

## **Carteret and Craven Deputies Arrest Man Following Chase**

Carteret-Craven County Line Area

In the early morning hours of Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> Michael Lee Roberts, 28, of New Bern, was arrested following a vehicle pursuit by Carteret County Sheriff's Deputies who were chasing Roberts as he headed back into Craven County. Several hours earlier Roberts stole a work truck from Craven County. The vehicle larceny was reported to Craven County authorities who issued a broadcast for law enforcement to be on the lookout for the stolen vehicle. When Carteret County broadcast the BOLO (Be On Lookout) a Sheriff's Deputy was near the intersection of Laurel Rd and Hwy 101 when he noticed a vehicle matching the description parked at the Zingo's convenience store on Hwy 101. As the deputy pulled into the parking lot he saw Roberts, who had broken into the store just moments before, exiting the store carrying beer and cigarettes. Roberts got into his truck and attempted to flee from the Deputy as he got onto Hwy 101 headed back towards Craven County. Deputies radioed ahead and Craven County Deputies deployed stop sticks which disabled the vehicle and Roberts was taken into custody on Blades Rd without further incident.

Roberts was charged with Probation Violation, Breaking and Entering, Larceny of Motor Vehicle and Damage to Property by Craven Deputies and Felony Breaking and Entering, Felony Larceny, Damage to Real Property, Possession of Stolen Property, Speeding, Driving Left of Center, Felony Flee to Elude Arrest and Reckless Driving to Endanger by Carteret County Deputies.

Roberts was placed on an \$18,000 secured bond and is currently being held in the Carteret County Jail. His first appearance in court is set for Monday.

Sheriff Asa Buck reports that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> incident in a one month period involving suspects committing property crimes and then leading deputies into "high speed" chases into neighboring counties. The other two recent chases lead into Jones County arising from crimes committed in Western Carteret County.

"The common factor present in these crimes is drug abuse. In each of these cases drug abuse was a contributing factor that led these suspects to commit crime so that they could obtain drugs to satisfy their addictions. Drug abuse is not a victimless crime" said the Sheriff.

"Carteret and Craven Deputies did a fine job in taking this suspect into custody very quickly and without any being injured" said the Sheriff.