

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

## Langford pleads guilty in mosque case

### Sentenced to house arrest for 8 months as feds take over prosecution

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A former Army officer charged with terrorizing members of a local mosque pleaded guilty in the case and will serve eight months of home confinement, according to the United States Department

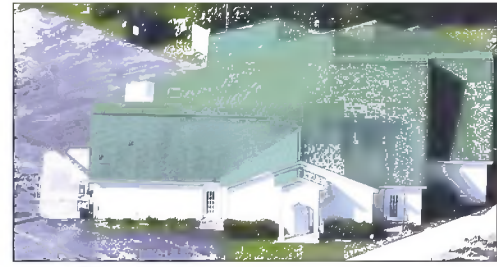
of Justice.

Russell Thomas Langford, 36, of Fayetteville pleaded guilty to "threatening mosque members in order to obstruct their free exercise of religious beliefs" as part of a plea deal that means he will not serve any jail time but will be confined to his home for eight

months, the DOJ announced in a press release last week.

"As a result of his plea, Langford admitted that on June 9, 2016, he threatened several mosque members and used a dangerous weapon in doing so," the release stated.

(See LANGFORD, page 10)



The Masjid Al Madina Mosque



Langford



#### Egg-tremely bad catch

Most middle school outings of learning probably devolve into fun and games, and that was the case during West Hoke Middle School's egg experiment Thursday. Students designed contraptions (see page 9) to protect eggs for a 50-foot drop, but resorted to a game of egg toss with teacher Ernest Davis. The game ended badly for student Jalen Jackson (right), who stepped in for an interception and caught the egg with his body. (Ken MacDonald photos)



## Questions remain in voter fraud case

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Although the North Carolina State Board of Elections concluded its investigation into a case of alleged voter fraud at local nursing homes without pursuing criminal charges, an email shows that the local District Attorney will now have the chance to investigate.

An email from Joan Fleming of the State Board of Elections disclosed her intention to send the case to the DA for review.

"I have made a decision to forward the results of this investigation to the Hoke County DA for their independent review of the facts of this matter," Fleming wrote in an email last week.

The email was sent to Hal Nunn, who filed one of two complaints last fall alleging that a representative of the Hoke County Democratic Party improperly signed up nursing

(See FRAUD, page 10)

### This Week

**County hires Parks and Rec consultant**  
Page 4

**Bill to help vets would impact Hoke taxes**  
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## City hears \$1.4 million parks improvement plan

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Engineers presented the Raeford city council Monday with the final draft of an improvement plan that would add bathrooms, picnic shelters and more play equipment to city parks at a total cost of \$1.4 million.

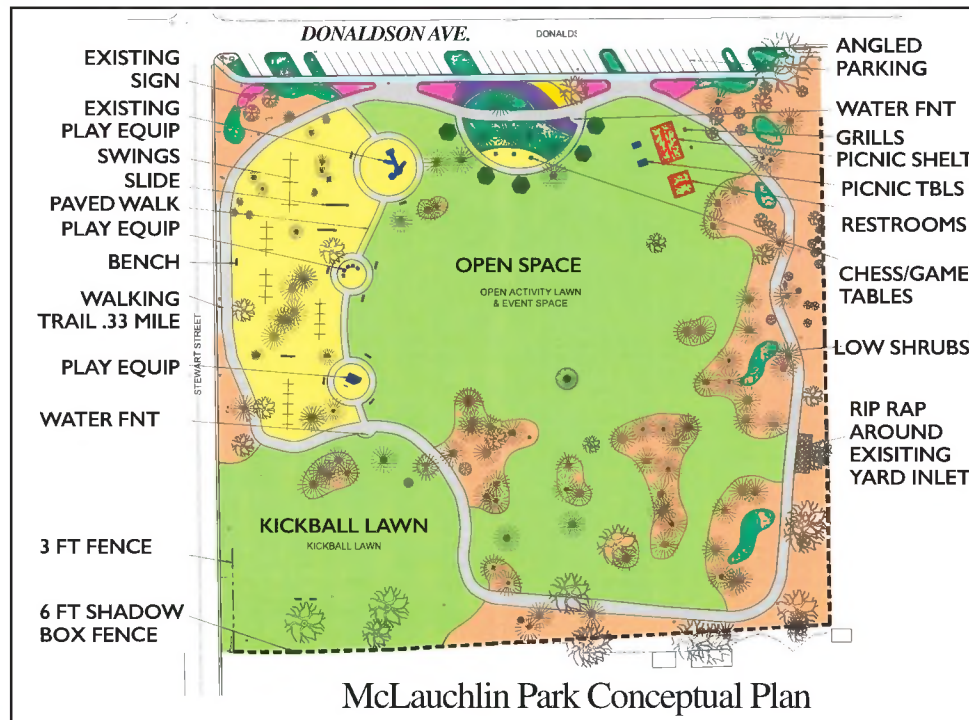
There isn't any money attached to the project yet, and the improvements will come over a period of time, Raeford City

Manager Dennis Baxley said.

"The complete project for both parks as a whole is going to have to be phased in," he said.

The city hired LKC Engineers last year to create the parks master plan for the Robbins Heights and McLauchlin parks. The engineers took a look at the existing facilities and equipment, conducted public meetings to get community feedback and also sent out surveys for resident

(See PARKS, page 10)



Canasta is a lively game, at least at this house. From left, Glenys Hovermale, Linda Winwood and Bettie Bacot. (Ken MacDonald photos)



## Position open for canasta... and solving world's problems

By KEN MACDONALD

Looking for something to keep your mind sharp, and do your politics list to the right? Have these ladies got an offer for you!

(See CANASTA, page 10)



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