



## Canyon Hills will keep its license

### State's latest inspection finds treatment facility for children fixed issues



Canyon Hills Treatment Facility on the Aberdeen Highway. (File photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

After making staffing changes and instituting a corrective plan of action, the Canyon Hills mental health treatment facility for youth will keep its operating license and can accept new clients.

State inspectors from the North

Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Health Regulation conducted a new site visit at Canyon Hills last month. The facility, which was at one point in danger of potentially losing its operating license, passed the new round of inspections. The inspectors did not note any deficiencies or problems, according to a

report filed March 20.

Letters sent March 27 from Stephanie Gilliam, chief of the Mental Health Licensure and Certification Section, to Canyon Hills CEO Micheaux Hollingsworth informed staff that the facility will keep its license and can start admitting new clients.

(See CANYON HILLS, page 8)

## Health center served with eviction order

### South Central Community Health struggled to comply with federal funding requirements



The health center is vacant on Tuesday. (Ken MacDonald photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A nonprofit health center in Raeford that closed last week also received an eviction order, and documents show that the center was struggling to comply with conditions set by

the federal agency that provided its operating grant funding.

Additionally, an employee who claims she was fired last year for whistleblowing about problems with the center's parent agency filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the agency, according to court records.

South Central Community Health Center on Southern Avenue closed last Monday when staff shut the doors after not receiving their paychecks, according to a now-former employee. The Hoke County Sheriff's Office confirmed that a deputy also served a summary ejection notice that ordered the occupants to move out.

Dr. Lawrence Bullard and Deborah  
(See HEALTH CENTER, page 4)

## Minimal damage in storm



From the NJ window: the squall line approaches.

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A powerful line of severe weather rolled across North Carolina Friday, dropping confirmed tornados across the state and causing damage to property.

Hoke escaped the strong storms with little



And it arrives at 4:24 p.m. (NJ webcam photos)

damage, according to Hoke County Emergency Management. A few felled trees and scattered power outages due to downed lines were about the extent of the county's issues, with no reported injuries.

The county received about 1.25 inches of rain due to the storms (1.27 inches recorded at  
(See STORM, page 5)

## Park reopening awaits grass



At work on playground equipment Tuesday. (Ken MacDonald photo)

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

Workers are still getting McLauchlin Park ready for its big reopening to the public, though April showers put a temporary damper on its progress.

There isn't an exact opening date for yet. It could be about a month before the public park fully reopens to residents. When it does, it will have new playground equipment, new bathrooms and fresh green open space.

The rainy weather forced  
(See PARK, page 4)



A special fiddle rests on the leg of Earl Chason, almost in the position its owner used to play it. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## 'I know where that fiddle is'

BY KEN MACDONALD

Two weeks ago, in Browsing the Files, we ran a story pulled from 1931 about a 12-year-old fiddler taking Hoke County by storm. Dewey

Sessoms, the article relayed, played a "violent violin," the instrument resting in his lap instead of against his chin. It described "a bow flying across the strings like a shuttle across a loom."

A day after the newspaper hit the streets, I got a call from Larry Chason. "I know where that fiddle is," he said. "I have it."

On Thursday, I drove  
(See FIDDLE, page 2)

## OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

You'd think a newspaper editor would delight in controversy (cha-ching), but really I just want us all to get along.

There are a lot of people doing lots of nice and kind things around our community, but if you dwell too long on, say, Facebook you get the idea all is woe.

"The people at (fill in the blank) are idiots! I  
(See OTHER STUFF, page 4)



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