

The News-Journal

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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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Two multi-million dollar ventures

Paraclete Body Armor branch, wind tunnel would bring 75-100 jobs to Hoke County



A depiction of the wind tunnel free fall simulator to be built on Doc Brown Road.

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Paraclete Armor and Body Equipment president Tim D'Annunzio in St. Pauls announced this week that he plans to open a new \$5 million company, Sky Venture Raeford, as well as a branch

of Paraclete near the Raeford airport.

D'Annunzio said Sky Venture would feature the largest wind tunnel free fall simulator in the world. Also, D'Annunzio plans to manufacture ceramic components in Hoke for the firm's body armor assembled in St. Pauls.

Both ventures will be located on Doc Brown Road northwest of Raeford near Fort Bragg's southern boundary.

"Our firm in St. Pauls will probably gross almost \$60 million in sales this year," D'Annunzio said. "We think our branch and new company in Hoke County will also do

exceedingly well."

In forming the two ventures in Hoke, D'Annunzio anticipates he will create from 75 to 100 jobs when the two companies begin operations within one year.

"This is a tremendous advantage to Raeford and our (see TUNNEL, page 5 A)

Deal struck for Parks & Rec site

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A united Hoke board of commissioners approved the land acquisition of 90 acres less than two miles south of Raeford on Monday night. The property will be used for the first Parks and Recreation Department multi-million dol-

lar building and future athletic fields.

Commissioner James A. Leach was the guiding supporter on the board. Leach, a member of the Parks & Rec advisory board, initially encouraged them to establish the center. The Local Government Commission has tentatively approved the project, but much of the funding will be covered by grants, according to commissioners.

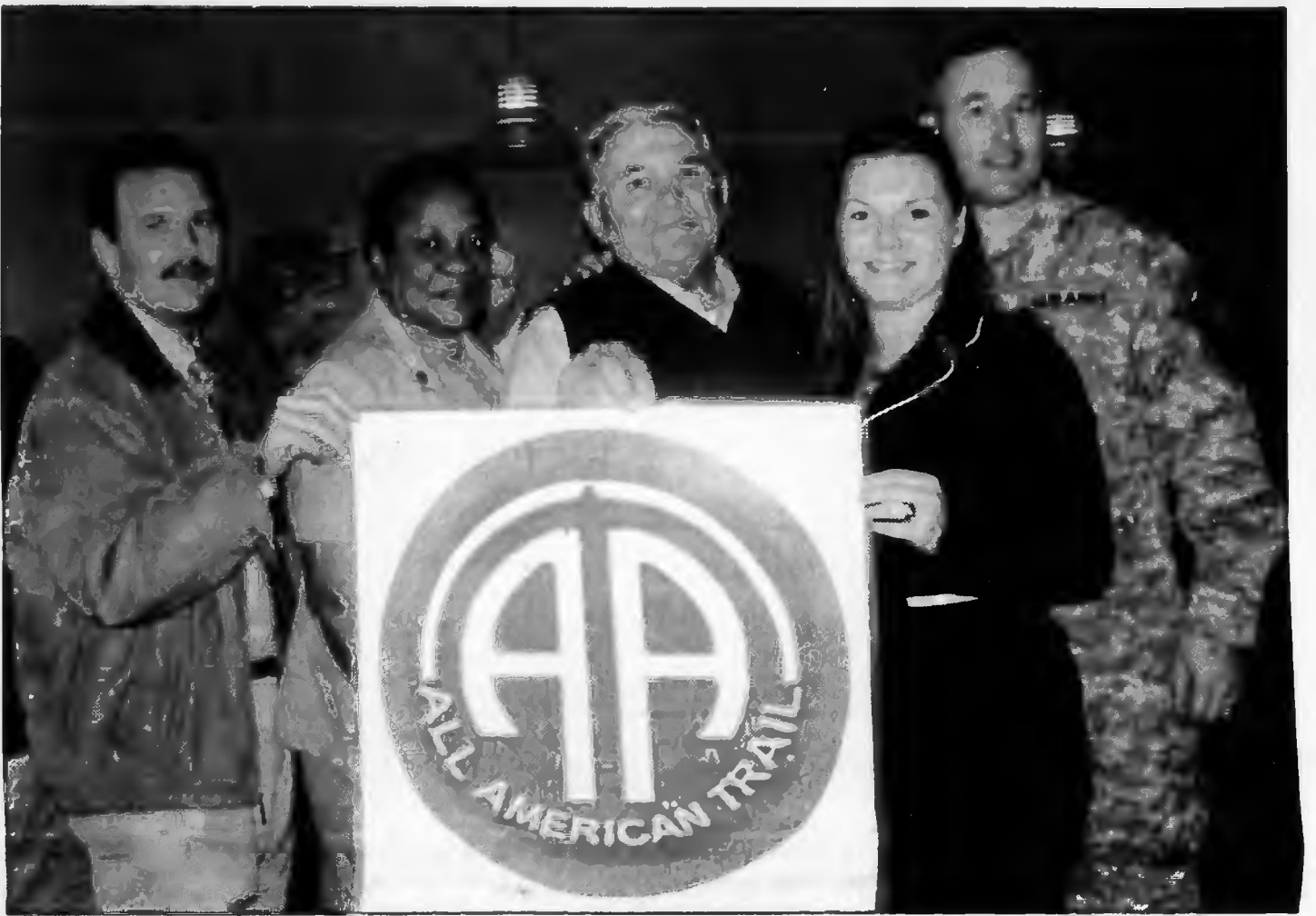
Parks & Rec director David Jackson, former Fayetteville-Cumberland recreation supervisor, will be leading recommendations for arts and crafts programs and athletic activities at the future recreational headquarters. Jackson inspected the pending site yesterday with County Manager Mike Wood and County Engineer Ray Sistare.

