

The News-Journal

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Suspected kidnapper caught, bond is \$1 million

Kidnapped at age 11 and held in Mexico for 3 years, Dana Pevia attracts national attention



By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A national manhunt planned by Sheriff Hubert Peterkin and the FBI to apprehend kidnap and rape suspect Hector Mojarra-Frausto was shortlived. Frausto, who allegedly detained a South Hoke child in Mexico for three years

against her will, was captured just three days after 15-year-old Dana Pevia was returned safely home with her two children to Hoke County.

Frausto was recognized by a citizen in Gatesville, North Carolina and was captured by the Gates County Sheriff's Office on Friday, according to Sheriff Hubert Peterkin.

He is charged with first-degree kidnapping and statutory rape and is being held in Hoke County Jail on a \$1 million secured bond. His first court appearance was yesterday after being extradited by the Hoke Sheriff's Office from Gates County over the weekend.

"Dana did not just up and leave her family, go to Mexico and stay for four years," Peterkin said. "We have determined she was forced to leave Hoke County by Hector Frausto. He has been very cooperative, substantiating much of what Dana has already revealed to us."

Meanwhile, Dana's ordeal to survive as essentially a prisoner, and her ultimate escape from her alleged kidnapper are tentatively scheduled to be televised nationally on The John Walsh Show. This program is a spin-off of the award-winning America's Most Wanted TV series. Inside Edition documentary staff have also reportedly contacted the Pevia family.

"I have received the contract from The John Walsh Show," Peterkin said. "Hector Frausto would have appeared on America's Most Wanted if he

ad not been captured. I appreciate the FBI assisting us with this case. They have been very supportive."

According to Peterkin, Frausto was working in

the Norfolk, Virginia vicinity. He was spotted by a citizen who had seen his photograph after recent news coverage of the search for Dana's kidnapper.

A former honor student at South Hoke Element-

tary School, Dana was reported missing almost four years ago. She was only 11 at the time of her disappearance from her bus stop at South Hoke

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Above: Dana hugs a relative when she arrives at Raleigh Durham International Airport. Left: Family and friends erect a welcome-home sign in the presence of TV cameras.
AP PHOTO by Jon Gardiner

Mom says daughter's case ignored by former sheriff's administration



By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Yellow ribbons, which adorn the mailbox and a large welcome home banner mark the safe return of kidnap victim Dana Pevia to her South

Hoke family. Yet her Native American mother, Wanda Pevia, is grieving over her daughter Dana's betrayal by alleged Hispanic kidnapper, Hector Mojarra Frausto, while she was in confinement for three years in Mexico. The elder Pevia and sister Rita McNeill are also outraged at the lack of caring from the administration of former sheriff Jim Davis, and the U.S. Embassy's reluctance to send her home unless the Pevia family could pay for Dana's airfare.

"My little girl was gone for three years, nine

months and 22 days," Pevia said in tears. "I want to know why the former sheriff's office (Jim Davis) did not do more to find her"

"We thought Sheriff Davis had turned Dana's kidnapping information over to the FBI. I want to know what the former sheriff's office did to my daughter's file."

Dana was a child of 11 when she disappeared and could not think for herself, said Pevia and McNeill. They said everyone let her down.

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Hoke's top stories
are on the web;
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Chaplain to create 'Wall of Honor' for Hoke soldiers

Rally planned, website honors troops too

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

A "Wall of Honor" is being established by the Rev. Elle Graham as an inspiration to local families who have Hoke relatives serving in the War with Iraq. His son, Marine Lance Corporal Elliot B. Graham, is assigned to Operation Freedom Iraq. He will become the first person honored in Hoke, serving as an example for others to be recognized, according to Graham.

"I hope the Hoke community can take a moment out of human compassion for the sacrifices our troops are making to keep us safe," said Graham. "If you watch TV long enough, it is like a bad movie to watch the war, seeing people blown up and missiles being fired," Graham said.

"These are real people and Lord only knows how many people we have from Hoke County over there."

Graham said a lot of career personnel and a lot of young folks fighting for the

nation reside in Hoke.

"We want citizens to see the person," he said. "I hope it will encourage all proud parents or friends to come forward with photos of someone they know in Iraq so we can pray for their safe return."

Each week, *The News-Journal* will publish photographs with a brief biography of local military serving in the Middle East. Information and photos may be submitted to editor Pat Allen Wilson with also a brief message to each relative featured.

"I am hoping the Hoke Public Library will also allow us to place a Wall of Honor

display for everyone to see," Graham said. "I think the military is doing a great job, and I think this commemoration will be positive for our county."

"It will also cause the military population here to embrace this county more. It should send an overwhelming and powerful message to our loved ones that we support them."

Graham, a former Vietnam veteran and chaplain of the Alphonso Pickett VFW Post No. 7930, said he knows how recognition can transform the attitude of someone serving in a war.

(See WALL OF HONOR, page 5A)

Identity theft ring broken up with arrests, warrants

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
Staff writer

Sheriff's detectives have arrested a band of identity thieves who stole credit cards and personal checks out of mailboxes belonging to Hoke residents. Chief Deputy

Troy McDuffie said at least \$10,000 of property was stolen.

"These suspects were even making catalogue orders and purchases with these people's credit cards since January," McDuffie said. "It was a really big ring. The group started their illegal operations

in Cumberland County. When they spread their activities into Hoke, we took over."

"Some of the people allegedly involved in the identity theft ring are from Red Springs and Fayetteville. Two suspects have been arrested and two more have outstanding warrants against them."

McDuffie credited Sgt. Harold J. Johnson of the Sheriff's Office with solving the case.

Michael Anthony Banks, 28, of Conestoga Drive in Fayetteville, was arrested on March 20. He was charged with

(See THEFT RING, page 5A)



Out of the past
The Pine Forest school was moved yesterday from its location in a wooded area off U.S. Highway 401 in eastern Hoke to the Raeford-Hoke Museum. The one-room schoolhouse is more than 100 years old.



News-Journal raises subscription rates

Due to increased costs of postage, *The News-Journal* is raising its subscription rates. The rate increase is the first in eight years.

Out-of-county subscriptions will cost \$30, effective immediately.

In-county subscriptions will cost \$20, effective May 1. Senior citizens (65 or older) who live in Hoke County are entitled to a \$2 discount on in-county subscriptions.

In-county subscribers and in-county senior citizens may renew for a year at the current rate of \$14 through April 30 by calling 875-2121 or visiting our website at www.thenews-journal.com.

Six-month subscriptions are being eliminated, but the newspaper is retaining its free three-month trial subscription for newcomers to Hoke County.