



Fleeing DV suspect surrenders

Clerk of Court: Officer failed to handcuff

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

A man who fled police last Wednesday seconds before being jailed on a domestic violence order for threatening to kill his wife and children, turned himself in later that night.

Demetrius Ellis White, 31, of Whitemon Lane surrendered to Edenton police around 8 p.m. after arrangements had been made

with his family that no additional charges would be added for fleeing, said Edenton Police Chief Jay Fortenbery.

"We had made arrangements for him to turn himself in lieu of additional charges," Fortenbery said Thursday.

Because White had not been officially placed in jail, he could not have been charged with escape, Fortenbery said. Instead, White

could have faced misdemeanor resist and delay.

White bolted from officer Azure Malone as the two entered the sally port and after Malone had checked her service weapon in a lock box, Fortenbery said. White was to be held 48 hours without bail per the domestic violence order.

"Apparently, he had a last minute change of heart and decided to book," Fortenbery said.

Malone began a foot chase and lost contact with White in the vicinity of the Edenton post office. Fortenbery acknowledged

that Malone delayed calling for backup.

"We're taking a look at some things that she could have done better," he added. "We're looking at this as a learning experience."

Malone, a rookie Edenton police officer since late May failed to follow proper security procedures in her handling of White that contributed to his 4:25 p.m. escape, said Clerk of Court Mike McArthur.

"She took it as routine and it could have gotten her and others killed," McArthur said Thursday.

Wednesday's circumstances that led to White's escape infuriated McArthur.

"The officer failed to follow security guidelines that are taught in basic law enforcement training and posted at the courthouse door," McArthur said Wednesday.

He described the suspect as a large man and Malone as a small-frame female.

"(White) was belligerent in the yard and unrestrained - against police department policy and

See **WHITE, 2A**

Chase ends in Chowan

By **CATHY WILSON**
Perquimans Weekly

A 25-year-old Hertford man led officers from three different law enforcement agencies on a high-speed chase through the streets of Hertford and into Perquimans County Sunday afternoon before eventually stopping in Chowan County.

Police say no one was injured in the chase that reached speeds of 85-90 miles per hour through town streets and over 100 miles per hour on county roadways. The chase ended on Highway 32 in Chowan.

Steven Matrez Tillet, of the 600-block of Woodland Church Road, faces felony charges of fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, possession with intent to manufacture, sell or distribute drugs, and maintaining a vehicle as a place to sell drugs. He is also charged with no operator's license and a vehicle window tint violation.

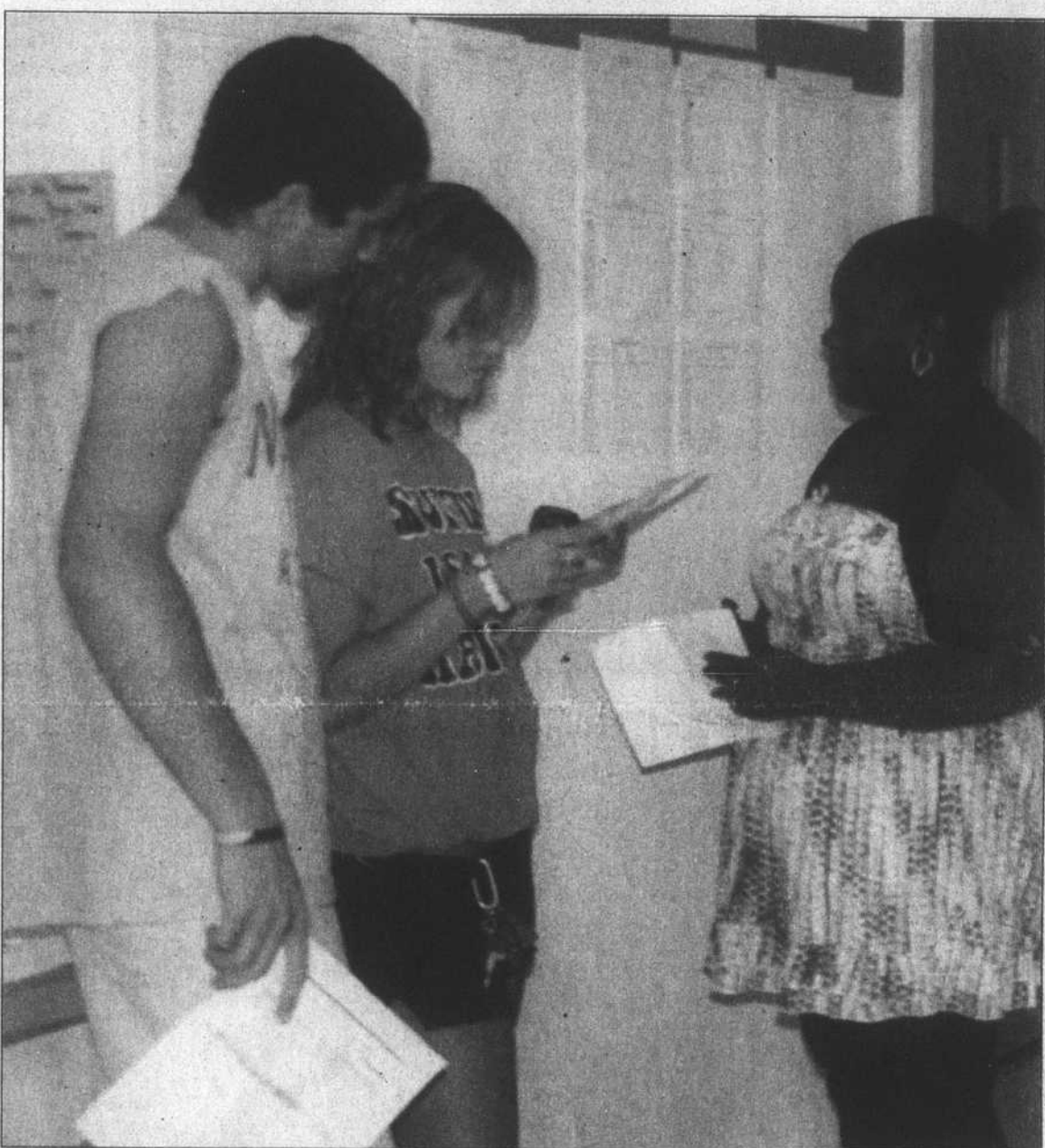
Following his arrest, Tillet was taken to Albemarle District Jail under a \$4,500 secured bond.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said patrolman Allen Peterson first stopped the 1999 Ford Escort driven by Tillet around 2:30 p.m. on U.S. 17 South near the high rise bridge for a window tint violation and no identification. As the officer sat in his police cruiser checking vehicle registration information, Tillet drove off, turned on Church Street and sped through downtown to Grubb Street where he continued speeding into the county on Center Hill Highway.

