

County parts with architect-builder

Ends Recreation Building contract with firm, but keeps one with Ag Building

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Nearly a year after three commissioners voted to hire the Bobbitt Design-Build firm to construct the county's planned Parks and Recreation center, in a 3-1 vote Monday the board chose to end the contract with the company and seek a new designer.

The change will not affect plans to have Bobbitt continue work on building the new agriculture center that will house the county cooperative extension and other programs, Hoke County Board of Commissioners Chairman James Leach said. Work on that project is much farther along in the process with plans already approved, permits signed and the

bidding process set to begin later this month.

However, work on the Parks and Recreation center has not gone beyond early visualizations of a possible layout. The board wanted to part ways with Bobbitt on the recreation center because it could possibly save the county money, Leach said.

"We feel like we can save thou-

sands of dollars by not having it design-built," he said.

Under the terms of its contract, Bobbitt Design-Build handles both the design of the facility and then the construction process. That includes selecting subcontractors to complete the project.

That gives the county less control over who actually gets hands-on once construction starts.

"They're the ones who choose those subcontractors," Leach said.

In previous meetings Bobbitt representatives have said they could work within the county's recommendations for seeking subcontractors, but the commission chairman emphasized that separating the design process and the building process could save (See *BUILDER*, page 5)



Les Sandy shows books with the stories of Charlie Daniels and Bill Monroe—and himself. (Ken MacDonald photos)

Meet the man who denied Charlie Daniels a place in a band

Les Sandy played bluegrass with Bill Monroe, shuffleboard with Hemingway, Grand Ole Opry

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Not many people can claim to have turned down country music legend Charlie Daniels for a job, but Leslie "Les" Sandy can.

Sandy, born and raised in the Arabia community, is a famous name himself in Bluegrass music. One of the youngest in a family of eight boys, he grew up picking cot-

ton in Hoke County in the years of the Great Depression.

Sandy and several of his brothers also picked up playing musical instruments with a natural talent. Their music caught on and eventually the Sandy Brothers Band even had their own television show based in Wilmington.

That's how Sandy ended up meeting (See *SANDY*, page 8)



At age 90, despite a touch of arthritis, Sandy can still make a fiddle sing.

City Council gets first glimpse of NC 211 widening

By KEN MACDONALD

A four-lane road with a median, and bridges over railroad tracks characterize the NC 211 widening between Raeford and Aberdeen, Raeford City Councilwoman Mary Neil King told the

board Monday night at its regular monthly meeting.

After attending a meeting with the state Department of Transportation, King reported:

- Land acquisition for the project should begin in 2020 with construction work beginning in

2023.

- Between 120 and 130 homes, businesses and churches, and even some graves, will be relocated.

- Property for the highway will be obtained on the southern side of its current path in some areas, and the northern side in others.

- Both Ashley Heights Baptist and Shiloh Presbyterian churches

will remain intact. (See *NC 211 WIDENING*, page 5)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

Found a fun new way to journal: short poems to capture the moments. Here are a few from a youth trip to the beach.

Ocean View

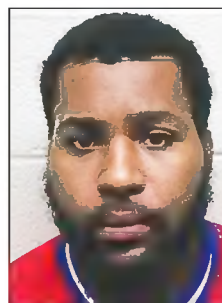
The brochure says, "Ocean View!"

It's printed on our reservation. I guess the 10-story (green) building is see-through in your imagination. (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 8)

Fourth suspect arrested in murder of gaming operator

Authorities have arrested a fourth suspect wanted in connection with the murder of a gaming business owner in Hoke County.

With the assistance of the United States Marshal Service, law enforcement took into custody Jaqwan Maurice Tew, 26, of the 1600 block of McBryde Lake Road. Tew is the fourth person (See *MURDER*, page 5)



Tew



Author

Author Andrew Shepherd speaks to students at Turlington School Tuesday about his book, "Mirrors," which students read, and an upcoming film he produced. (Ken MacDonald photo)



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