

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, February 3, 2016



Living conditions for humans and animals at The Haven. (ASPCA photo)



A sick dog. (ASPCA photo)



Preparing to move animals. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## Woman finds intruder, kills him

A woman in Lumber Bridge shot and killed a would-be robber last week when she arrived home to find him inside her house, according to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office.

The woman, who has not been identified, shot and killed an intruder who has been identified through fingerprints as Brian Keith Ratley of Camden Road in Fayetteville.

Ratley had been convicted in Hoke County Superior Court on at least two previous occasions, according to News-Journal records. In 2007, he was



Ratley

convicted of felony breaking and entering and sentenced to 11 months in prison with orders to pay \$9,000 restitution if work release were to be granted. In 2010, he was convicted of felony fleeing to elude arrest by motor vehicle and sentenced to 15 to 18 months in prison.

In Friday's incident, authorities received an alarm (See *INTRUDER*, page 5)

## Raid closes The Haven Owners charged with animal abuse

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

After more than a decade of license denials, failed inspections and warnings about inadequate conditions at The Haven no-kill animal shelter, last week the facility was shut down and the owners arrested on animal cruelty charges.

Local authorities and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) seized more than 650 animals including dogs, cats and horses from

the facility operated by Linden and Stephen Joseph Spear.

"The animals were kept in filthy kennels, cages, outdoor pens and paddocks, many without protection from the elements. Many animals are suffering from untreated medical issues including open wounds, severe upper respiratory disease and emaciation," according to the ASPCA.

The Spears were arrested and charged with four counts of cruelty to animals and three counts of felony possession of a controlled substance, with the latter charges related to



Stephen and Linden Spear

medication for the animals the Spears allegedly had in their possession. Additional charges may be pending after investigators found the remains of (See *THE HAVEN*, page 9)



Mobile animal hospitals from the ASPCA line the grounds of The Haven last Wednesday. (Ken MacDonald photo)



This Nissan Versa Note was knocked across N.C. 211 Monday when it turned into the path of the truck behind it. (Ken MacDonald photo)

## Turn from NC 211 puts car in truck's path

Injured driver flown to hospital

A driver who turned in front of a tractor-trailer on Highway 211 Monday sustained serious injuries and had to be airlifted to UNC-Chapel Hill Hospitals, according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

The wreck happened around 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Army Road and blocked traffic for some time afterward while rescuers responded

to the scene.

Marquis Baker, 21, of Hoke County apparently failed to yield to oncoming traffic while turning off of 211, according to Trooper Nelson of the Highway Patrol.

"He was attempting to turn left onto Army Road off of 211, and when he turned left, he turned right in front of the tractor-trailer" (See *WRECK*, page 9)

### This Week

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## Politics draws Rockfish crowd

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer

A meeting of the Rockfish community board that invited local candidates for political office to speak to the public saw one of the largest turnouts since the volunteer organization started meeting last year.

About 90 showed for the meeting, hosted by county commission candidate William "Brownie" Brown

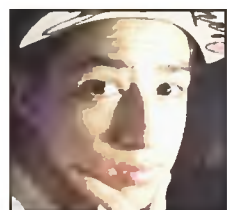
at Brownie's Towing on Lindsay Road. Candidates including District Attorney incumbent Kristy Newton, commission incumbent Bobby Wright, state Senate candidate Dan Travieso and House of Representatives candidate Jim Duncan were among those who spoke. Sheriff Hubert Peterkin, who is not up for election this year, spoke in favor of Newton and commission candidate Joe Allston.

After the candidates spoke, the community board invited engineer Adam Kiker to discuss the plans to provide sewer access to parts of eastern Hoke County. Kiker brought maps and showed where the sewer lines will go and where they will stop south of the main Rockfish area, where a set of railroad tracks cross Bostic Road.

The county doesn't have (See *ROCKFISH*, page 4)

## Sampson teenager murdered here

By CATHARIN SHEPARD  
Staff writer



Requena

A 17-year-old from Sampson County was found dead of a gunshot wound last week, according to the Hoke County Sheriff's

Office. Investigators are seeking suspects in the apparent murder of Bryan Stuart Requena, 17, of Bobwhite Lane in Sampson County. Officers dispatched to the area of North Old Wire Road and (See *MURDER*, page 4)

## Deputies catch 2 after homeowner shoots at them

A Hoke resident fired gunshots at two suspects who fled from his house on Balfour Road during a home invasion last week.

Investigators with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office used tracking dogs to hunt down and arrest the two suspects a few hours later, according to authorities.

Deputies arrested Joshua Sanchez Winston, 27, of the 300 block of Branch

Road in Red Springs and Jamel Gates, 26, of the 300 block of Keith Avenue in Raeford. Both suspects were charged with one count each of breaking or entering and conspiracy to commit breaking or entering.

Officers responded to a call at the home of Andre McPhaul on the 2500 block of Balfour Road around 2 p.m. January 28. (See *CAUGHT*, page 4)



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