

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY, N.C.

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Sandhills Youth Center may move from Hoke

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The aging Sandhills Youth Center in McCain is one of three prisons across the state that could be closed. Costly maintenance at the site is the reason Department of Correctional

officials could suspend the minimum-security facility's operation, according to Keith Acree, spokesman for the DOC.

"We are trying to explore the possibility of shutting down the facility," Acree said. "We are still trying to figure out the particulars."

"There is no written plan or timetable

at this point. We are discussing moving the Hoke operation to one of two boot camps that have been closed in other parts of the state."

The Sandhills Youth Center is located on N.C. 211 near Aberdeen, and has been operated since 1974 by the Department of Correction. It currently

houses 302 inmates from 18 to 25 years of age. It is capable of accommodating 320 prisoners. The annual state budget for salaries at Sandhills is \$2.4 million. DOC employs 85 staff at the prison.

"When you talk about people's jobs, staff can get anxious," Acree said. "The Department of Correction would likely

offer the present staff transfer positions to other facilities if Sandhills is closed.

"I imagine it would have some impact on the local Hoke economy."

Acree said there are absolutely no plans to close McCain Correctional Hospital, a minimum-security medical (See YOUTH CENTER, page 8A)



Models of history
Brittany Tyler displays her model of the historic Glen Echo School made during a social studies project at East Hoke Middle in which models of historic buildings were made. She is the daughter of Carol Tyler and the late Mitch Tyler. See other photos on page 2B.

'Warrior of wisdom,' Tyler remembered

By PAUL ALLEN WILSON
Editor

Hoke Schools Superintendent Mitch Tyler received his Eagle Feather in November 2000, presented by Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center. It is one of the highest honors to be earned in the American Indian culture.

However, at a proclamation ceremony in which Friday was declared Mitch Tyler Day, it was clear that Tyler's unexpected death in March of this year was not just a loss to the Native American culture. "Students of all races trusted him and looked at

him as a role model," said colleague Dr. Zoe Locklear of the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction. "He poured his heart, mind, body and soul into education in Hoke County."

Tearfully, Locklear said, "He really simply can't be replaced."

Locklear spoke from the Hoke County Library stage Friday afternoon, where friends, family, co-workers and dignitaries gathered to remember the man whose death at age 46 of a heart attack was felt throughout the education field in North Carolina. (See TYLER, page 11A)



Lead dancer Waya Dimelanta's movements and regalia were explained by Keith Colston of Baltimore.

This Week



Former doctor speaks of prison life
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Hoke High celebrates good character
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Hoke's top stories are on the web
www.thenews-journal.com

Davis campaign manager alleges assault in election

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Cumberland County resident Rashad Rahmaan filed an assault complaint against Alvin Walker, one of Hoke's Democratic election judges following a dispute on election day.

The incident occurred when Rahmaan attempted to enter Raeford Precinct No. 4 at the Raeford Civic Center and Walker at first denied him entry.

In the complaint, Rahmaan alleged Walker assaulted and struck him, pulling him on several occasions.

"I did not do anything to Mr.

Rahmaan," Walker said. "He was not authorized to be inside the precinct on election day. I just tried to carry out my duties."

"I never assaulted him."

Walker said Rahmaan was not entitled to enter because he is neither a resident of Hoke County nor a registered voter, and for him to enter would be a violation of N.C. election law.

Walker, 66, of Old Maxton Road, was allowed to surrender at the Hoke Magistrate's office on election night. Hoke Sheriff's deputies served him with the arrest warrant on Nov. 5. He was charged with misdemeanor assault. A (See ASSAULT, page 12A)

Board certifies election with only minor changes to totals

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

No chad mistakes were found in Hoke County's election like in Florida during the presidential election, but light print on some numbers at one precinct was incorrectly read as zeros, according to Caroline Shook, Hoke Elections Board supervisor.

"This caused some of the Allendale precinct's totals to

change, but did not change the outcome of any races," Shook said. "When the voting sheets were examined during the final canvass last week, the misread totals were discovered."

Shook said official election results were satisfactorily certified on Friday and sent into the State Board of Elections. Provisional ballots were also counted on Thursday and combined, she (See CERTIFIED, page 12A)

County places restrictions on daycare centers, group homes

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

In an effort to preserve the quality of residential neighborhoods, Hoke commissioners unanimously approved new zoning restrictions for future group homes and daycare centers. The

changes were recommended by Hoke's Planning Board after complaints were received from many concerned citizens, said Hoke Planner Linda Revels, who also supervises the zoning department.

"I feel this will propel our county forward," Revels said. (See ZONING, page 7A)



Sleuth or consequences...

Shown from left: Onnie Dudley, Elections Board secretary, Caroline Shook, Elections Board supervisor, and Whiteford Jones, chairman, detect a printing error in Allendale precinct totals. The error changed the totals, but not the outcome of the election.