"We are excited about it," Jackson said. "The site lends itself to many activities."

"We plan to install picnic areas, nature trails and hold nature education interpretive programs," he said.

"There is a creek on site for aesthetic purposes, and land will be available for present and future needs."

After returning from a closed session, the board (see LAND, page 7A)



Displaying the new All American Trail logo, from left, are Mike Lynch, Fort Bragg coordinator for dedication ceremonies, Spring Lake Mayor Ethel T. Clark, Hoke Commissioner Bill Cameron, Hoke Planner Heather Brown and Fort Bragg U.S. Army garrison commander Col. Al Aycock.

1st leg of All American Trail opens in April

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

With Hoke County blazing the path for the All American Trail, the first phase of the natural 30-mile trail will open for the public's enjoyment on April 21 on Vass Road.

Designed for hiking, bicycling and running, the trail is expected to showcase the rapidly vanishing long leaf pine forest found primarily in the vicinity of the Cape Fear River basin area.

Mike Lynch, Fort Bragg coordinator for the dedication ceremony, unveiled an official logo for the trail at the quarterly meeting of the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC) held in Spring Lake.

In honor of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, part of its insignia is incorporated into the design.

Raeford City Manager Richard Douglas and Hoke Commissioner Bill Cameron have been instrumental in establishing the first nine-mile leg of the trail in Hoke. The project was approved last June.

