

STATE & LOCAL

The Big, the Giant and the Greasy Emily Gamiel, Staff Writer

How did North Carolina luck The annual North Carolina State Fair is notorious for its flashing lights, wild rides, and deep fried treats. Every year food vendors must create new concoctions in order to attract customers to their booth and this year was no different. In addition to the classic, deep-fried goodies served annually at the fair, more than a dozen new snacks were added to the list. Some of the new choices included deep-fried Chips Ahoy cookies as well as a deep-fried honey bun. A common trend in this year's latest inventions was combining some of the crowd's favorite items into one. A bizarre snack that represented this trend and gained popularity with fair-goers was Koolickles. Compared to a sweet and sour pickle, Koolickles are dill pickles marinated in cherry Kool-Aid. As many fair lovers learned that just because something sounds inedible and disgusting doesn't mean that it is, their eyes were opened to the interesting new munchies.

From maple bacon cupcakes to bacon and cheese mashed potatoes, many of the new food at the fair this year was comprised of multiple tempting elements. Another collaborative snack that gained a reputation at the fair was the Krispy Kreme bacon cheeseburger. Comprised of a greasy burger topped with bacon, cheese, and all of the imaginable toppings and sandwiched in between two Krispy Kreme doughnuts, the new take on the classic hamburger proved to be capti-

vating, as well as appetizing to fair-goers. While the thought of eating a Krispy Kreme bacon cheeseburger on a regular basis could be labeled as grotesque, many fair attendees indulged, rationalizing that the fair only comes once a year.

Although creative cooking vendors came from all over the state, bringing their ideas and creations to the Capitol City, one came from right down the street. The North Carolina State Fair publicized one local treat that made headlines even before the doors to the fair were opened. A one pound hot dog was designed by Joe Bushfan, owner of Joe's Diner in Durham, NC. Bushfan was featured in the News and Observer on October 11, 2010. Josh Shaffer, staff writer for the local paper, described the monstrous piece of meat as "longer than a whole kielbasa, fatter than a prize cucumber, heavy enough to hold down a phone book in a hurricane and thick enough to smack a softball into center field." Selling at \$8.00 a piece, the enormous hot dog required two hot dog buns and various condiments were optional. Although Weight Watchers and Gold's Gym may warn against the greasy and fatty foods of the fair, vendors' originality and variety upheld its reputation and customers were far from scarce.

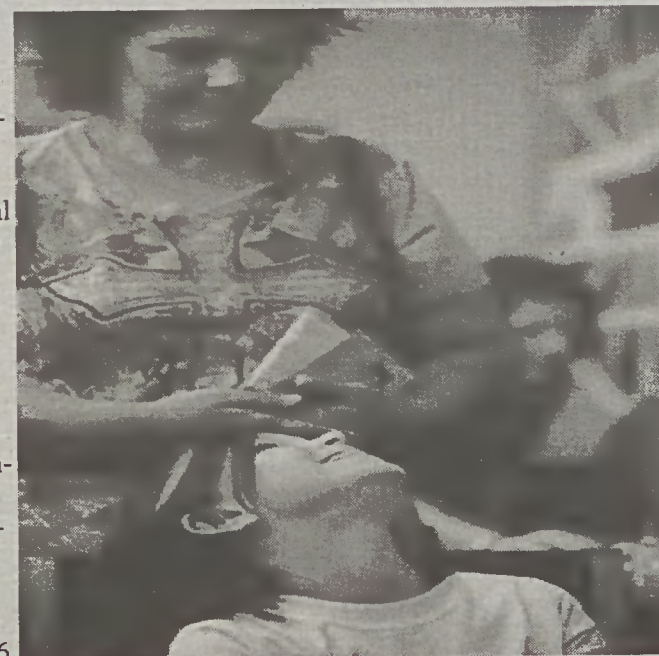


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Case of Missing Hickory Girl Remains Cold

Caitlin Griffin, Staff Writer

Ten-year-old Zahra Clare Baker was reported missing from her Hickory, North Carolina home on Saturday, October 9. Her father and stepmother told local authorities they had last seen her sleeping in her bed 12 hours before, who issued an Amber Alert for the hearing-impaired child and described her prosthetic left leg as a possible identification aid. Police received a tip from Pat Adams, the manager of In Your Home Furnishings in Hickory; according to Mitch Weiss's October 16 News & Observer online article, "Hickory Police Say Missing Girl Seen September 25," Adams told WCNC-TV in Charlotte that her employees last saw Baker alive in the store on September 25. Aside from this tip, however, no one outside of the girl's family has reported seeing her within the last month. After cadaver search dogs detected the smell of blood and human remains on vehicles parked outside of the Bakers' home, police of-



via <http://www.cbsnews.com>

ficially declared the case a homicide. On Sunday, October 10, Zahra's stepmother Elisa Baker was arrested in her home for one felony and multiple misdemeanor charges unrelated to her stepdaughter's disappearance. Later in the week, she was charged with felony obstruction of justice after admitting she wrote a fake ransom note found on her husband's car. (continued on next page)

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The staff of The *Meredith Herald* is committed to representing our diverse community by publicizing local events, by addressing controversy, by cultivating civic engagement and by empowering women.

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