

The News-Journal

If it happened, it's news to us

50¢

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Center of controversy
Shirley Bullard perches on the steps of her south Hoke home that might be condemned by the county. The Lumbee Tribal Council and Hoke County are battling over who is responsible for shoddy repairs at her house.

Board considers new jail

Expansion, improvements, new facility are options

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Hoke commissioners convened on Monday in a special meeting, scrambling to find solutions to prevent the Hoke County Jail from being shut down by the state after a recent unfavorable inspection.

"Let us put the cards on the table," Wright said of concerns in the local jail. "We need to determine if we can expand the current jail to improve it or make upgrades, or if we should think about building a new facility."

The board provided a tour of the jail



Daniel Mace

Nelda Leon

and heard a presentation of services by a Charlotte-based architectural-engineering firm that specializes in analyzing, detention planning, and design of jails. The board asked vice president

Daniel R. Mace, an architect, and Nelda Leon, a prison consultant, to present next Monday evening a written proposal for a feasibility study of the local jail.

If approved, services for the study could cost between \$20,000-\$30,000, but could be deducted from future construction or expansion costs. Offering short-term and long-term alternatives, the study could be completed within three months, according to Mace and Leon. Mace said the analysis would serve as a "footprint."

A local committee would be formed
(See JAIL, page 8A)

Lumbee Tribal Council seeks retraction from county on repairs

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

The Lumbee Indian Tribal Council's lawyer has written a protest letter to County Manager Mike Wood, asking he retract — by letter and publish in the local newspaper — any past "false or misleading" statements.

The letter, written Oct. 1, is part of a controversy, ignited after south Hoke resident Shirley Bullard, a Lumbee, alleged contractors hired by the Lumbee Tribe performed substandard renovations on her home. She sought help from county commissioners to help solve the problem.

"I have been given a deadline of

October 22 to correct the problems with the septic tank and the electrical box," Bullard said. "Otherwise, the county could condemn my home and kick me out."

"I cannot afford to pay for mistakes that were made by contractors hired by the Lumbee Tribe," she said. "I am desperate."

Wood said it is not the county's intention to displace Bullard from her home. He hopes the legal action will exert voluntary pressure on the Lumbee Tribe to correct the problems.

County officials conducted a tour of Bullard's house three weeks ago. They found some repairs in violation of the building code, and Hoke's building in-

spector, according to Wood, had never approved the work.

"I am unsure if, or how we will respond to the Lumbee Tribe's request," Wood said. "They have not complied with building requirements."

"Permits for repair work were not applied for by the contractors hired under the Indian housing program until after former Hoke inspector Mike Sans went to Mrs. Bullard's. When he did a final mechanical inspection for just one of the contractors, he noticed all this other work that was being done illegally," he said.

"He realized no permits had been pulled. Only after that did the other
(See RETRACTION, page 10A)

This Week



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Keith Powell and 'Pappy' walk in faith page 11A

Suspect in bomb threat sought page 5A

Athletic building named for Colston page 3A

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Hoke's top stories are on the web; send us stories, subscribe

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County officials assess housing conditions of Hoke's senior citizens

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

County Manager Mike Wood, Commissioners Charles V. Daniels, Bobby Wright, and Bill Cameron are assessing the housing needs of Hoke senior citizens. Those residents include Lumbee Indians such as Joe and Gertrude Tyler, who remain on fixed incomes, unable to afford decent, safer housing.

The Tylers, both in their '80s, reside on Gainey Road.

They praised the county for its efforts to help seniors.

"Last year, the Hoke Senior Services department built a handicap ramp for us," Tyler said. "The county has helped us more than any other agency, and we really appreciate it."

Many of the lower income Lumbee families such as the Tylers have also received housing rehabilitation assistance from non-profit organizations such as the Lumbee Regional Development Association or the Lumbee Tribal Council.

Yet some families have criticized the lack of quality, and "shoddy" construction being performed by some contractors who were reportedly hired by these agencies, according to Daniels.

Officials from the LRDA and the Lumbee Tribe say the majority of grant recipients do not complain of inferior workmanship. If people wait until after the one-year warranty period expires, it is too late for corrective action, they added.

"Even if these people are on fixed incomes, if they are eligible for repair work on their homes through government programs, they deserve the same quality of rehab work as someone who has money to do it privately," Daniels. "Once we hire a grant writer for the county, we hope we can obtain grants to help more with our housing needs in Hoke for low to modest income people."

Without monitoring of all grant repair programs by the county, elected officials are concerned that senior citizens may benefit from partial repairs, but not receive more critical repairs such as replacing faulty electrical wiring.

"We need to have some sort of clearing system to keep track of the repairs being done under
(See HOUSING, page 8A)



Shown from left: Commissioner Charles Daniels and Lumbee leader Elisha Dial talk to Joe Tyler, a Gainey Road resident.

South Hoke teacher earns prestigious Waddill award

Anna Jordan Garrison, a South Hoke elementary teacher, is one of two recipients of the 2003 Marcellus E. Waddill Excellence in Teaching Awards at Wake Forest University.

With Garrison's award came a check for \$20,000. She was one of 40 nominees from across the country competing for awards for both a primary and a secondary school teacher.

Garrison, recognized on the elementary level, has taught at South Hoke since 1988. Previously, she was a kindergarten teacher in St. Pauls.

A Hoke High graduate, Garrison is a 1975 graduate of Wake Forest with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

She is nationally certified as an early childhood generalist and also serves as a mentor for

recently licensed teachers. She brought unique programs like the Outer Banks "Save the Turtles" program to South Hoke.

David Waddill of Rye, New York, established the awards in 1994 to honor his father, Marcellus E. Waddill of Winston Salem, who retired in 1997 after teaching mathematics at Wake Forest for 35 years.

In order to win the award, it was required that Garrison submit lesson plans, letters of recommendation and an essay.

Finalists are interviewed and submit videotapes of themselves teaching.



Anna J. Garrison

The News-Journal

News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD
General Manager

I was sitting here contemplating all the buttons on our new office phone system. There are 37, not counting the buttons you actually use to dial a number. Thirty-seven.

Something about that number caused my mind to wander.

I remembered my first week at *The News-Journal* in 1987. I was hired as associate editor (but there was no editor), and was escorted to the composing room and introduced to the Basket system.

"When you need a picture to

be shot," my trainer said, "put it in this basket by the window."

"Got it," I said.

"If you have copy that needs to be set, put it in this basket over here."

"Uh huh..."

"When copy has been set and is ready for corrections, you'll find it in this basket."

"Right."

"When you make corrections, put the copy for second corrections in this basket."

"Um..."

"When copy has been corrected for a second time and
(See OTHER STUFF, page 2A)