"The All American Trail committee has done great

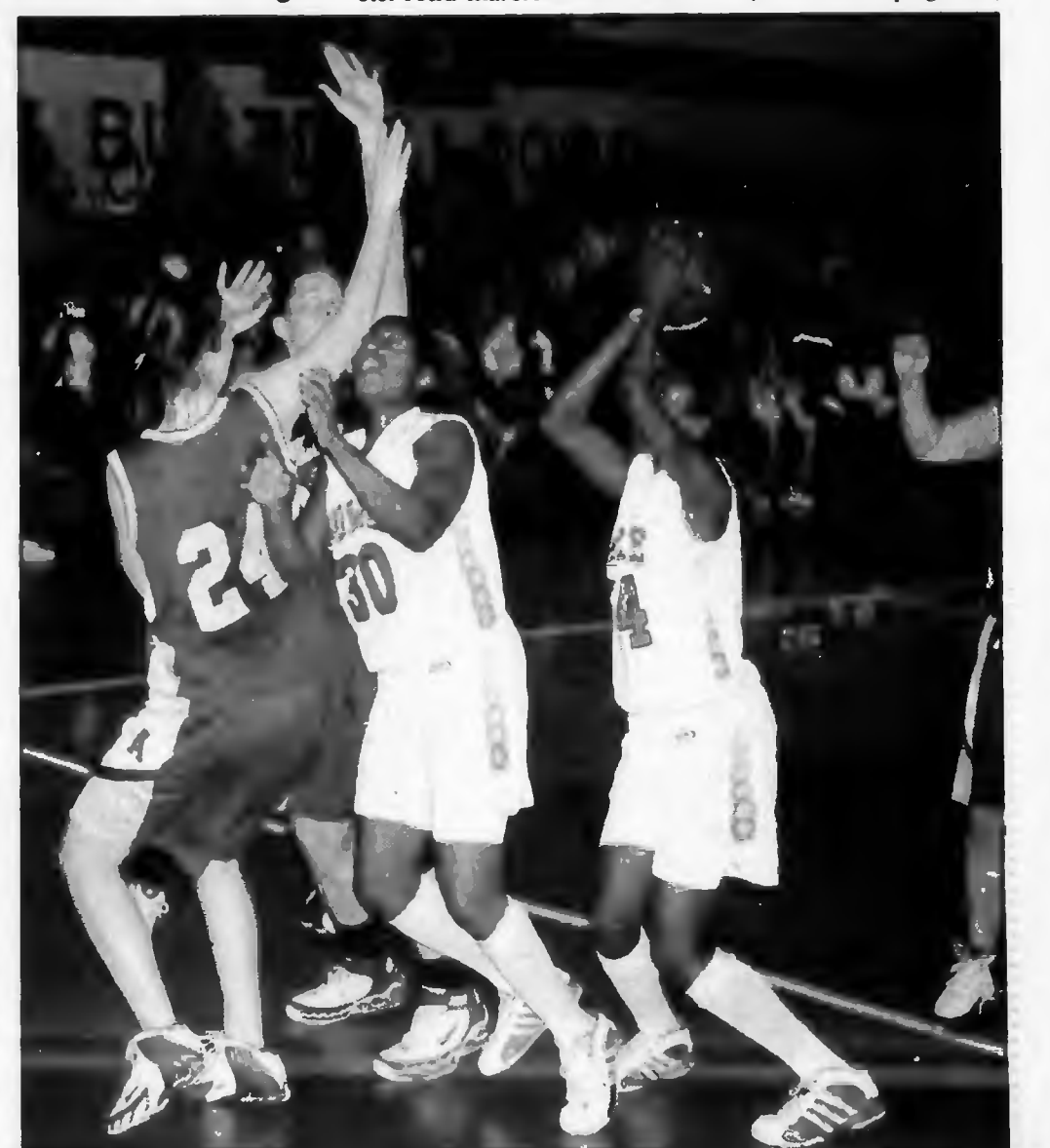
things to found this trail," Lynch said. "They have also published a brochure with the rules for operating the trail among the joint communities and Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base."

"By founding this trail, we hope to maintain biodiversity in the area such as protecting the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker."

Using the sandy perimeter road that surrounds Fort

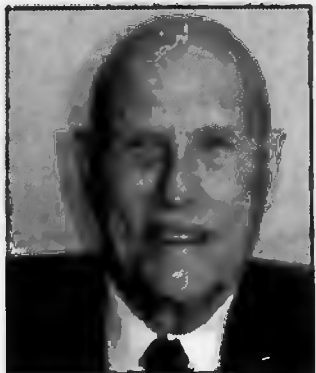
ultimate include Moore and Cumberland in the next two phases. Lynch said work is currently underway in Hoke for expanding areas adjacent to the trail for parking lots. However, the All American trail will be kept in its pristine state, according to Jim Daugherty, executive director of the RLUAC.

Distinguished as the gateway to the Sandhills rare long leaf (see TRAIL, page 7A)



No. 44 Shamia Brown puts up a shot as No. 30 Bianca Shaw screens out the defender during Hoke High's first round win over Wilmington Ashley High. Story and photos on page 4A.

This Week



Young is Kiwanis
Citizen of year
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Missing teen feared
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Election filing continues

Thomas, Shepley, Hodges, D'Annunzio in, Smith is out

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Poised for another fast-paced week, Hoke Board of Elections Director Caroline Shook indicated filings for the upcoming May primary and November election were somewhat slower than anticipated.

However, news traveled quickly late yesterday afternoon when Raeford attorney Russell C. Smith disclosed he was backing out of the race for the Hoke-Scotland counties judgeship. He had already filed his statement of intent that he would run, but he not yet filed officially.

A Democrat, Smith was planning to compete with Hoke-

"It's only Tuesday, but things change from day to day."
— Board of Elections Director Caroline Shook

Scotland chief public defender Regina Joe, a Democrat who filed for the judgeship last Monday. The seat of Hoke-Scotland Chief Judge Warren Pate is available since Pate announced he would retire at the end of this year. This leaves Joe as the only Hoke candidate thus far vying for the judge's seat.

"The reason I am not seeking the office is that an opportunity presented itself (see FILING, page 5A)