

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Two Edenton men now face charges in shooting

BY BEN DECK
Cox NC Publications

Two Chowan County men wanted in connection with a deadly Feb. 22 shooting in Elizabeth City have been charged with assault, Pasquotank Sheriff Randy Cartwright said.

The men, both from Edenton, were involved in a shootout on Terry Street in the early morning hours of Feb. 22. They talked with sheriff's deputies about the incident immediately afterward, but have since dropped out of sight, Cartwright said.

"We know they're hiding from us," Cartwright said.

The warrants charge Troy Gilliam and Darrell Boyce with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill or cause serious injury. Both men are 26.

Gilliam's last known address is 106 Holly Grove Road, Edenton and Boyce's last known address is 201 Vance St., Edenton.

Cartwright previously said sheriff's deputies were seeking to talk to the men as witnesses, but authorities decided to take out the arrest warrants when the men did not come for-

ward. The warrants have been listed on a statewide computer network that police monitor in the hope that the men will be found and taken into custody, Cartwright said.

Gilliam and Boyce were riding in a white Pontiac Grand Prix with another Edenton resident, 21-year-old LePaul Wills, when the car pulled into a driveway at 607 Terry Street early Saturday morning, Cartwright said. The Pontiac was following another car at the time, and a shootout between the occupants of the Pontiac and the other vehicle left Wills dead

and another person wounded.

On one side of the gunfight is 22-year-old Brian Bowe of Elizabeth City, his girlfriend Charisse Harney and her brother, Gene Harney of Bronx, New York. The three were in Charisse Harney's car - the vehicle the Pontiac was following - and were returning from a nightclub to Terry Street, where she lives with her parents, Cartwright said.

Bowe and the Harneys say they saw the Grand Prix following them and saw it pull into the driveway, Cart-

wright said. Thinking the people in the Grand Prix were acquaintances, they got out and walked toward the car, but the occupants of the Grand Prix got out as well, and - according to the Bowe and the Harneys - opened fire after saying only a few words. Bowe was hit once in the leg.

Gilliam and Boyce told a different story when they talked with sheriff's deputies immediately after the shooting. The men said they were lost, decided to ask Bowe and the Harneys for directions and were shot at for their trouble, Cartwright

said. Both groups told deputies that only the other side had guns, and everyone involved said the two groups are strangers to each other.

Deputies administered polygraph tests to both Harneys, who are sticking to their story, Cartwright said.

Cartwright asked anyone with information about the Edenton men's whereabouts to call the sheriff's office at 338-2191 or the Crime Line at 335-5555. Crime Line offers rewards of up to \$2,000 for information which provides a break in a case.

Officials dealing with threats

Edenton-Chowan Schools had a quiet day Friday, contradicting rumors of potential violence.

"There were no bomb threats, no incidents, no fights, nothing like that," said John A. Holmes High School principal John Williams.

The rumors were deemed by law enforcement and school officials to lack credibility early in the day, but extra officers were on duty at each of the schools to help ensure a safe, calm and orderly school day.

Central Office staff met

with the town and county managers, the high school principal, the sheriff and the chief of police at the end of the school day to discuss how the rumors started, how best to contain false rumors in the future, and what to expect for the school system on Monday.

Officials decided to keep a heightened law enforcement presence at the schools as long as necessary.

Monday proved to be another quiet day in Edenton-Chowan Schools, with no in-

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Town pledges all its resources to fight gun violence in community

Citizens are asked to help authorities

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Town of Edenton officials have announced several new initiatives in response to the most recent shootings to take place in the community. Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton announced Monday that, effective immediately, all po-



Anne-Marie Knighton



Chief Greg Bonner

lice officers' number one priority is to focus on and patrol areas where recent shootings have occurred.

Knighton also appealed to the public for help in identifying people who are in possession of illegal handguns and

other weapons.

"We implore the public to call us if they know of a person, be it a relative or acquaintance, that has a gun or weapon without a proper permit," she said.

