

A year ago the Samarkand Youth Development Center in Eagle Springs survived budget cuts. This year it's a different outcome. Effective today, and after nearly a hundred years of continuous operation, Samarkand closes its doors for the last time and 52 people are out of a job. The General Assembly's Budget Bill mandated that the facility be closed despite last-ditch efforts by Moore County Representative Jaime Boles to restore its three-point-five million dollar budget allocation. Samarkand opened in 1918 to house troubled and delinquent kids on 400 Moore County Acres. More recently it has been home to some of North Carolina's most troubled children, Minors guilty of attempted murder, armed robbery and other violent crimes. Roger Reynolds, the Campus Administrator, says every staff member, including himself, will be out of a job after today.