

... B&E arrests above average

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is caught at a break-in, 15 cases are cleared from the books.

Phillips is the former City Manager of Troy, which is in Montgomery County.

The Sheriff of Scotland County could not be reached for comment on percentages in his county.

In comparison to some surrounding counties, Hoke may have a high crime rate, but there are things residents can do to protect their homes, according to Sheriff Barrington.

Community Watch programs are set up in some areas of the county with citizens patrolling all night, said the sheriff.

For instance, in the Puppy Creek area, there were 100 break-ins the year before a Community Watch was set up, Barrington said. The next year, there were three, he said.

The number of break-ins has risen in the past few years, but Barrington suspects there would have been three to five per day in that area without the community watch.

"Dogs are normally a deterrent," said the sheriff.

A good watch dog can at least alert neighbors to something going on around a house.

"Hoods will normally stay away from a barking dog," said the sheriff.

People must also take precautions to protect themselves from crooks who will ride around looking for a home that looks unoccupied, said Barrington.

Keep the bushes around a house trimmed down, he said.

If there are no high bushes, a would-be crook will have nothing

to hide behind near a window, said Barrington.

Have a trusted neighbor pick up newspapers and mail if planning to be out of town for any length of time, he said.

Hire someone to mow the lawn in the summer when away, Barrington said.

If living in a house, put solid doors to all outside entrances, said the sheriff.

"A solid door is hard to kick in," he said.

Sliding doors can be made harder to open if a pipe or stick is placed in the track, he said.

When such an implement is in place, a would-be thief will have to break the glass to get inside, he said.

Windows can be made more secure by putting nails above the bottom sliding pane, Barrington said.

Also a hole can be drilled through both sections of the window and into the frame where a nail can be inserted to prevent any opening unless the nail is removed or the glass broken.

Barrington said that normally, crooks do not like loud noises like glass breaking.

Never keep keys in a flower pot or under a door mat, Barrington said, adding that people should not leave notes telling friends where a key can be found.

Many times, crooks will pose as salesmen or representatives from local governments, said the sheriff.

"Never trust anyone who comes to your door that you do not know," Barrington said.

Women who are at home alone should beware of anyone coming

to the door and asking for "the man of the house."

If a person appears at the door saying they are from the tax office, get an identification, call the tax office and call the Sheriff's Department.

"Beware of people who want to paint your house cheap or take leaves in your yard," he said.

"Don't ever let anyone in your house to use the telephone," Barrington said.

If leaving the home at night, leave a porch light on.

Most importantly, the sheriff said to call his department and tell someone when leaving town.

Tell the department what lights will be left on inside the house and what cars will be parked in the yard, Barrington said, adding that his deputies will patrol day and night.

Never let a strange noise in the night go by without thought.

"If there is anything unusual going on in a yard at night, call. Don't wait to see if anyone is going to break-in. Call 875-5111. There might be a deputy in the area. If not, we'll send one," said Barrington.

The best way to catch a thief is to get him before he leaves the scene.

"Each day a case goes unsolved, the chances of solving it are less," the sheriff said.

The average heart attack victim waits three hours before deciding to seek medical help, according to the American Heart Association. As a result, each year 350,000 people die of a heart attack before they reach the hospital.



A new way

The local plant of Burlington Industries has set up an energy generating system in conjunction with the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation. A new boiler system was put into the plant that produces more steam than the old one. Steam is used in the plant to drive some small machines. The new boiler system puts out enough energy to run the

machines and turn a turbine, producing electricity for the plant. The system is the first one installed in North Carolina that can be studied by other companies planning to take on such a project. Here, representatives from power companies in North Carolina and Virginia study the controls for the new system during a recent tour.

County plagued by break-ins

Hoke County residents were plagued with 10 break-ins last week, according to reports from the Sheriff's Department.

On January 23, the door of a house belonging to Lee Fatrell was found open by an area citizen.

The Sheriff's Department was called and the home was discovered broken into, reports say.

Taken in the robbery were some

video tapes, a video tape recorder, a 35 millimeter camera, a one quarter karat diamond ring and two television sets, reports show.

Estimates of the value of the items were reported at \$3,100.

On the day before, the home of Robert Monroe was broken into, reports say.

A vacuum cleaner worth about \$900, a rug, a stereo, a television and a shotgun were among the

items reported missing from the trailer.

The total costs of the items were reported at about \$1,450.

On January 24, Lee Roy Williams reported his house broken into.

Taken from the house was a .22 calibre rifle, a .22 calibre pistol and some money, reports say, adding that the house was ransacked.

About \$170 in personal goods were reported missing.

Alexander Page had the door of his home kicked in before alleged thieves took his possessions, reports say.

Apparently stolen from the house was a stereo AM-FM radio, a black and white television and two pigs, reports say.

The missing items were valued at \$610, reports say.

On January 29, the home of Leon Locklear was broken into, reports say.

Clothes, food and appliances reportedly worth \$1,720 were taken in the break-in.

The investigation is continuing into a break-in at Jimmy's Exxon, according to reports.

On January 30, the station was apparently robbed of 48 butane cigarette lighters, 65 cartons of cigarettes and some money.

About \$639 in merchandise was taken, reports say.

Employees at Midway Garage reported that someone broke into the shop and took an electric welder.

The welder is valued at \$350, reports say.

The home of Darrel Thompson was reportedly broken into on January 29.

Furniture, kitchen appliances and electronics valued at \$1,100 were taken, reports say.

A pump belonging to Tony Ray Jones was allegedly stolen from his pump house on January 30.

Water and power lines leading to the pump were cut, reports say.

The pump was reportedly worth about \$250.

Odell Miller reported Miller's Garage broken into on January 30.

The fence surrounding the business was broken down, reports say.



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<p>DAIRY COBLE MILK ½ gal. 98¢</p>	<p>FROZEN FOOD Jeno's Pizza •Pepperoni •Cheese •Sausage 99¢</p> <p>Banquet Pies •Peach •Apple 99¢</p>	

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