Police Chief Greg Bonner said that while officers have continued to arrest those responsible for the shootings, the problem has not stopped. Easy access to illegal weapons has continued to fuel the problem.

"We need for citizens to step up and tell us who has these weapons," he said. "We promise we

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Neighbor to neighbor effort way to say 'we care'

BY BILL HALEY
Special Correspondent

Edenton United Methodist Church and Providence Baptist Church are combining to provide the volunteer labor in essential home improvements for needy, elderly residents of Edenton. The materials are provided by the Marion Edwards Recovery Center (MERC) of Goldsboro, NC in what is called the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

The first project began Feb. 26, the digging of footings for a sit-in shower/bathroom extension at the home of Mrs. Johnnie Belle Sessoms on W. Freemason Street. Pastors and laypersons of both churches will provide the labor. Coordinating the project are Mr. Wille Boone, a deacon of Providence Church, Rev. Clinton Walker of Providence Church and Rev. Jim



(Left photo) Participants in the newly formed Neighbor to Neighbor project are Charlie Beasley, Carl Jennings, Willie Boone, Rev. Jim Huskins, pastor of the Edenton United Methodist Church, J.B. Small Jr. and the Rev. Clinton Walker, associate pastor of Providence Baptist Church; (photo at right) Mrs. Johnnie Belle Sessoms, homeowner, talks with Rev. Jim Huskins, Rev. Walker, and Mr. Willie Boone, deacon, Providence Baptist Church.

Huskins of Edenton United Methodist Church, which is the sponsor for the Neighbor

to Neighbor program in Edenton. Other neighbor to neigh-

bor projects may be recommended by clergy in Edenton for their elderly members

and approved by the Board of MERC.

MERC is named for the

Bishop of the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church, Marion Edwards.

Commissioners pleased with plan

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Chowan County Commissioners pronounced themselves very pleased with the facility master plan presented by College of the Albemarle representatives during the commissioners' Monday morning meeting.

In presenting the plan which would be another step toward the goal of taking the COA Chowan Center to the status of a full-fledged college campus, Interim COA President Lynne Bunch said plans were being laid in phases and a careful eye

was being kept on expenses, a move deemed particularly prudent because of the state's continuing budget woes.

Bunch explained that in preparation for the expansion, which would move the COA Chowan campus from its current location at a local shopping center to the old D.F. Walker campus in Edenton, two studies have recently been completed. The two studies were a long-range facility plan designed to determine current and long-term facility space needs, and an architecture study designed to provide a vision for converting the former

Walker School into a college campus.

Bunch said that much input from students has been sought and received, and that it too has proven very helpful. She said that one of their major concerns appears to be centered around COA Chowan's current location where loitering by people who are not students continues to be a problem. They would like, she said, a location that could provide a true college campus atmosphere.

She said a large part of initial efforts in converting the site to a college campus would

involve using \$904,000 in existing grant funds to accomplish just that.

"The first thing we want to do is to convert the outside of the Walker site to make it look like a college campus," she said. These steps are expected to include landscaping and the addition of some fencing. COA's Board of Trustees is expected to vote March 10 on the plans for the Edenton site, which they were briefed on during their February meeting.

Phase I would also cover enhanced parking and outdoor lighting, as well as the start of building renovations.

Open Forum next Wednesday

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Chad Sary, director of the Edenton-Chowan Planning and Inspections Department, is hoping for a large turnout and lots of helpful input from local citizens during a community open forum scheduled for next Wednesday, March 12, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The forum, scheduled to al-

low the public an opportunity to have its say on the development of the Edenton-Chowan County Greenway and Open Space Plan, will take place at the old D.F. Walker School building in Edenton.

Greenways Incorporated will join County staff in facilitating the meeting, and everyone is welcome and en-

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REVIVAL - EDENTON BAPTIST CHURCH

DR. KENNETH MASSEY
PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
GREENSBORO, NC

BEGINNING WITH 11 A.M.
WORSHIP AND CONTINUING
EACH EVENING AT 7 O'CLOCK

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MARCH 9TH - 12TH