

# The News-Journal

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

75¢

No. 12 Vol. 113

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

## Commissioners pick company for buildings

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

If the project continues moving forward, the team of architects and contractors at Bobbitt Design Build of Raleigh will handle the process of bringing to life a new parks and recreation center and an agriculture center for Hoke

County. The Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously at the Monday night meeting to hire Bobbitt from a pool of four companies that proposed to tackle the projects.

Commission Vice Chairman Harry Southerland and Commissioners Allen Thomas and Bobby

Wright voted in favor of the motion. Commission Chairman James Leach and Commissioner Tony Hunt were absent from the meeting.

Bobbitt offered what the commissioners were looking for in a design and build company for this project, Wright said.

"I thought all four companies

did a real good job. They had professional people that came and talked to us. Each one of them had their strong points and their weak points, but I think Bobbitt Design and Build... I thought they met the criteria that Hoke County would need best of all four," Wright said, before making a motion to choose that company. Thomas seconded

the motion.

Representatives from Bobbitt Design Build and three other companies met with commissioners, county-contracted grant writer Christina Davis-McCoy, Cooperative Extension Director Howard Wallace and other county officials last week to discuss what each  
(See BUILDINGS, page 9)



West Hoke Middle teachers Marcelle Ford (left to right), LeChae Johnson, Lindsey Sise and Karen Notestine. Below, left teachers from East Hoke Middle and Don Steed Elementary. (Contributed photos)



## 'Sea of red' includes Hoke teachers

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A group of Hoke teachers was in Raleigh last week when tens of thousands of people from across the state joined forces to march in support of public education.

Diane Mitchell, a Hoke County High School teacher with more than 30 years of experience, also serves as a local contact for the North Carolina Association of Educators – the group that organized the demonstration. She was among the group of people who traveled to Raleigh last Wednesday to take part in the march and rally.

"Everything went fantastic. Of all the marches and demonstrations I've been to, that was the one that was just awesome," she said. "It was a sea of red as far as you could see."

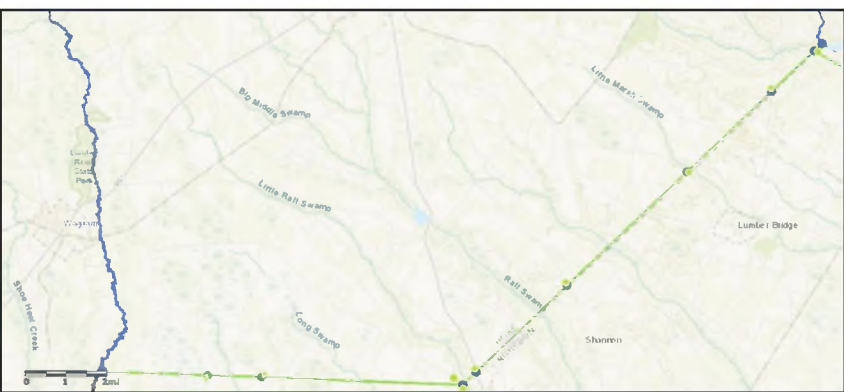
Educators, parents and other supporters wore red shirts  
(See SEA OF RED, page 10)

## Splash pad opens Sat.

The splash pad at the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Complex on Red Springs Road will open for the season this Saturday, with plans in the works for a special party celebrating the unofficial start of summer.

County Manager Letitia Edens said Monday that she gets requests all the time for the splash pad to open earlier. Typically it operates from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Board of Commissioners approved of a plan to open the outdoor water playground the weekend before  
(See SPLASH PAD, page 9)

## \$3 million property on the line in Hoke-Robeson boundary dispute



The boundary in question extends from Camp Rockfish southwest to Vance Street in Red Springs, and over to the Lumber River in the west.

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

An 18-year-old conflict over where the Hoke-Robeson border lies came before the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Monday night, with board members voting to send the

issue to a judge.

At stake is 123 acres of land valued at over \$3.3 million. The tax dollar loss for Hoke, should the property be determined as falling within Robeson's borders, would be about \$24,960 plus another \$3,840 in solid waste service fees every year.

The border dispute has a long and complex history. In August 2000 both counties' boards of commissioners approved a plan for the State of North Carolina to establish the boundary between Hoke and

Robeson. Two years later, the survey was completed and preliminary results presented to the board members.

The Robeson County commissioners approved the state study in November 2002. In February 2003, Hoke board members and members of the N.C. Geodetic Survey, local surveyors and tax office staff visited markers along the boundary.

"Hoke Commissioners wanted to get an agreement with  
(See BOUNDARY, page 9)



## Entrepreneurs

Randolph Saunders (left) stopped in mid-video game recently, and said to his younger brother Aaron, "We need a way to make us some money—what about cutting grass?" The boys mowed a neighbor's yard, were spotted and hired by another neighbor, and soon "Clean Cutz" was born. The boys' mother Tamara rewarded their initiative with a new mower and custom shirts. Then, Joseph McKenzie, owner of McKenzie's Barbershop, was so impressed with them when they came calling, the shop donated a string trimmer and called the newspaper. And, of course, the newspaper is printing their number—910-853-5219. (Ken MacDonald photo)



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