

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

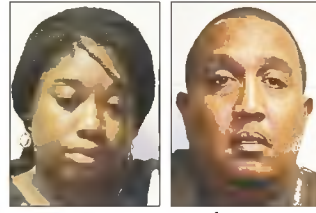


Oh Snap Contenders
These photos narrowly missed winning The News-Journal Oh Snap Photo Contest. Clockwise from top—Madelaine Kayser entered the Happy Child category with Lillie Jacobson and her puppy Dallas; Sherry Sanders captured the excitement of the beach with her grandchildren Noah McBryde and Kaiden Chavis; Michele Foster photographed birthday boy Kindle Shayn Young; and Jason Owens entered this picture of his happy daughter Kaley. Next week, the grand prize winner.



2 charged, 1 sought in armed robbery

Authorities have arrested two suspects and are seeking at least one more person wanted in connection with an armed robbery Sunday at a local gas station.



Knight Jones

Investigators with the Fayetteville Police Department arrested Rodney Jones, 37, and Michelle R. Knight, 28, both of Cambridge Arms in Fayetteville, on charges of felony conspiracy and robbery with a dangerous weapon. Law enforcement officers are also seeking a third suspect, whose identity has not yet been released.

Officers called to the Muncie Express on the 5600 block of Fayetteville Road around 1:49 p.m. Sunday in response to an armed robbery learned that two men entered
(See **ROBBERY**, page 13)

Man believed burned during copper theft

A man from Hoke County was seriously burned while allegedly stealing copper from an electric company power station, according to the Hoke County Sheriff's Office.



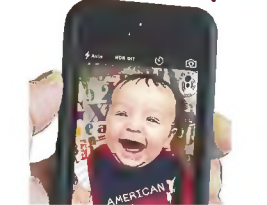
Riddle

Investigators with the sheriff's office arrested William Adam Riddle, 28, of the 2800 block of Red Springs Road with first-degree trespassing upon the infrastructure of a utility company, injuring utility wire/fixture and larceny.

Officials with the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation reported May 6 that someone had broken into a power
(See **COPPER**, page 13)

This Week

Oh Snap!



- Page 2
- Sales tax bill awaiting action**
Page 12
- Woman charged with weapons violation**
Page 12

Filmmaker seeks local support 'We're actually going for Sundance and Cannes'

BY CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Military veteran Andre Baldwin, born and raised in Hoke County, has returned home and is seeking the community's support to tell a story that he hopes will make it all the way to the big screen at international film festivals like Sundance and Cannes.

Armed with production equipment that he bought himself, Baldwin plans to film his first big project in the com-

munity where he grew up. His film "Illegitimately Black" will examine the experiences of black children born to unwed parents.

It's a subject that some might consider controversial, but it's an important topic to get people thinking and talking about, Baldwin said.

"The film follows a young black male and highlights the negative stereotypes associated with black illegitimacy in a broken home, and it depicts society's perception of an illegiti-

mate child and follows the child as they grow up," he said.

The movie also touches on the profound effect that verbal and physical abuse has on adolescents, he said.

The film will be based on true events and explores the real-life situations that many African-American children face. Statistics show that 72.3 percent of African-American children are born to unmarried parents, the filmmaker said. That's a large number of people sharing
(See **FILMMAKER**, page 12)



Baldwin, center, with lead actor Sharvar Daniels (left) and James O'Neil.

OTHER STUFF

BY KEN MACDONALD

We adults were sitting in a circle talking about important things like global warming and how Google is using blimps to provide internet—heck, I don't remember what we were talking about—but it was probably children or grandchildren, because the group was mostly women and that's all they talk about. "The doctor says he's in the ninety-fifth percentile for weight, but his mother took him for his four-month assessment a month early so I'm thinking that's not a fair assessment," I think someone said. When children's or grandchildren's doctor appointments or body mass indexes dominate the discussion, I zone out. And so I can't accurately repeat stuff. And it's also why I'm mostly always zoned out.

(See **OTHER STUFF**, page 13)

Sammy sets bar for students Blind boy's next challenge is Hoke High School

BY J.L. PATE

Rising freshman Sammy Sosa-Cantor was steps ahead of his ninth-grade peers as they converged Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week for Freshman Academy, the annual orientation for new students at Hoke High School designed to help incoming freshmen know where they need to go when the bell rings for the first day of class August 24.

Sammy, 15, who is among 225 eighth graders who graduated from West Hoke Middle School in June, has already spent several afternoons in recent weeks
(See **SAMMY**, page 7)



Sammy at Hoke High (Mary Lewis photo)

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