



Student held without bond for threat 'I'm shooting the school tmr' senior allegedly posts to social media

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

An 18-year-old student who posted a message on social media last week threatening to shoot people at Hoke County High School is now in jail without bond.

"F... all the b... a... teachers I had

to deal with in my school career," the message said (profanity redacted). "I'm shooting the school tmr."

Deputies arrested Jarell Marquise Jackson, 18, of the 100 block of Hollow Lane in Raeford on charges of communicating a threat of mass violence on educational property and making a false report concerning mass

violence on educational property.

Jackson reportedly posted the message on social media Tuesday, May 28. A student informed a teacher, who then called school administrators around midnight to warn them about the threat, Associate Superintendent Roger Edwards said. The sheriff's office also learned of the threat and went

to Jackson's house that night.

Authorities acted quickly to keep Jackson from returning to campus the next day.

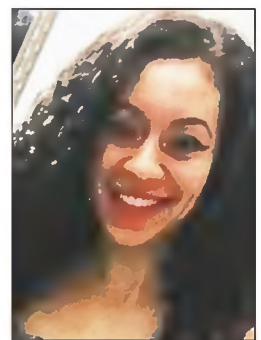
"They prevented him from being there, that's the first thing we wanted to do," Edwards said.

Hoke High Principal Dr. Adell (See *THREAT*, page 10)



Jackson

Hoke grad murdered in Charlotte



A woman from Hoke County was shot and killed last week in Charlotte, according to authorities.

Monica Kathleen Smith, 26, died

Smith

May 25 from gunshot wounds. She was shot in an apartment in north Charlotte around 7:30 p.m., according to law enforcement. Investigators (See *VICTIM*, page 10)

Cyclist airlifted after being hit

Emergency responders called in a helicopter to airlift a bicyclist to the hospital Sunday after a car struck him.

David Leon Matthews, 61, of the 200 block of Marquesa Way in Kure Beach was seriously injured in the accident, according to authorities. The wreck happened around 8:18 a.m. Sunday on Arabia Road in Lumber Bridge.

(See *CYCLIST*, page 8)



On the way home

A Blue Claws player rounds third base on his way to score a run as a Durham Bulls player yells for the ball during a game Monday night at the Hoke County Parks and Rec Complex on 211. (Photo by Ed Clemente)

Suspects connected to Allen Thomas home invasion

By CATHARIN SHEPARD
Staff writer

Investigators with the Pitt County Sheriff's Office have arrested a suspect found carrying a stolen shotgun belonging to Hoke County Commissioner Allen Thomas.

Authorities in Pitt County arrested Shyteek Simon Williams, 21, on multiple charges including breaking and entering the commissioner's apartment in Greenville.

Thomas brandished a shotgun to defend him-

self against an apparent home invasion at the apartment earlier this year. The suspects fled before police arrived. A few days later, Thomas returned to the apartment to find his television and the shotgun missing.

Pitt County deputies arrested Williams and 22-year-old Shykeem Williams last

month in connection with multiple car break-ins in the Belvoir community, according to authorities. During the investigation, officers located the stolen shotgun.

"They were arrested after breaking into several cars. Deputies searched their home where they found my property. They have

since confessed to stealing my things and are still in jail," Thomas wrote in a Facebook post late last month. "Special thanks to Sheriff Paula Dance along with the GPD for their work on this ongoing investigation."

Greenville Police Department public information officer (See *THOMAS*, page 10)

Hoke High band premieres piece commissioned by film composer

By DIANE ADAME
Intern

The Hoke County High School symphonic band premiered its newly commissioned piece, "The Wilderness" at its spring concert Friday at Fayetteville State University's Seabrook Auditorium.

"The Wilderness" was written specifically for the school's symphonic band by film score composer, Rossano Galante. Galante has composed music for more than 60 studio films, including "A Quiet Place," "The Mummy" and "Logan."

"It was amazing," said DeVon Pickett, Hoke County High School band director. "I

knew they had nailed it and when I looked at Rossano, he knew they had nailed it."

In 2017, the band performed Galante's piece titled, "Landscapes" at Carnegie Hall. A few days after this performance, Pickett posted a video of it on YouTube and caught Galante's attention.

"He was like, that's extremely well for a high school band to play that," said Pickett.

Pickett and Galante began talking back and forth about the band when Galante offered to commission a piece for them. However, Galante was booked completing other commissions for about a year and a half.

Pickett decided to contact Galante again (See *BAND PREMIER*, page 8)



Allen Thomas prepares to defend himself in this clip from his Facebook video.

OTHER STUFF

By KEN MACDONALD

At the end of October I found myself sitting at a lunch table with a handful of people I didn't know, but there was certainly kinship. We were among a thousand who had made our way to the mountains to a get-together of the oddest assortment of people ever (and yes, I confess to being odd). The girl sitting across from me had more colors in her hair than a bag of Skittles, and piercings in places that made me cringe. The guy (See *OTHER STUFF*, page 5)



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