

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Defendant attacks bailiff in court, gets 150 days added to term

A Raeford man earned extra jail time Monday afternoon when he caused a ruckus during Superior Court.

Kenton Lawson will spend an extra 150 days in jail on contempt of court charges after he assaulted two bailiffs — including former Sheriff Alex Norton — and verbally abused Judge

Robert H. Hobgood.

Lawson is in jail on charges of selling cocaine and escaping from Hoke County Jail during a widely publicized August jailbreak.

Lawson, 17, of Raeford was apparently angry at all the time he was having to spend in jail before his case was tried. He has been in Hoke

County Jail since at least August.

His lawyer, a public defender, asked his case be continued to the next Superior Court session; that sparked Lawson's reaction.

"The boy was upset that his case had been continued again," said Sgt. Eddie Allen, who was serving with Norton as court bailiff.

"He said, no, if you've got enough evidence, try me, if you don't have enough evidence, release me," Allen said.

Lawson started calling the judge names and went for Norton. Allen came to help Norton and the three scuffled on the floor after Allen grabbed (See ATTACK, page 4)

Explosions investigated at plant

Plant and fire officials are trying to find what caused a series of small explosions inside a truck trailer parked at Chesebrough-Pond's last night.

Raeford Fire Captain Terry Tapps says what could be described as more of a small flash fire damaged only the trailer and contents, and caused no injuries, but set off aerosol cans of hair spray packed on six or seven pallets inside the trailer. "A couple hundred did go off," he said.

"You could see an indentation two or three inches deep in the top of the trailer," Tapp said, "where a can shot up."

Tapp says a worker was operating a fork lift inside the trailer, which was parked at a loading dock, and noticed the small fire. The worker escaped unharmed.

Tapp says when Raeford firemen arrived at about 9:30 they extinguished a small blaze, but decided to wait until the trailer was safe before investigating the cause of the fire. He said he and company officials intended to resume their investigation this morning.

He said the cans were pressurized at 600 pounds per square inch and contained a high percentage of alcohol. He said firemen used detectors to check for dangerous levels of alcohol.

Raeford, Hillcrest and North Raeford fire departments responded along with Hoke EMS and the Hoke Rescue Squad.

State rules slow water to Antioch

Though the pipes are laid in southern Hoke County, county water will be a little slow in getting to residents there who signed up for the service during the discount sign-up period.

That's mainly because the state has required contractors to grade soil so it slopes down from a well in Antioch.

The slope would "get runoff directed away from the wells," said Mike Dean, director of county utilities.

Dean hoped the grading will satisfy the state, he said, because the alternative is to raise the wells — which are encased in concrete — above the level of the land.

Meanwhile, contractors are concentrating on finishing the water works near Raeford Municipal Airport in north- (See WATER, page 10)

Commission supports river park with \$4,000

County commissioners voted last week to ante up \$4,000 to help fund a plan for Lumber River State Park.

Two other counties, Robeson and Scotland, have already committed to pay portions of the plan's bill which they were asked to foot.

Hoke was originally asked to pay \$6,500, still the smallest amount of any of the four counties (including Columbus) involved.

To be drawn up by North Carolina State University at a cost of \$115,000, the plan will mark out the future use of Lumber River as a state park. The state has made the Lumber a park, but made no special provisions for its use.

Various businesses and industries in the area have also contributed to the plan's cost, including a \$41,000 donation from Carolina Power and Light.

"I think eventually we will probably benefit from this," said Cleo Bratcher, the commissioner who moved to donate \$4,000. "I think we need to do what we can."



Ghouls along with the theme

Pete the Halloween cat seems to know he fits in with the theme of this display at 288 Crawford Wright Rd. near Bowmore. Paul and Barbara Beason, and children Benjamin and Daniel

erected the display. The fiend with the pitch fork doubles as a scarecrow in the family garden when not on Halloween duty.

Woman burned with gas, lighter

A man was charged Sunday with dousing his girlfriend with gasoline and setting her on fire.

Michael Wayne McDougal, 29, of North Raeford Mobile Home Park, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury after his girlfriend was allegedly burned on the arm, chest and face, according to a sheriff's report.

McDougal allegedly doused Patricia McLeod, 27, with a jug of gasoline in their North Raeford Mobile Home Park residence, then allegedly used a cigarette lighter to burn her, according to the report.

McLeod filed charges against McDougal shortly after the incident.

