

# The News-Journal

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75¢

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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## Most scores down in midterm report

### Educators dispute value of report, say truer picture will come at end of school

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Hoke County High students slipped significantly below the benchmark in

proficiency for English I and Algebra I in midyear End of Course testing results for 2006. Yet results in Biology reflected soaring academic growth.

Only 47.37 percent of students scored at levels III and IV in English I during the first semester of 2006-07. That represented a drop compared to 2005 midyear, when stu-

dents achieved 89.23 percent proficiency on English I.

In Algebra I, only 23.18 percent of students attained proficiency in 2006 EOC results midyear. This compared

to 68.29 percent in the first semester of 2005-06.

Yet results of proficiency in Biology increased from a percentage of 16.81 in 2005 midyear to 45.50 percent in

the first semester of 2006.

Figures showed a 1.66 percent decrease in overall percentage of students performing at or above (See SCORES, page 4A)



Clockwise from left: Three-year-old pupil Katy Schiller arrives at Children's Developmental Center chauffeured by dad Andy Schiller; Jody Willis (left to right), Linda Foxworth, Garland Pierce and pupils; Leach Clem, an occupational therapist, bonds with pupil Darius Daniels.

### This Week



Track team wins first meet page 7A

Soldier charged with rape page 3A

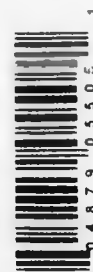
Bank appoints branch manager page 3A

East Hoke students win tech awards page 6A

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## Children's Center threatened by funding cuts

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

State Representative Garland Pierce is trying to defuse a funding crisis for Children's Developmental Center and similar facilities for kids with special needs. Even by maximizing the use of dollars, low wealth districts such as Hoke need state funding to survive, according to Pierce.

State and local stakeholders met

recently at the Raeford facility for a tour, seeking solutions. They hope to persuade state leaders that services need to be allocated in the state's budget to compensate for gaps.

Children's Developmental Center's programs nurture children that are blind, deaf, impacted by autism and Cerebral Palsy along with other disabilities. Lead teachers are required to hold four-year degrees, offering a high degree of service for children.

Instructors for infants to kindergarten age are also required to have college degrees.

Chaired by Pierce and Jodi Willis, Children's Developmental Center's executive director, the meeting addressed their concerns that the state might bypass the needs of developmental daycare.

"Military come here because of Womack Hospital, but then they move to poor Hoke County, and they

cannot get the services they need," Willis said. "There is a waiting list on base," she said.

"I know that whatever we are doing, it is working here. We are helping our children, and I would hate to see it all go away."

Willis said CDC is already struggling to make ends meet.

"I would like to hear that our children from infancy would get the (See THREATENED, page 3A)



John "Terry" Bullock

## Bullock is top prison superintendent

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

Raeford resident John "Terry" Bullock has walked for miles down the halls of dormitories during the past 29 years, where he personally checks on the well being of 526 men.

But these are not students attending college where Bullock might be a chancellor. Rather they're inmates - some serving life sentences - at the Hoke Correctional Institution in McCain where Bullock serves as superintendent.

"My philosophy with our inmates is to be fair, but firm,"

Bullock said. "We have very few problems."

"I do not like to do something for one inmate unless I do it for all of them," he said.

"I have seen some great minds go to waste in prison, but some inmates get out and do great."

Bullock was selected from among 77 fellow wardens across the state as Superintendent of the Year.

Bullock thinks training is the key to building a team of staff, empowering them to make decisions.

"I like to know the names of our 240 employees and supervisors," Bullock said. "How could I

fail with the support I have from my staff, our regional director, Pat Chavis, and state director of prisons Boyd Bennett?" he said.

"Everyone wants to feel important, and I work very hard to make every employee feel important."

Bullock was hired in 1978 when the facility was known as McCain Correctional Center. He has since risen through the ranks at HCI from correctional officer, to sergeant in 1981, to assistant unit manager in 1988 to superintendent in 2003. During his career, Bullock also served a one-year stint in 2002 as the assistant superintendent at the minimum-security (See BULLOCK, page 4A)

### The News-Journal

News Other stuff

By KEN MACDONALD  
Publisher

Did you know there are some 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the U.S.? And another 6,000 varieties lost forever since 1900? There are, according to what I've been able to determine from the Internet, and yet only 10 varieties account for more than 90 percent of supermarket apple sales in this country.

An article I first read several years ago pointed out those 10 varieties aren't picked for

taste, but for appearance and storage properties. Americans want their apples red or green and without blemishes.

After reading that I began to notice how our society looks at more than apples that way. People, for example.

And so when it fell my lot to talk to a group of young people, I wanted them to see they couldn't trust their friends and our society to give them an accurate accounting of their worth. By the statistics, I reasoned, (See OTHER STUFF, page 5A)

## McNeill 'thrilled' at getting state's highest civilian award

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS  
Staff writer

It was probably one of the best kept secrets in Raeford. Local videographer Luke McNeill was conferred the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award last week in front of friends at the Raeford City Council meeting to a standing ovation.

"We cannot replay the ceremony again," McNeill said. "But, a lot of our out-of-town friends had no idea so they said they wished they could have been there."

"My phone has really been ringing this past week."

A retired co-owner of Home Food Super Market after 37 years, the 80-year-old (See MCNEILL, page 5A)