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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

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Sandhills sets up free tuition plan

For Hoke, Moore students who 'fall through the cracks'

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Sandhills Community College announced this week a scholarship for new high school graduates in Hoke and Moore counties that will offer two years of free tuition for

students who meet certain criteria.

The Sandhills Promise scholarship will give two years of free tuition to degree-seeking curriculum students who enroll at SCC the fall semester after they graduate from high school. The scholarship is open to public, private and

homeschooled students beginning in 2017.

There are a few requirements for students to be considered for the scholarship, SCC Financial Aid Director Lindsey Farmer explained.

To qualify, students must have

completed at least four classes through the College and Career Promise program, a statewide dual enrollment initiative that allows high school students to take college-level classes. Prospective scholarship recipients also must have made at least a C letter grade

— a 2.0 grade-point average — in their dual enrollment classes.

To make sure current high school seniors have a chance to take advantage of the scholarship, for the first year of the program, students will only be required to (See *SCHOLARSHIPS*, page 9)



High in the sky: a Puppy Creek fireman gets a feel for the new truck, delivered to the department last week. Hoke has grown not only in population but in building height. (Catharin Shepard photo)

Puppy Creek gets 100-foot, \$1 million ladder truck

6 years ago there were no buildings in Hoke over 3 stories, now there are 17



The first ladder truck in Hoke County.

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

After two years of work and planning, Puppy Creek Fire Department took delivery last week of a million-dollar fire truck that will help them provide fire protection to Hoke County's tallest buildings.

The custom-built fire engine ladder truck has a 100-foot ladder, the first of its kind in the county's history.

In the past, Hoke didn't have many buildings over two stories. Over the last several years, however, development brought taller buildings. (See *FIRE TRUCK*, page 9)

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Olympic athletes decked out in cloth made here.

Olympics clothing started here

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

The whole world got a sneak peek at Raeford's manufacturing capabilities when American Olympic athletes put on their team uniform blazers at the Rio Olympics.

The Burlington plant on Turnpike Road was one of several companies owned by

International Textile Group that made the fabrics designer Ralph Lauren used to create the team uniforms for the athletes representing the United States.

"It was a very special moment for all of us who work at the plant," Burlington manager Calvin House said.

The worsted wool fabric started out as plain wool fiber

that workers at the Raeford plant dyed. The fiber was sent on to the company's plant in Cordova, where it was woven into fabric. After the weaving process, the fabric returned to Raeford's Burlington facility for final processing.

"After finishing, we sent the cloth to Ralph Lauren's cutters to be made into the (See *OLYMPICS*, page 9)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

Now you New Yorkers know pizza—I'll give you that. And you Yankees from Massachusetts know your lobster rolls. But when it comes to one particular food, you need to leave the conversation.

This ain't field peas:



It's good, but it ain't field peas: Luck's Blackeye Peas

It's what we in the South eat at New Year's, true, and this particular brand originated nearby in (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 10)



Eddie McNeill shows proper southern field peas.



Marvin Johnson

House of Raeford founder dies

The man who founded the House of Raeford poultry company and oversaw the business for decades died last week at the age of 89.

Edgar Marvin Johnson Sr., who was hailed as an industry pioneer, passed away peacefully in his (See *JOHNSON*, page 2)

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