

The News-Journal

75¢

Hoke County's newspaper since 1905

No. 16 Vol. 110

RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

County financial problems 'serious'

State CPA reminds county officials they could face criminal charges

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Hoke County government has "serious operational problems" that have led to "serious financial

problems," and despite repeated warnings to local leaders, in 2013-14 the county "took a step backwards" in its finances, according to state officials.

The county spent more money

than it budgeted in half a dozen funds, failed to comply with pre-audit requirements of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, has "serious internal control" problems and currently is

struggling to keep the minimum required amount of money in its reserve fund balance, documents report.

Officials with the State and Local Government Finance Division

and the Local Government Commission with the North Carolina Department of the State Treasurer have been working with Hoke County for several years to try and (See FINANCES, page 10)

Every

The News-Journal reports:

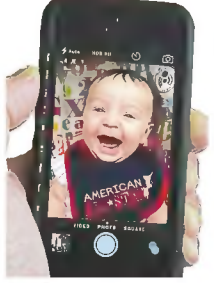
- Every district court case
- Every County Commission meeting
- Every City Council meeting
- Every marriage
- Every real estate transaction
- Every legal notice
- Every School Board meeting
- Every Superior Court case

And the list is growing.

Special

Second Winner!

Oh Snap!



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This Week

Escaped inmate caught

Page 4

Sales tax bill passes House

Page 4

- Calendar 6
- Classifieds 8
- Deaths 4
- Editorials 3
- Sports 5
- Worship 5



Oh Snap contender

Kaley Owens enjoys the sun and a fresh drink. This photo was entered by her mother, Ariane Owens, in the Oh Snap Photo Contest, and nearly won. (See winner elsewhere in the paper.)

He'll never get out

"He made them go into the woods and sit back-to-back, and put a belt around their necks."

—Lueth

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

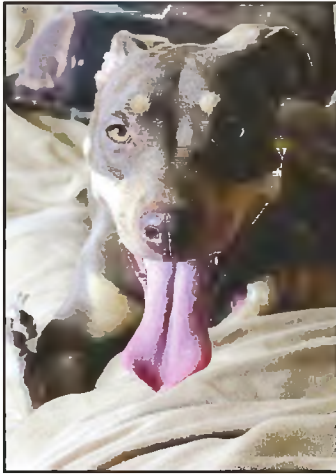
A man who beat a woman nearly to death and held a child hostage at knifepoint will spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole, a judge decided Friday.



Walker

Superior Court Judge Gale M. Adams sentenced Michael Todd Walker, 47, to three consecutive life sentences in prison without the possibility of parole. Walker (See WALKER, page 2)

Group wants to fit dog with 3D-printed legs



Rhonda Roo

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

An area pet rescue is hoping that 3D printing technology – and the help of generous donors – will give a dog with special needs the chance to run for the first time in her life.

When Solutions for Animals director Cindy Bristow met Rhonda Roo, a Doberman mix born

with deformed front legs, she decided it was time that someone stepped in to help improve the dog's quality of

life. Rhonda Roo started life in a county animal shelter, then was taken in by a rescue organization and later

adopted out to a family. But once again, she ended up homeless, and Solutions for (See RHONDA, page 9)

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

Grandson Kenneth was up there Sunday all dressed in white looking like the angel he is most of the time. He was about to be sprinkled with a good fling of water, something we Presbyterians do. And without broaching the theology of it, it's in part to introduce him to his church family and the other way around, and to extract from his church family a promise to nurture him.

Hollyanne, who is now three, stood with the family for a minute or two and decided she'd been there and done that and got the t-shirt—well, calligraphed certificate—and bolted down the steps for her grandmother, sitting on (See OTHER STUFF, page 2)



Wagon Train

The 52nd annual Wagon Train passes along Main Street Friday on its way to a campsite off Alex Baker Road. Besides the ride on horses and in wagons, participants enjoy children's games, dancing and food. (Catharin Shepard photo)

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8