Two charged with theft from store

Sheriff's deputies arrested two men Friday in the thefts of a pistol and groceries at Easterling Grocery in Bowmore.

(See CRIME, page 8)

Use of Turlington an election issue?

Outcome of Tuesday's election may hinge on Monday's City Council vote

If there is one issue which might affect the outcome of the city council election, it is the city council's decision on what uses to allow the county with its newly acquired Turlington school campus on Prospect Avenue.

The council will consider the county's request to use the school for recreation, office and community college space at its next meeting, Monday night — the day before the election. The Planning and Development Commission (PDC) has recommended approval of the County's request.

Mayor Bob Gentry said Monday he would "recommend in all probability" that the county be allowed to use Turlington only to house Sandhills Community College, and that the county not be allowed to put any other kinds of offices there.

The Hoke County Board of Education gave Turlington to the county earlier this year in exchange for bonds to build schools.

Hoke County needs office space for social services; if its officials don't find or make that space, the state could slap a lawsuit on the county.

Now that the county has Turlington (as soon as students and teachers move on to West Hoke Middle School), it

wants to move cooperative extension and veterans' service out of the T. B. Lester Building on S. Magnolia Street and into the school building in order to make way for social services' new jobs program, which will start around January.

The county also sees Turlington's gym as the county's only opportunity to have a recreation center. The county cannot afford to build one.

There goes the neighborhood

But Turlington's neighbors — several of whom are councilmen or family relations — are fearful of continued and increased parking problems; and they say they don't want continued problems with youths hanging out at the gym late at night.

Most of the neighbors approached the PDC when the issue came up; with one voice, they said they would accept Sandhills Community College, but no other use. Word on the street is those voters will be watching to see what city councilmen decide Monday night — before they go to the polls Tuesday.

Ken Booker, running for a four-year term on city council, said he was most concerned "that the people have a voice in what's going on."

(See TURLINGTON, page 6)

Four sentenced in Harris Avenue drive-by shooting

Four young men were sentenced Thursday in crimes surrounding a drive-by shooting in which a Raeford girl was injured.

Three young Fayetteville men were convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and injury to personal property; one Raeford man was convicted of an assault which led to the shooting.

Stephanie Phillips, 15, daughter of Steve and Susan Phillips, was wounded slightly early on August 11 when an occupant of a car fired a shotgun as he

rode by a party outside a home at 218 Harris Avenue.

Phillips suffered one shotgun pellet wound in each foot, Murdock said. She was treated at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst and released.

Murdock said this shooting also apparently resulted from an argument, about 15-20 minutes before the shooting. He said the argument involved Michael Hagins, who attended the gathering.

Anthony Michael Adami, 17, of 6955 (See COURT, page 5)

Around Town

The weather has been warm for this time of the year. The temperatures over the weekend were in the 80s during the day and the lows were in the 60s. This should make October another month above the average. We haven't had any rain so the cotton pickers have just about finished for the year. Now that most of the cotton is picked, maybe the gins can catch up.

The forecast calls for cooler weather starting on Tuesday. The forecast calls for the temperature on Wednesday to be in the 60s during the day and the low will be in the 40s. Thursday through Saturday will see 70s during the day and 50s at night. There is no rain in the forecast.

A fine weekend for football.

The Hoke High School Bucks football team lost a hard-fought game to Richmond County last Friday night. The score was 14-12. Maybe the Bucks will have a chance to play Richmond County again if they can win in the playoffs.

The Bucks will be at home Friday night when they play the Lumberton Pirates. Game time is 7:00 p.m.

The Shiloh Ingathering was well attended and the fellowship with friends made the trip to Montrose worthwhile.

Bethel church will have their ingathering on Thursday, November 7, serving from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Then on Saturday, November 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. The Raeford United Methodist Church will have their Happy Hobby Harvest. A craft sale will be at 9 a.m. Then that night an auction will be held. So mark these dates and times on your calendar and go out for good food and fellowship with your neighbors. Also, it is a worthy cause.

Don't forget that Thursday night, October 31 is the time for the young people to come by your house and let you know that it is Halloween. It is always a fun-filled evening for me to see the kids dressed in different costumes and some so young that parents carry them in their arms. When you see this, you know that this family has been waiting for weeks to take the "little one," trick or treating.

So leave your porch light on and await the arrival of the witches and goblins. Of course some may be turtles, Simpsons, etc. Anyway, it is fun to (See AROUND, page 4)