

Monday, October 18, 2004

A Fresh Start

Staff photos by Bret Gerbe

Cobb County Drug Treatment Court marked a milestone Thursday with its first ever graduation ceremony. Andrew and Brice, whose last names are being withheld under the confidentiality rules of the drug court, successfully completed the 18-month program, designed as an alternative to jail for repeat drug offenders. Judge Michael Stoddard called for the creation of the court after he noticed the current method of punishing drug offenders - placing them in jail only to have them reappear in court several months later - wasn't working. The program is limited to first-time offenders with no previous felony arrests, those arrested for simple possession - drug dealers are forbidden - and those arrested for forging prescriptions. Above: Andrew gets a hug from his mother, Kathy Theriot, on Thursday after he was recognized for completing the rehabilitation course.



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