Members of the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department joined the chase

See **CHASE, 2A**

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIME



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Students study their class schedules for the upcoming school year during an open house at John A. Holmes High School last Thursday. School starts again in Edenton-Chowan Schools tomorrow.

Bus route, dress code await students

Sheriff says to expect delays

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

When schools start Thursday, more than 2,300 students will enter Chowan County classrooms for the 2011-2012 school year.

As with any new school year, some changes will occur.

For instance while there will be no significant changes in bus routes for the year, consolidation of some bus routes is planned according to Brad Bass, transportation director for the school system.

Bass said that the changes, which he described as an effort to keep costs down, are being discussed during open house at each of the county's four schools.

Bass added that about 19

teacher assistants and 14 cafeteria workers are among those driving the 46 school buses that criss-cross Chowan County on any given school day. Two of the buses are designed for the exceptional children's program.

"We're looking at ways to shave a little time off the bus routes, which gets the students to school a little sooner and limits the amount of time the

See **SCHOOL, 3A**

Group wants 10-year lease ext.

Town offers three years

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

Negotiations are underway to determine whether the Northeast Commission will be able to secure a long-term lease for the building it now occupies on Edenton's waterfront.

The commission's current lease expires in December. It has occupied the building on West Water Street since 1996, but had sought a 10-year lease renewal.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that the commission pays the town \$1,700 in rent for what is a prime spot on the downtown waterfront.

"We often get questions from newcomers and visitors as to why we have government offices located on the waterfront," Knighton said.



Rogerson

Vann Rogerson, Northeast Commission president and chief executive officer, said that location is a primary reason why he'd like to see the commission's offices remain there.

"It is a beautiful location and one that, when we have visitors, certainly shows off the community to its best advantage," Rogerson said.

Knighton said that the commission had requested a long-term extension

See **LEASE, 3A**

Schools see sweeping changes in discipline policies

By **PETER WILLIAMS**
Staff Writer

Schools across North Carolina will open this year with a new discipline policy designed to keep



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students in school. Officials in the Albemarle say the state-mandated change will have the biggest impact of all of the changes this year.

"It's going to mean changing the way that we communicate with our parents," said Brenda Lassiter, a spokeswoman for Perquimans County Schools.

In the past, a specific vi-

olation like fighting might result in a specific penalty, like a 10-day suspension.

"The way it will be now is consequences can't have a single predetermined punishment," Lassiter said. "That's different to what we've been doing."

The policy gives more latitude to principals and allows them to take into account other circumstances that they couldn't

in the past.

For a minor violation, like being disrespectful, the first choice is parental involvement. The penalty could also include isolation and being required to sign a behavior improvement agreement.

The policy doesn't change rules on expulsions. Students who carry a bomb or weapon to school can still be expelled. How-

ever, those students suspended for 365 days can now request readmission to school after 180 days, Paul O'Brian, then interim superintendent in Currituck, told his board in a meeting in July.

"What the state is concentrating on is trying to reduce the amount of student suspensions," said James Bunch, the assistant superintendent

in Perquimans County. "They made 32 revisions to the discipline policies that local schools have to adopt. This is something all school systems have to look at."

"Now principals have to look at mitigating or aggravating circumstances," Bunch said. "The principal gets to look at what type of previous discipline this

See **DISCIPLINE, 2A**

30th Anniversary
Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford
 CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT
Free Street Dance Friday Night
 Sept. 9th, 6 to 10 p.m.
 Sept. 10th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.