

Detective Doubts Report Of Kids' Hammer Assault, Robbery

A 47-year-old Leland man claims he was hit in the head with a hammer and robbed of \$800 cash by a group of children ranging in age from 6 to 12, according to a crime report on file at the Brunswick County Sheriff's office Monday.

But the detective assigned to the case has his doubts about the story, saying he believes the man might have fallen and hit his head while intoxicated.

"I'm taking all this with a grain of salt. There are some things that don't add up," said Detective Steve Mason. "I think his time frame may be a little off."

According to the incident report, a woman called 911 to report that her neighbor on Heights Place had been assaulted and robbed Thursday evening. She later called back to say that he had been taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Mason and Deputy William Hewett visited the man at the hospital, but found him "not conscious."

The next day, the man told Mason that "as many as eight children came to his residence about his puppies, and one of them, a nine-year-old female, struck him with a hammer" and took his wallet, containing \$800 cash and three checks.

The daughter of his landlady told Mason she found him on the floor, the report said.

Mason said it appears that the man may have been drinking when several neighborhood children came to play with his new puppies. The detective said one of the youngsters told him the man was passed out on the floor when they arrived.

"I think he may have fallen, hit his head and woke up a little confused," Mason said. An investigation is continuing.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's office Monday:

■A 69-year-old retiree in Navassa told Deputy Matt Jesson that someone fired a shotgun at his car Thursday night. The man said he was in his home on Main Street at about 10:30 p.m. when "he heard gunshots, which he advised is not uncommon for this area." The next morning he found an undetermined amount of damage to the left mirror and door of his 1979 Lincoln.

■A 9mm Tech Nine semi-automatic assault pistol was stolen from a Calabash pawn shop last week. The owner told Deputy Phil Bryant that the gun may have been stolen by a man to whom he had loaned his keys a few days before the theft was discovered. The gun was estimated to be worth about \$200.

■Two shotguns and a .22-caliber rifle were reported stolen from a mobile home on Maco Road, Leland. The owner told Deputy Richard Long that he was looking for his shotgun to go hunting Friday morning when he noticed it was missing, along with two other weapons. The man said he did not know when the guns were stolen because he stored them after last year's hunting season and had not checked on them since. Long estimated the value of the weapons at about \$500.

■A .25-caliber semiautomatic pistol was reported stolen from a home on Mt. Misery Road, Leland, Friday morning. The victim told Richard Long that she was moving some belongings to her mother's home when she noticed the gun missing from its hiding place under her mattress. It was valued at about \$53.

■Two motorcycles and a four-wheeler valued at \$4,200 were stolen from the back yard of a home on Lanvale Road, Leland, last week. A woman told Richard Long that she discovered the three all-terrain vehicles missing at about 8 a.m. Monday. They were described as a gray Yamaha four-wheeler and two white Yamaha dirt bikes, models P-80 and a P-50.

■An estimated \$3,000 worth of fishing tackle and household items were stolen from a mobile home on Crest Lane in the Forest Hills subdivision, Supply, sometime in the past two months. The owner returned to the trailer recently and discovered that someone had

CRIME REPORT

forced his way in through the front door, according to Deputy Malcolm Long. Missing were two color televisions, a videocassette recorder, a microwave oven, 10 rods and reels, nine video games, a gas grill, a set of women's golf clubs and a vacuum cleaner. There was an estimated \$150 damage.

■Someone broke into Hewett's Grocery Store on Mt. Pisgah Road, Supply, and stole more than \$2,500 worth of merchandise Thursday night. Deputy Malcolm Long reported that the suspects apparently forced their way into the rear door, breaking a deadbolt lock from the frame. "Items were missing from every shelf," he said including 60 cartons of cigarettes, 22 Bic lighters, 20 six-packs of soft drinks, 10 bags of chips, 10 boxes of gum, 10 disposable razors, 10 rolls of Bounty paper towels, 12 peanut butter bars, two packages of extra-strength Tylenol, three boxes of Advil, 10 combs, six toothbrushes and some toothpaste, aspirin, nasal spray and deodorant.

■More than \$2,350 worth of property was stolen from a woman who lives on McMilly Road, off N.C. 130 near Shallotte, last week. Deputy Robert Long said she returned home Friday night at about 8 p.m. to find that someone had pushed open the glass on her rear living room window. Missing was a television, a VCR, a sewing machine, a miniature tape recorder, a video game machine, a class of 1975 West Brunswick High School ring and a set of barber clippers.

■A kerosene heater, a videocassette recorder, a color television and a cable box with remote control were stolen from a mobile home in Longwood Saturday night. Bryant estimated the value of missing property at \$560.

■Eight rods and reels valued at \$524 were stolen from a home on Mary Street, off Gurganis Road, Shallotte, sometime in the past three weeks. The owner told Robert Long that he had left them leaning against a fence in the yard and discovered them missing Nov. 14.

