



## Teenage boys violently attack youth facility members

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(10/06/2008) By Jeniffer Berry - Two teenagers were behind bars as of Monday night accused of attacking 3 people at a youth treatment facility in Kearney. Among the injured are 2 employees and a Kearney Police Officer.

It was a violent attack.

Authorities said 2 teenage boys took a ball from a pool table and put it in sock. It was a makeshift weapon used to beat 2 staff members.

It happened just after 11:00 Sunday night at the Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Center in Kearney. It is a place for troubled boys - many with criminal backgrounds.

The State Patrol said 2 of them, both 16 year olds, tried escaping.

They lured a 72 year old staffer into a common area where authorities said they used the pool ball in the sock to beat him in the face.

"Causing some fractured bones in the face and he called out for help," said State Patrol Lt. Dennis Leonard.

Another staffer responded - a 64 year old man. He was also attacked.

At some point, somebody managed to call police. When they arrived they too were ambushed. One police officer was punched in the head multiple times, before the boys were eventually arrested.

"The degree of the injuries and the force that they used an object to inflict these injuries is technically a felony in itself," said Leonard.

The teens were in the Buffalo County Jail Monday night facing charges of second degree assault, use of a weapon to commit a felony and attempted assault on a police officer.

All are felonies.

The officer punched in the head did not have to be taken to the hospital. The two staff members did. One has a fractured eye socket and the other needed stitches on his head.

The State Patrol said it has responded to problems here before, but nothing like this.

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