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LOCAL NEWS

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Student who held classmates hostage in 1990 will get early prison release

By Bill Rankin
STAFF WRITER

Randy Addis, the Forsyth County high school student who held nine classmates hostage in 1990, will be released on parole this November after serving one-third of his prison sentence, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles said.

Addis, 20, will be paroled if he agrees to undergo psychiatric treatment. Another condition is that he will be forbidden to return to Forsyth and Cherokee counties for the next 17 years.

"There has been nothing but overwhelming support for him to be released and to get the psychiatric treatment he needs that's not available in the prison system," said Michael Light, a Pardons and Paroles spokesman.

On Sept. 9, 1990, Addis, then a 16-year-old ninth-grader armed with a shotgun, pistol and a knife, took over a South Forsyth High



Randy Addis
Troubled 20-year-old will be required to receive psychiatric treatment as a condition of his release.

bound for international waters. But before he boarded, Addis said, he planned to remove the cover to be in the open for police fire.

He was sentenced to eight years in prison for kidnapping and aggravated assault.

The Pardons and Paroles Board will release Addis early, Mr. Light said, because its members believe his crime was the result of a psychiatric disorder that is best treated outside the prison environment.

While in prison at Alto, Ga., Addis has earned a high school equivalency diploma and is taking college courses, Mr. Light said, noting that the board received a petition with 1,000 signatures requesting Addis be rehabilitated.

"Based on all reports, he's doing well," he said. "But he still needs treatment to help him deal with his anger."

School classroom and held nine teenagers hostage for five hours.

The ordeal ended when his classmates overwhelmed him. No one was injured.

During his sentencing hearing, Addis testified he had meticulously planned the abduction, modeling the incident after the Stephen King novel "Rage." He said he wanted to die during the siege.

He said he planned to parade his hostages, hidden under a tarpaulin, to a bus outside the school. He told police he wanted the group to be driven to Savannah, then placed aboard a ship