

Smith's love of martial arts leads to big dreams

By **TRENT HARRELL**
Staff Writer

Jacob Smith, 17, has been studying the ways of martial arts for nearly 10 years.

Smith started martial arts when he was 8 years old. His first thought of studying some type of martial arts was to fight off his older sibling, but what really got him hooked were a few words when he encountered martial arts star Jackie Chan.

"I met Jackie Chan when I was very young, and he told me I looked like I was bred for martial arts studies," said Smith. Ever since then, he has devoted most of his free time to learning and training.

At first, Smith wanted to just be able to defend him and others, but later he found out martial arts were about more than just fighting.

"It has taught me self defense, discipline, self control and how to overcome any situation, not just physical ones," said Smith. Through martial arts, Smith has become a more confident and

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- *Jacob Smith*

well rounded person.

The past 10 years have not been easy for Smith on his body. He has suffered many broken fingers, toes, right arm, sprained ankles, sprained wrists, cracked jaw and a variety of cuts.

He has not given up and is still training.

There are many different types of martial arts. Smith specializes in Kendo and Hapkido.

Kendo is a Japanese style of fencing that originated in the late 19th century.

Hapkido specializes more in discipline of coordination and is a way of strengthening the mind and body.

"I have been training at a variety of martial arts academies over the years and I still intend

to keep studying for the years ahead," said Smith.

Smith may still be training, but he has been pondering the thought of making a career path out of martial arts.

"I have been thinking about maybe opening my own martial arts studio, or becoming a co-owner of one," he said.

"But before I do that I would still like to train more," he said.

Smith is currently a student at Wayne Early Middle College High School (WEMCHS).

WEMCHS is a new high school program that started in fall of 2006.

It allows high school students to take Wayne Community College classes while maintaining their high school classes needed to graduate.

His hometown is Arapahoe, N.C., and he later migrated over to WEMCHS his junior year.

He is now a senior at WEMCHS and is working on majoring in business administrations and political science.



Photo by **TRENT HARRELL**

Jacob Smith breaks five concrete blocks with one strike.

Tanisha Eustsey finds power in prayer

By **JESSICA HILL**
Staff Writer

Mother. Employee. Full-time student. NAACP member.

Filling all these roles could seem overwhelming, but Wayne Community College student Tanisha Eustsey said she has found the way to handle it.

It takes more than just inner strength to face life's challenges, she said: "It takes prayer and faith."

Prayer has helped her before. She said she relied on it as a teen when she felt that no one was there for her. Life improved, and she now lives in Goldsboro with her two children and younger brother.

Today, prayer and her willingness to jump into life's challenges are helping again. Tanisha's grades are above average and she made the Dean's List last year.

Tanisha is studying to be a teacher and later plans to be a principal. One of her goals is to teach children that it is OK if they do not have everything and that they can succeed.

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