceramics, leathercrafts, macrame, painting, quilting, sewing, or silk flower-making. Other useful courses that may improve skills for on-the-job use include typing, bookkeeping, auto mechanics, welding, or

writing. Several of the courses to be taught in the fall are new to the schedule. Dr. Jerry Batten will teach beginning guitar on Tuesday night at Hoke High School from 7 - 10 p.m. Mrs. Frances Owen will teach Life Size Doll Making at the County Public Library on Thursday nights from 7 - 10 p.m. George Ashley, whose leathergoods are sold at shows throughout the State, will teach leathercrafts at Hoke High on Wednesday nights beginning Sept. 7. His class will

also meet from 7 - 10 p.m. Anyone interested in improving his financial situation may wish to enroll in Personal Financial Planning or Investing in the Stock Market. A special course is being offered for those who work as activities coordinators in long term care facilities. It will meet in the Hoke Public Library from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 4. Sara Stone-Alston will teach the class. If you need to be able to weld on

your job, Proctor Locklear will be teaching a welding course at Hoke High on Thursday nights from 7 - 10. This class begins Sept. 8. To enroll in any of the classes offered through Sandhill's Division of Continuing Education, one may register on August 31 at the Old County Office Building in Raeford between 4 and 7 p.m. Students are encouraged to register at this time. However, students may register at the first class meeting if the class is not filled.

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Offering a helping hand
Adult Education Instructor Carol Page helps Sallie Jones with her math at the Hoke County Education Center in Raeford.

Adult Education Is Important For All Of Country

Since 1975 something very special has been happening in Raeford.

Through the cooperation of the Hoke County government and Sandhills Community College, over 175 citizens of Hoke County have received High School Equivalency (GED) certificates.

A thriving adult education program is provided for any adult whose formal educational level is below high school.

Classes are available for adults who are non-readers or for those who need only a little study in order to pass the tests necessary to receive a GED certificate.

The county provides room in its building on Elwood Avenue in downtown Raeford while the community college provides the materials and the instructors.

What began as a single, three-hour class in 1975 has become a five class, day and night schedule designed to meet the needs of all under-educated adults, no matter what their level.

The Education Center now offers four Adult Basic Education classes and one GED class and employs two full-time and two part-time instructors.

Students interested in an official Hoke County High School diploma rather than a GED certificate may enroll in the Adult High School (AHS) program which is co-sponsored by the Hoke County Board of Education and Sandhills Community College's Division of Continuing Education.

Students take those exact high school courses they need to complete the requirements for a regular diploma. Just like all other high school students, these adults take the state competency test and march in the annual graduation ceremony with other high school seniors.

The classes meet at Hoke Senior High on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 until 9:30. This schedule allows working people to go back to school without altering their working hours.

This year, 27 adults graduated from Hoke Senior High after participating in the AHS program.

Since the cooperative effort began in 1974, over 200 adults have finished high school; most of them would not have been able to do so without the evening program.

The incredible success of the program in Hoke County is mostly directly due to the dedication and caring of the instructors. Carrie Carter, who came to the Education Center in 1975 as an Adult High School Instructor, is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Center as well as teaching and recruiting. Carrie's enthusiasm is con-

tagious; her desire to improve the lives of the citizens of Hoke County is apparent immediately.

She says, "My dream is to make sure we have a thriving class in every township in Hoke." She added with great personal satisfaction, "We're getting close!"

Indeed, plans are underway to begin new classes in Quewhiffle and Allendale Townships in September.

The idea is to make educational opportunities available to outlying areas of Hoke County so that everyone will be close to a regularly meeting class.

As of the fall, Carrie's dream will be closer to coming true.

The other full-time instructor at the Center is Carol Page, who, since 1979, has been working day and night teaching and recruiting students. Her quiet personal qualities in the classroom put the adult learner at ease, and her friendly, caring manner ensures her success.

Although Carol's teaching duties keep her busy, she finds time to pursue her Master's degree part-time at Fayetteville State.

Not surprisingly, Carol was more interested in discussing her students and their accomplishments than in revealing her secrets for teaching success. Nonetheless, her professionalism in the classroom is readily apparent.

Bruce Hurst and Norman Howell instruct a GED and ABE class at the Education Center at night.

These classes meet on Monday through Thursday night from 5 until 9 p.m. They are especially designed for those students who work during the day, have child care problems, transportation problems, or for some other reason cannot attend the daytime class.

Graduates from the program at the Education Center have entered local industry, returned to school, and have even become helpers in the program itself.

Merlin Jones, a 1978 graduate, works as a part-time recruiter and tutor for the center and graduates from Sandhills Community College's Human Service Technology on August 11.

Laura Hasim, a 1980 GED recipient, is employed at a medical center in New York and attends college part-time studying computer programming.

Mary K. Long, a 1978 graduate, is a supervisor in the Microfilm Division of Faberge in Raeford.

Recent graduates Julia Murchison, Wanda Hatchell, and LaDonna Locklear are all employed by Burlington Industries.