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It's not trash

In the third marijuana bust in the last two weeks, the Hoke County Sheriff's Department confiscated 161 pounds and 9 ounces of the illegal substance from Robert Turbeville last Thursday. Although

Turbeville was out of jail Tuesday on \$25,000 bond, he will face a probable cause hearing on August 24 to determine if he will stand trial on charges of trafficking in marijuana.

Red Springs man charged after marijuana discovered

By Ed Miller

A Red Springs man was released from jail Friday on \$25,000 bond after he was arrested the night before and charged with drug trafficking.

Robert Turbeville, 55, was arrested after Hoke County Sheriff's deputies discovered over 161 pounds of marijuana at his home.

Turbeville will face a probable cause hearing on August 24 to determine whether he will be tried on the trafficking charges.

Hoke County Sheriff's Detective Weaver Patterson obtained a warrant from Magistrate E.G. Inman and searched Turbeville's property, sheriff's reports show.

Upon arriving at the Turbeville's home, sheriff's deputies and an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) officer first searched a small building where they found a large number of empty white plastic one-gallon jugs, reports say.

The deputies then moved on to the smoke house where they found many plastic bags and some sheets full of cured marijuana, reports say.

As Turbeville unlocked the door to the smoke house, he allegedly said: "Well, I guess you boys got what you came for," the report says.

According to the report, 161 pounds, 9 ounces of marijuana was found.

Turbeville was arrested and held for one day before his bond was paid, a spokesman for the sheriff's department said.

In the report, Detective Patterson wrote that Turbeville readily waived his rights to silence and admitted to growing, harvesting, curing and packaging the marijuana.

A set of electric meat scales were also confiscated from the residence, reports say.

The sheriff's department has been investigating Turbeville for about three months, a spokesman said.

Investigating officers included Patterson, A.B.C. Officer Jim Madden, Detective Jimmy Riley and Detective Ed Harris, reports say.

County takes new bids for courthouse fixup

By Ed Miller

Hoke County will take bids again in an effort to find a contractor to repair the county courthouse.

Members of the Hoke County Commission voted unanimously Monday to rebid the first phase of the project to restore the 73-year old courthouse.

This will be the third time the county has accepted bids on the work.

In a previous meeting, commissioners had expressed dismay that only one construction company had submitted a bid on the work to be done to the roof, outside masonry, window repairs and some indoor plaster repairs.

Although Ellis-Walker & Co. of Fayetteville has bid both times on the work, commissioners still hope to get the total price of the work lowered.

"Competition makes a better business," Vice-Chairman James

Albert Hunt said when faced with the option of reopening the bids.

Ellis-Walker & Co. has submitted a bid of \$64,500 for the total cost of the construction, according to a letter from the architects who planned the work on the building.

Commissioners also passed a motion to let the consulting architect firm, Dodge and Associates, look at the possibility of installing a wheelchair lift in place of one of the sets of stairs that lead to the third floor court room of the old building.

The request was sparked by a letter from Raeford attorney Phil Diehl asking that the courthouse be upgraded to meet the standards of both federal and state laws which require that handicapped persons be given equal access to public buildings.

"We need a means of moving wheelchairs up and down, to and from the courtroom," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Fed ruling appealed

In other action, the commissioners voted to appeal the findings of the United States Department of Labor (DOL) that say Hoke County owes the federal government \$10,396 in disallowed Comprehensive Education Training Act (CETA) funds.

In a letter to County Manager James Martin, Finance Officer Charles Davis outlined the options available to the commission.

The county can repay the funds in question, appeal the case to the state or appeal the case to the USDOL, Davis said.

According to a report by Martin at a previous meeting, the appeal process has already been successfully completed on the state level a number of years ago, but now the USDOL is questioning that decision.

In the letter, Davis recommended (See MEETING, page 11A)

Armed robbery being probed

By Ed Miller

An armed robbery, which occurred last week at a Raeford convenience store was under investigation Tuesday, a spokesman for the Raeford Police Department said.

The Pantry, on East Central Avenue, was held up last Wednesday by two men with a handgun.

The men apparently came into the store and demanded money of the cashier, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said.

The thieves escaped with an undetermined amount of money after making the female cashier lie on the floor while they left, reports say.

In other Hoke County matters, a juvenile runaway was still in the Cumberland County Juvenile Detention Center Monday after being charged with stealing a fire truck, sheriff's reports say.

The juvenile is charged with taking the truck from Rockfish Fire

Department last week, reports say.

