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Grand Jury Indicts Undertaker

By Sherry Matthews

A local funeral home director was indicted Monday on nine separate counts of obtaining property by false pretenses, court records show.

Robert Lee Doby, 48, operator of Raeford's Doby Funeral Home, was arrested in early December and charged with nine counts of writing insurance policies without being a licensed agent.

Doby was placed under a \$1,800 unsecured bond but was released the day of his arrest, Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell said.

According to Powell, Doby was apparently writing insurance policies for Carl Virgil, also of Raeford.

Virgil, 55, a Raeford insurance agent, was also arrested and charged with three counts of permitting Doby to negotiate insurance policies.

Virgil's case did not go before the grand jury on Monday.

Virgil was allegedly allowing Doby to work for him. Doby was not a licensed agent.

In addition, Doby was apparently writing policies on his own, Powell said.

The North Carolina Insurance Commissioner's office is also checking into Doby's alleged involvement with collection of insurance premiums on "non-existing" policies, Powell said.

The Hoke Grand Jury also handed down a bill of indictment against a Fayetteville man, charged with the November Safeway Finance Company armed robbery.

Although Michael Reynolds, 31, plead guilty to the charges in Hoke District Court last week, the grand

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Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has been on the cold side, but the roads in this area were not ice-covered like they were in most parts of the state last weekend.

If the forecast holds true this type of weather should continue for the remainder of the week. The temperatures will be in the 30s at night and then climb into the 40s during the day.

The Super Bowl will be played Sunday in Tampa, Florida and this will about ring down the season for football. The television has been filled with games since last August. This is somewhat longer than in my younger days. Football season ended with the New Year's Bowl games.

I can't remember when the eight teams of the ACC were as evenly matched as they are this year. It is hard to say that any team will go undefeated during the season and maybe most of them will have two or more games.

It is almost impossible to obtain a ticket to a college basketball game at the ACC schools. All of the N.C. State and Carolina games are sold out and after looking at the sellout crowd at Georgia Tech Saturday, maybe all schools will be sold out next year.

Last year Georgia Tech was playing to crowds of 400 and 500. Sunday afternoon the sellout crowd in Atlanta was over 6000. This shows that fans will support a winning team. Tech is 10-2 so far for the season.

The courtroom was almost full for the swearing in ceremony for Warren Pate as District Court Judge on Monday morning. They were in attendance from both Hoke and Cumberland Counties.

Superior Court Judge D.B. Herring of Fayetteville was the presiding judge to swear in Pate. (See AROUND, page 11)



Swearing in Hoke's new judge

Raeford Attorney Warren L. Pate, selected last month to fill the 12th Judicial District Judge's seat that was recently vacated by retired Judge Joseph Dupree, takes the oath of office Monday during a special session of Hoke Superior Court. Resident Superior Court Judge D.B. Herring administered

the oath while about 100 persons watched the ceremony. Shortly after the ceremony and a reception, Pate went to work in Cumberland County for his first term of court. Pate is shown here with his wife Ann and three sons Josh, Jay and Sam, who are adding support to the oath taking.

Hoke Officials Vow 401 Fight

By Sherry Matthews

City and county officials are ready to "put the heat on" to get tabled plans to widen U.S. Highway 401 between Raeford and Fayetteville back on the state Department of Transportation (DOT) project construction lists.

Although DOT area director William F. Rosser said Friday that the 401 project was not on the list to be dual-laned in the next 10 years, Hoke County Commissioners said Monday they are ready to re-establish a battle to "get a project started."

"I think we should do all we can do to see that the highway is widened," Hoke County Commissioner James A. Hunt said.

"I am for any kind of motion that will put the heat on for four-laning 401," he added.

Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch agreed.

"I think there should be a lot of heat put on to get this thing started," Upchurch said.

In an interview last week DOT Division Engineer E.J. Butler said that "public demand" could help the Highway 401 situation.

Butler claims that plans to make 401 a "dual-lane" highway had been considered, but a shortage of

funds placed the project on the back burner.

"It was included in the highway program at one time...before money got scarce," Butler said earlier.

"If the county commissioners or residents felt it was necessary to get the road widened, they should make us aware of that," Butler said.

In 1982, both the city and county boards endorsed resolutions calling for the widening and improving of Highway 401 from Seventy-First High School in Cumberland County to the Raeford By-Pass in Hoke County.

In their resolutions, the boards called for the project to be "reincluded" in the 1983-1992 Highway Improvement Program with "a 1983 priority" for beginning the improvements.

Two years prior, Cumberland County Commissioners went on record opposing the DOT's planned widening project.

"We are not and have never been against the widening of the highway," Cumberland Transportation Planner Rick Heicksen said.

"The commissioners had no ob-

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Burlington To Start Major Expansion

Burlington Industries will begin a multi-million dollar expansion and modernization program at its Raeford Plant before the end of January, a plant spokesman said Monday.

The upgrading of the local facility is being made in a effort to make Burlington more competitive with foreign manufacturers, Plant Manager Bill Archer said.

Work on the project is expected

to be completed in 18 months, and when finished, the Raeford plant will have the latest in technologically improved equipment.

Burlington hopes that the new equipment will increase production, and help the firm to meet its growing share of the clothing market, Archer said.

Archer announced the expansion at a luncheon held for local community and political leaders.

Included in the expansion will be a \$4 million yarn preparation and warehouse addition. Site work for the new 35,000 square foot structure has already begun, Archer said.

Few new jobs will be created by the Burlington expansion, the plant manager said, adding that the changes are also not designed to replace the firm's present employees.

