

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Unusually unlucky

Besides losing control of a fire started Monday to burn off his yard, and having it catch this house on fire, Calvin Corey McBryde faces possible charges after some 30 marijuana plants were found growing in pots under lights in the attic and the Hoke County

Sheriff's Department and the SBI were called in to investigate. McBryde, 17, was charged with misdemeanor larceny after an allegedly stolen scanner was found, but charges regarding the pot discovery are pending.

Salvage company owners win against county in court

Chief District Court Judge Sol Cherry has ruled the owners of L&S Salvage, Highway 211 S., were not guilty of a criminal offence when they allegedly violated the recently adopted Hoke County ordinance regulating junkyards.

Cherry's ruling in District Court last Friday followed arguments by County Attorney Duncan McFadyen, who prosecuted the county's case, and Greg Weeks, attorney for Larry and Sharon Livingstone and Vesty Jr. and Barbara Sasser, owners of L&S.

The Sassers and the Livingstones were charged with violating Section Four, Subsection B, of the Junkyard Ordinance, adopted by the County last October 19, after a mobile home was moved on to the property.

The ordinance states it is illegal to operate a junkyard within 300 feet of a housing unit.

The Livingstones and the Sassers purchased the property on Highway 211 S. on September 21 and applied for a permit to put in a septic tank on September 29. On October 16 the septic tank was inspected and found to be in compliance.

On October 19, Sasser applied for a permit to move a mobile home onto the property. The permit was issued.

That night, at the County Commissioner's meeting,

the Junkyard Ordinance was adopted with an effective date of October 20.

On October 31, the mobile home was moved onto the property.

Weeks argued that the Junkyard Ordinance was unconstitutional because it is more restrictive than state laws. He also argued that it was unfairly applied in this case, since permits were issued both before and after the date of ordinance adoption.

The warrant charging the Sassers and Livingstones with a violation, specifically mentioned that the mobile home had been placed on the property following adoption of the ordinance.

Weeks said the county had not shown the stated objectives of the ordinance "To protect the citizens and residents of Hoke County from inherently dangerous automobile graveyards, junkyards and repair shops and to promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and residents of Hoke County," had been violated in this case.

Judge Cherry, in finding the Sassers and Livingstones not guilty, said he was not ruling on the constitutionality question. He said he was ruling only on the reasonableness of the application of the law in this case.

County's bout with flu drags on

Though the situation has eased in some schools and businesses, Hoke County is still firmly in the grip of various viruses and the flu. A check of public schools shows the number of absent students down in five out of seven, but Scurlock and South Hoke absentees were higher than a week ago. Overall, absentees were down Monday about 27 percent from last week.

The county's three largest industries reported absentees above normal, but all three also said the situation hasn't appeared to be as serious as in the schools, and none reported cutbacks in production. Kent Vesser, personnel director of Burlington Industries, Raeford Plant, said more employees have been out than usual, but the situation there hasn't been that serious. He said many parents have been staying home with sick children.

At Faberge, Personnel Director Lowell Larson said there has been "a fairly lengthy list of absentees," but missing employees haven't reduced production, only "made life more difficult."

Molene Russell of the House of Raeford said until Friday, the situation there wasn't bad, but this week more workers than usual were out. Still, she says there have been no serious problems with production.

A spokesperson for the Hoke County Health Center said because no-one reports cases of the flu to the center, there aren't statistics available to reflect the severity of the situation. She said the Health Center no longer has a supply of flu vaccine, but added this isn't the time of the year to be vaccinating against the flu anyway, because there is a six-week delay before the vaccine builds immunity.

Hoke man murdered over weekend

A Hoke County man was shot to death on Saturday night while visiting his sister and her husband in the northeastern part of the county. His brother-in-law has been charged with the murder.

Dead is 31 year-old Bruce Allen Moncrief of Raeford. His brother-in-law, James Earl Cottle, 33, of Shamrock Isle Mobile Home Park in the Rockfish community was arrested about midnight and charged with murder.

Moncrief died of a 12 gauge shotgun wound to the right side of his neck, according to a Hoke County Sheriff's Department report. His body was taken to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Chapel Hill.

According to the report, Carol Ann Moncrief Cottle and her brother Bruce apparently got involved in an argument Saturday night at Cottle's home. When Hoke County Deputies responded

to a call about 11:30, they found Moncrief dead.

The report said Deputy Danny Hardin was met in the yard by James Cottle who told him he had shot Moncrief. Hardin found Moncrief's body on the living room floor. He then placed Cottle in custody and took him to the Hoke County Jail.

Cottle is being held in the Hoke County Jail without bond. He will have his first appearance in District Court this week.

Youth charged with sex offense

A 16 year-old Hoke County youth has been arrested and charged with First Degree Sexual Offense as the result of an incident Monday afternoon involving an eight year-old boy.

Detective Ed Harris of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department arrested Maurice Patterson of Rt. 1, Red Springs on Tuesday afternoon.

Patterson is being held in Hoke County jail under \$75,000 bond.

He is scheduled to have his first appearance in District Court this week.

Crime...

Barns catch fire; damage is \$20,000

An estimated \$20,000 in damage was done when two barns at the Joseph Tyler farm on Rt. 1, Raeford caught fire Saturday at about 2:30 a.m., according to a Hoke County Sheriff's Department report.