According to reports, witnesses saw the boy take the truck and followed him into Cumberland County until that county's deputies could locate vehicle.

The truck, which is valued at \$55,000 was returned to Rockfish but had sustained about \$1,500 in damage, reports say.

There was also about \$100 damage done to the fire house (See SUSPECTS, page 10A)

Hunt charged with traffic offense, says Robeson deputy has wrong man

Hoke County Commission Vice-Chairman James Albert Hunt has been served with warrants after a Robeson County deputy sheriff alleged that he chased the county official at "high speeds" on some back roads of northern Robeson County.

The South Hoke Commissioner denied the charges Monday and said he would welcome his day in court.

Hunt is alleged to have passed the deputy at a high rate of speed and the officer took chase, said Robeson County Sheriff Hubert Stone.

According to Stone, the deputy had warned Hunt on a previous occasion about speeding.

As the chase neared the Hoke County line, the deputy lost sight of the car he was chasing, said Stone adding that the deputy saw

Hunt's face in the car even though he was supposed to be speeding.

Hunt has denied the charges and will take the case to court, he said Monday.

According to Hunt, the car he drives is a different make, model and color from the one the Robeson County deputy chased.

Specific charges were not made available by the Robeson County Clerk's office.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Let's say that summer has arrived after a few days of fall weather. The rains have stopped and the high 90° temperatures seem maybe hotter than usual.

According to forecasts, the weather will continue hot for many days ahead.

There will follow two letters that I think will be of interest to readers of this column. The first is to Editor Warren Johnston from Congressman Bill Hefner and the second letter is from W.R. (Bill) Roberson Jr., Secretary of the Department of Transportation to Congressman Bill Hefner. They follow:

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Because of your interest, I thought you would like to see the enclosed letter from North Carolina Secretary of Transportation, W.R. Roberson, Jr., regarding improvements to US 401 from Raeford to Cumberland County.

I am very encouraged by Secretary Roberson's statement that the Board of Transportation will give every consideration to adding this project to the Highway Improvement Program when it is updated this fall.

The citizens of Hoke County can be assured of my continued in-



Zapped it

Last Wednesday afternoon saw the area around Raeford Presbyterian Church raining wood chips and splinters as lightning struck a tall oak tree. The electrical storm that raged across Raeford for about an hour, waited to strike the tree until the storm was

almost over. Pieces of wood up to 10 feet in length lay strewn all around the old tree and the scar left by the electric energy will be seen for years if it does not kill the tree. Church workers and Heritage Federal Savings employees inspect the damage.

Funeral home approved for Raeford location

By Ed Miller

Approval was given Monday night to allow the construction of a new funeral home in Raeford.

Members of the Raeford City Council agreed to allow the rezoning of a 11.6 acre tract from residential to commercial.

Property owner T.L. Butler was given the green light to construct a proposed funeral parlor-barber shop-beauty shop complex on the site which is off of U.S. Highway 401.

Although a number of persons showed up for the public hearing, there was no discussion from the floor when the question was called.

The vote of approval from the City Council was unanimous.

Sewage rates pondered

In another matter, City Manager Tom Phillips explained a proposed new system for figuring the amount to sewer charges imposed on a large industry.

The study was put into swing by Faberge who says they are being charged too much for sewage.

The firm claims they are being charged for water which does not go back into the sewer system.

Faberge uses about 1.4 million gallons of water per month, but claims to put only about 70% of that water back into the sewer system, said Phillips.

Under Phillip's plan, the actual amount of sewage that the plant

puts back into the system will be metered and a rate will be charged for that meter reading.

Faberge hopes to save about \$4,000 per year if the system is implemented, Phillips said.

The plan is to be put in for six months, and if the city finds it is losing too much money, the rates for plants under the system will be adjusted, the city manager said.

Councilman Graham Clark suggested the other large industries be contacted and told of the plan before it is actually implemented for Faberge.

Nursing home endorsed

In other business, the councilmen voted to support an application by Britthaven Nursing Homes, Inc. of Rocky Mount to build a facility in Hoke County.

The council voted to have Mayor John K. McNeill sign a letter of need for the city and endorsing the facility.

The state has already told the company of a need in Raeford, Phillips said.

The new facility, if built, will pay city and county taxes and create jobs for about 65-70 employees, Phillips said.

In further business, the council was told of a meeting with the state Department of Transportation Secretary to discuss Highway 401.

The county is asking that some (See FUNERAL, page 10A)