"While the project will not mean the addition of any significant number of new jobs, it will give us far greater capability to meet demands of changing fabric styling, quality and customer service. And that's the name of the game in worsted fabrics," Archer said.

Burlington expects to maintain its current number of employees which ranges between 1,600 and 1,700 workers.

The payroll, of which around 65% is earned by Hoke County residents, should reach about \$22 million, Archer said.

The Raeford plant, which prepares yarn and weaves worsted fabric, is companion to the Menswear Dyeing plant where wool top is dyed in preparation for yarn manufacturing and weaving.

Both are units of the Burlington Menswear division.

Costly Courthouse Restoration Decision Stalled

By Sherry Matthews

A decision to repair the 71-year-old Hoke County Courthouse was placed on the back burner Monday night after County Commissioners learned that the project could cost over \$230,000.

"This board really needs to get together and decide what we are going to do about this thing," County Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

"We need to decide how much we can spend, and where it should be spent," Balfour added.

The commission chairman did acknowledge the "possibility" of trying to finance "at least some" of the courthouse project with expected revenue sharing funds.

"I hope we will have some fund

balance money that we can use for this project," Balfour said.

"...If we could only get some federal or state money to help us get the ball rolling," he added.

Efforts to get state monies for the courthouse project were extinguished in early July after a \$82,500 grant application was not funded.

A second application for \$189,000 in matching federal funding through the Jobs Act Preservation grant was also denied.

Although both Hoke applications were denied, 11 appropriation bills that totaled \$368,000 were devoted to county courthouse projects, legislative records show.

The courthouse building, at present, has cracking exterior bricks,

uneven heat, window air-conditioners, peeling plaster and paint and a deteriorating roof, according to Raleigh Architect Bill Dodge with Dodge and Associates.

Dodge was at the Monday night meeting to bring the commissioners "up-to-date" on his firm's study of the facility.

"We are ready to go when you are," Dodge said.

According to the architect, the "first phase" of the project would include weatherstripping the building, doing interior glazing, cleaning the exterior masonry, and making exterior repairs to the masonry, painting the interior plaster and woodwork, ventilating the attic, cleaning the exterior masonry, painting the exterior to

coordinate with the repairs and repairing the downspouts and flat seam metal roofs, at a cost of \$87,350.

An additional \$127,500 would have to be spent to install central air conditioning that could be combined with the original furnace heating units on both floors of the courthouse, Dodge said.

Another \$17,000 has been estimated for the electrical repairs needed within the facility, he added.

"It is a great deal of money," Dodge said.

"We have failed on the funding so far...I believe we should keep pumping the people in Raleigh," he added.

"I realize that Hoke County has

an income problem," Dodge said.

"We absolutely should keep on it so the funds can be raised," he added.

Dodge's plan calls for the project to be worked on in priority phases, with the brick, plaster and masonry repairs, topping the list.

"It certainly should take priority," Balfour said.

"We would like to go with the priorities as you get the funds together," Dodge said.

In other business Monday night during the regular meeting, Hoke Rescue Squad Commander Johnny Melton presented the board with his annual squad report.

"This has been a pretty good year for us," Melton said.

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Students Charged With Vandalism

Three Hoke High students were arrested Wednesday and charged with vandalizing a Scotland County activity bus which was parked at the school during a wrestling match.

When Scotland County coaches and wrestlers returned to the bus following a match with Hoke High Tuesday, they found that seats on the bus had been slashed and a tire cut, Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

Over \$600 in damage was done to the bus, the chief added.

Two 15-year-olds and a 16-year-old were apprehended the next day and charged with damaging personal property, Wiggins said.

The students were turned over to juvenile authorities, the chief said.

In an unrelated incident, a 27-year old Hoke man was arrested Friday after he apparently shot another man, Hoke Sheriff's reports show.

Mitchell Locklear remained in jail Tuesday after being charged early Saturday morning with

assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and inflicting serious injury, the reports show.

Locklear is under a \$50,000 bond, a spokesman for the sheriff's department said.

The reports show that Harold Cummings, 20, was shot in the left side of his stomach with a .410 gauge shotgun.

Cummings was apparently in the Locklear home at the time of the incident, reports show.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a call from the Hoke Ambulance Service around 11:55 p.m.

Cummings was found lying on the front seat of a station wagon, parked at the rescue squad building, according to the reports.

The victim was transported to Cape Fear Valley Hospital where he remained Tuesday in stable condition.

Locklear was arrested approximately 40 minutes later after witnesses allegedly linked him to the crime, reports show.

In other city crime, a Raeford

man was charged with shoplifting from the Maxway Store in the Edenborough Shopping Center.

Albert Chavis, 27, of Roosevelt Street in Raeford was arrested Wednesday after employees at Maxway reported a shoplifter to local authorities.

Chavis was charged with the larceny of one \$2.99 scarf, Wiggins said.

Maxway also reported to city police the apparent theft of \$855 in blank Republic Money Orders that were locked in the store's office.

There have been no leads in the case, Wiggins said.

In further action, Robert McFadyen reported that someone took merchandise from his apartment while he was out of the room.

Taken was a camera and other items valued at \$58, Wiggins said.

The case is still under investigation, the chief added.

Raeford Plumbing and Heating reported Wednesday that someone had cut the lock off their fence and had taken a battery from a truck.



Winter time snuggle

As temperatures stay well below 40°, sometimes climbing into the low teens, even the farm animals look for companions to snuggle with to keep warm. These pigs try to get close as the winter chill strikes.