

Hoke teen attacked by other youths

A Hoke teen was attacked and beaten by several young men last week.

A 14-year old youth was attacked in his home at North Raeford Mobile Home Park on Tuesday by five males.

The youth told Sheriff's deputies the group placed a bag over his head and beat him with sticks and their fists.

Two of the five were identified as classmates from West Hoke Middle School.

The youth was not seriously injured, but suffered a knot on the head.

His mother will press charges according to reports.

Three charged with drug offenses

Two local men were arrested on drug charges in connection with an early morning raid on Saturday.

Hoke Sheriff Detective Walter Rea arrested Myron McPhatter, 42, and Myron Ray, 22, both of 100 Brown Street and charged the pair with possession of cocaine.

The two were rounded up by detectives around 12:30 a.m.

Each man was held under \$1,000 bond.

In a separate incident, Raeford

City Police arrested a 16-year youth on drug charges last Wednesday.

Henry D. Jacobs Jr., 16, of Route 1 Shannon was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Break-ins, thefts reported to authorities

Another area church was broken into on Friday.

Dundarrach Baptist Church off Highway 20 was found unsecured 6:30 p.m. by a parishioner, according to Sheriff's reports.

Nothing was reported stolen, however an interior door in the church was damaged.

A car was stolen from a Raeford business last Wednesday.

Daniel's Exxon on Central Avenue reported a 1985 Buick Riviera stolen around 11 a.m.

A Hoke man reported his home robbed last Tuesday.

Earl McLean of Lot 1 Pilgrim Mobile Home Park reported he left his home for only a half hour, and returned to find the front door pried open and his home robbed.

Taken were a shotgun, a rifle, a Kenwood stereo, \$6,000 in disc jockey equipment and \$350 in record albums.



Errollvinski Mendez



New pastor

Derwin Johnson has been appointed pastor of the St. Matthews Church of God in Timberland. He is a 1975 graduate of Hoke High and also holds a degree in human services technology. He is an 18-year veteran of the N.C. Dept. of Corrections and resides with his wife, Veronica and four children in Hoke County.

**Say you Saw It in
The News-Journal**

Venezuelan pursues dreams with Hoke County education

In 1985 Errollvinski (Enroll) Mendez came to the United States from Venezuela to pursue his dream of obtaining a better education.

Working full-time to support his family, Mendez began his studies at a Basic Skills Program in New Jersey. After moving to Hoke County last year, Mendez found a daytime job at Carolace Embroidery and continued his basic skills classes at Sandhills Community College, Hoke Center.

This month, Mendez achieved his goal by becoming the first person in his family to obtain a high school equivalency diploma (GED). "My father is very proud," said Mendez with a smile, "and so are my wife and children."

Like all students in SCC's Basic Skills Program, Mendez worked at his own pace and followed a curriculum designed for his individual skill level and learning goals.

To provide additional guidance, Mendez also received daily one-on-one assistance from his instructor, Lisa Harris. "The instructors in this program are very different from my teachers in Venezuela," he

said. "Here, they spend more time with the students... and they explain everything in detail."

Harris commends Mendez' efforts in the classroom. "Despite the challenges of a language barrier and full-time job, Erroll was very diligent about his studies and never let anything stand in the way of his goal," she said.

Now that Mendez has his GED, he plans to attend college and major in Criminal Justice. "I feel 100 percent better about myself now that I have my diploma," said Mendez. "And I really want to continue my education to provide a better life for my family."

Mendez believes a high school diploma is indispensable in today's job market and has advice for those who are considering enrolling in basic skills classes. "Going back to school is nothing to be afraid of," he said, "just go for it."

SCC's Basic Skills Program offers free daytime and evening classes at several locations throughout Hoke County. For more information, contact the Hoke Center at 875-8589.



Pet of the week

This kitten is friendly, but won't look at the camera. Maybe he'd be happier in your home. He and other pets are available for adoption at the Hoke Animal Shelter. Call 875-5486 for more information.

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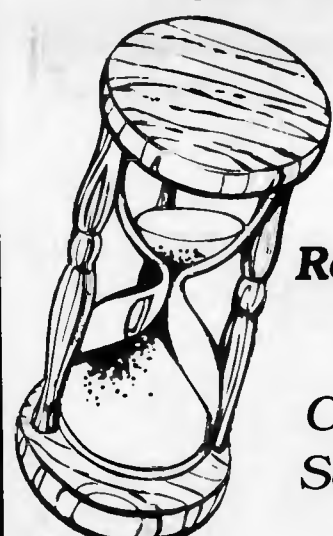
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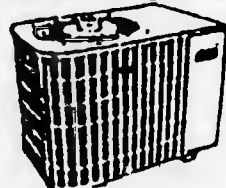
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