

Underberg farm, foreign guests robbed

THAMSANQA MAGUBANE

A COUPLE at an Underberg farm were woken up in the dead of night by criminals who assaulted and robbed them and then robbed their foreign guests.

Steven Black (61), his wife and the tourists were attacked and robbed at Khotso farm in the early hours of Sunday morning.

On its website, Khotso is described as a working horse and sheep farm located on 1 300 hectares at the foot of the Southern Drakensberg.

It is a lodge that also caters for backpackers and offers horse trails.

It was not clear how the five men gained entry to the house. Attempts to speak to Black last night were unsuccessful. A female staffer at the lodge said he was unavailable.

Police spokesperson Captain Musa Ntombela said the criminals attacked the couple around midnight.

"They tied them up and pistol-whipped them. The man suffered injuries on his forehead and the wife, next to her ear."

He said the men then stole a vehicle and watches, laptops and electronic goods, and loaded them into Black's car. They also robbed four Mexican tourists at the farm of their cellular phones. The car was later recovered near Impendle.

Koos Marais of the KwaNalu security desk said the organisation was concerned by the continuing attacks on farmers.

NOTICES

SAIVA SITHANTHA SUNGUM PMB BRANCH invites you and your family to join us for Maha Sakthi Prayers on August 2 at Saiva Sithantha Sungum Temple, corner of Veerappa and Gangalu Place, Northdale, PMB, at 9.30 am. The Maha Vehlvi will be performed and special blessings of healing will be given to all devotees by the spiritual head of our sungum Swami Siva Yoganantha of Durban. All are welcome. Inquiries: Wally Chetty at 073 007 6465.

COMMUNITY ON PATROL (COP) programme will be unveiled to the community by the Combined Action Team (CAT) at the Mountain Rise Community Police station.