In addition to the damage to the barns, a car, a tractor, a lawn mower and other farm equipment were damaged in the fire.

West Hoke and North Raeford Fire Departments responded to the blaze which is under investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation.

Assaults reported

A warrant for assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury was issued Monday against 47 year-old Postell Wall of Rt. 1, Shannong. Wall is charged with assaulting 23 year-old Patricia McLeon of 425 Keith Avenue, Raeford on Sunday.

In another assault case, Bobby Lewis Green of Beaver Creek Mobile Home Park was attacked last Wednesday about 7:15 p.m. as he was walking in front of Scurlock School.

Green was attacked by two males who allegedly hit him in the back with a baseball bat and kicked him.

After the attack, Deputy Wayne Gardner took Green home but Green was unable to get out of the

car when they arrived. Green was then taken to the hospital by the Rescue Squad.

Utility pole taken from home

A 25-foot utility pole and 220 amp. electrical box were stolen from the mobile home of Eddie Hollingsworth on Doc Brown Road sometime between 11 p.m. on February 16 and 7:10 a.m. on February 17.

Wires in the ground between the house and the pole were cut and the pole and box removed. The pole and box were valued at \$340.

A 12 gauge Remington shotgun was stolen from the home of Calvin Beatty, 1516 Carpenter (see CRIME, page 16)

Phone service meeting scheduled

Zan Monroe, district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph, will be in Raeford on Thursday, March 3, to meet with Hoke County citizens concerned about phone service.

The meeting was requested by County Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch in response to those concerns.

The meeting was originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 3 in the Commissioner's meeting room in the Pratt Building on Main Street but Monroe has told *The News-Journal* the phone com-

pany has decided to "extend our availability that day" in order to accommodate more people.

As well as the 7:30 p.m. meeting which will be moderated by Alice Glisson, president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, Monroe and other phone company representatives will be in Raeford from noon until 6 p.m. that same day, also in the Commissioner's meeting room.

In addition, telephone lines will be available for use by people who cannot come in person. Residents can call 875-6005 between noon

and 6 p.m. to speak with a phone company representative to "raise any concerns or questions" they might have regarding the phone service, including matters relating to the telephone directory, Monroe said.

Glisson, who was asked by Upchurch to chair the evening meeting because the Chamber of Commerce played such an active role in getting extended area telephone service in the county, said "I think it's good we will have an opportunity to talk with the company about our concerns."

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather over the past weekend had most folks outside for activities. It rained last Friday, but it stopped long enough for most golfers to get in 18 holes of golf. It was cold Sunday night, but warmed up to about 60° Monday.

The forecast calls for the temperature to reach into the high 60s Tuesday and then cool off with highs in the 50s for the remainder of the week. Maybe the real cold weather is gone for this winter.

When I rode by the lot that has just been cleared on Main Street between the courthouse and Raeford Cleaners, it brought back memories of my childhood.

I first remembered a tennis court on that lot and that was in the early 1920s. After the tennis court lost out to the depression it was just a vacant

lot. The building now occupied by Raeford Cleaners housed the Raeford Post Office.

Most of the boys going to Raeford High School and grade school used the lot to play tag football. The number of players on each team was determined by how many were at the lot when sides were chosen. In talking to Jaybird McLeod he said that when seeing the lot cleared, he had the same thoughts.

Football was stopped when Mitch Epstein and D.C. Cox put up a tent and put in a bowling alley next to the courthouse. This was in the late 1930s.

Then came World War II. After the war Cooper's Food Store opened in the building just torn down. Just some history for the younger folks!

Harold Gillis, chairman of the Hoke County Democratic Executive Committee, asked me to remind all Democrats that precinct meetings will be held at all polling places on March 3 starting at 8:00 p.m. Make-up meetings will be held on March 10.

The business that will be conducted at these meetings will be the election of delegates to the county convention.

On Saturday, March 5 the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner will be held at the

State Fairgrounds in the W. Kerr Scott Building. The affair will start at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to have a ticket, contact Gillis and for \$50 he will supply you with one.

The Hoke County Convention will be held April 9 at 1 p.m. in the Hoke County Courthouse. Delegation will be elected to the district convention and the state convention.

I received a letter last week from a native of Hoke County, now living in Florida. I thought that it would be of interest to many people in the county and also hoped that someone could supply the information this lady is asking for from me. If you can help and don't want to write, then get in touch with me and I will record your information and send it to Florida.

The letter follows:

Dear Sam:

In reading *The News-Journal* I noticed that committees are starting work on the 1988 N.C. Turkey Festival. I thought you might be interested in seeing a story I wrote for our paper, *Florida Today*. It is one of the first of Gannett newspapers and where *USA Today* was started. I write a regular column for this paper, some features and regular columns for each (see AROUND, page 16)



Cooling it down

Pine Hill fireman keep a mist of water trained on a 55 gallon drum of a solven that nearly exploded in a woods fire Monday afternoon. Hoke County Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Niven says an Environmental Protection Agency representative from Fayetteville was called in, but determined there

was no danger as long as a spill was prevented. The drum was located on the Highway 15-501 property of a family which was storing the drum until a use could be found for it. Niven says had a spill occurred, a full cleanup would have been performed.