■Two televisions, a vacuum cleaner, a down sleeping bag and a blanket were stolen in one of two break-ins reported on Elkin Street in the Coastal Retreat subdivision, Supply, last week. A Charleston, W.Va., man told Deputy Jerry Gray that he arrived at his mobile home Sunday afternoon to find that someone had pried open and broken a rear window to get inside, causing an estimated \$125 damage.

■While investigating that break-in, Gray reported that he "was informed of the trailer next door as being in need of a larceny report" and walked over to investigate. The owner, also from Charleston, said her trailer also had been entered through the rear window. Missing was a color TV, three rods and reels and a coat, all valued at an estimated \$600. There was about \$200 damage.

■A man told Bryant that someone stole his VCR while he was asleep in his home on McLamb Road, Calabash, Saturday night. "The victim advised that when he went to bed at 10 p.m., the VCR was playing and when he got up the next morning it was gone," said Bryant's report, which listed the value of stolen property at \$250.

■About \$75 worth of liquor, beer and soft drinks were stolen from a home on Eleanor Street in Hurricane Haven, Supply, recently. The Fayetteville man who owns the home told Deputy Rebekah McDonald that he arrived there Friday evening to find that someone had pried open a window, causing an estimated \$200 damage. "He advised that he has not given anyone permission to enter his residence in this manner," McDonald reported.

■A black-and-white TV valued at about \$50 was stolen from a home on Northwind Drive in Ocean Trail subdivision, Supply, sometime in the past few weeks.

Deputy Joey Adams found that someone had apparently pried open the front door to get inside, causing an estimated \$250 damage.

■A Bolivia man told Deputy J.R. Earp that someone stole his son's black BMX bicycle from the yard of their home on Midway Road last week. Its value was estimated at about \$70.

■Someone broke through the front door of a mobile home on Leigh Court, off Maco Road, Leland, Saturday night, causing an estimated \$1,050 damage. The owner told Sgt. Darryl Marlow that the only thing missing were some check books.

■A handicapped driver registration tag was stolen from the car of a man who lives on Cedar Landing Road, Supply, last week. The man told Malcolm Long

that he had left his car unlocked with his permanent disability identification card inside. Its cash value was estimated at \$5.

■Jesson investigated the theft of \$17 worth of gasoline from a Belville convenience store Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 16). A clerk at the store said that two men pumped the gas at about 12:15, then drove off in a blue 1978 Chevrolet pickup truck.

■Laundry and linens valued at about \$106 were stolen from a clothes line behind a trailer in the Eldorado Mobile Home Park, Leland, Sunday morning. Listed as missing on Jesson's report were four baby blankets, two bed spreads, a horse blanket and three sheets described as "white, with Cape Fear Hospital stamped on them."



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Niles Earns Recruiter Ring

Staff Sgt. Timothy Niles (left) receives his recruiter ring, the highest achievement for recruiting excellence, in a special ceremony in Raleigh. Presenting the award is Brigadier Gen. Robert Roper, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Ft. Knox, Ky. Niles, who is assigned to the U.S. Army recruiting office in Kinston, was also named "Top Reserve Recruiter of the Year." He had previously won several incentive awards relating to his recruiting performance. A native of Shallotte and 1984 graduate of West Brunswick High School, he is the son of Josie Niles. He is shown above with his wife, the former Wendy Holmes, daughter of Margaret Holmes of Shallotte.

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When Gardening On Seacoast, Not Just Any Plant Will Do

The beach environment—with its salt spray, sand, temperature extremes, fluctuating tides and buffeting winds—is hostile to most plant life.

That can make establishing a lawn or garden, creating a bird habitat or controlling shoreline erosion a challenge for those who live or work on the beach.

On Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, a team of five specialists will share their expertise with homeowners, landscape contractors, developers or anyone else with an interest in salt-tolerant coastal plantings.

The seminar will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Sponsors are the N.C. Cooperative Extension

Service offices in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties, the N.C. Aquarium and UNC Sea Grant.

Spencer Rogers, coastal engineering specialist with the UNC Sea Grant program at Fort Fisher, will share his experience with breakwaters, a new approach to shoreline erosion control that appears to be more effective than traditional bulkheads.

Also, Brunswick County Extension Director Milton Coleman will discuss beach and dune stabilization. Coleman has been recognized nationally for his work in dune stabilization using sea grasses, recycled Christmas trees and other approaches.

Bruce Williams, the extension service's regional turf grass specialist, will discuss choosing grasses for

the ocean front home.

Jim Lanier, director of the North Carolina Aquarium, will discuss salt-tolerant plants at the aquarium, while Steve Broome, a professor in the Soil Science Department at N.C. State University will discuss ways to use marsh vegetation for both shoreline erosion control and habitat creation.

To register for the workshop, call either the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, 910-253-4425, or the New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Office, 910-452-6393.

The aquarium, located at Kure Beach, can be reached by way of U.S. 17 and U.S. 421, or by way of the Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry.

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