

# CRIMEWATCH

## Edenton Police Department

### Arrests

Devonta Shaquan Holley, 26, of Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 16, for a misdemeanor probation violation. A secured bond was set at \$5,000. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Cpl. D.A. Smith.

Xavier Tra'mal Copeland, 19, of Oakdale Drive, Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 14 on two counts of failure to appear. A secured

bond of \$3,500 was set. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Office D.J. Romano.

Monta Dequa Privott, 25, of Oakdale Drive, Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 10 on a misdemeanor charge of violation of court order. A secured bond of \$3,000 was set. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Cpl. R.J. Michael Jr.

Brandon Kylek Murphy, 24, of Ryans Grove Road, Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 8 on a charge of

assault on a female. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Cpl. W.S. White.

Jantania Nisary Williams, 23, of Tyler Run 1, Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 8 for a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery. She was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Cpl. W.S. White.

James Henry Blount Jr., 58, of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 9 on a misdemeanor charge of failure to appear on a probation violation. A

secured bond of \$1,500 was set. He was confined to the Chowan County Jail. Arresting officer, Officer D.J. Romano.

Katine Marquis Privott, 40, of Blade Circle, Edenton, was arrested on Jan. 10 on a misdemeanor charge of failure to return rental property out of Pasquotank County. Arresting officer, Cpl. R.J. Michael Jr.

### Incidents

Police are investigating a Jan. 8 report of aggravated assault and

injury of personal property. According to the report, a handgun was pointed at Robert Lee Williams Jr., 33, and Thomas Murrell Vaughan, 29, both of North Oakum Street, Edenton, while they were on North Oakum Street. The report says \$800 in damage was done to a Buick Lacrosse owned by Vaughan. Investigating officer, Cpl. W.S. White.

Police investigated at Jan. 17 report of assault and communicating threats on Badham Road, Edenton. Investigating officer, Officer C.N. Skorupa.

## GRADING

Continued from 1A

"The next day the state sent out an email notifying districts how to receive that information," Jackson said. "The information sent to us indicated that all courses for D.F. Walker Elementary, Chowan Middle School and John A. Holmes High School could be affected. NCDPI could not tell us which students could be affected."

Jackson said the software had caused a grade calculation error, which resulted in students' grades being rounded to a whole number.

"The impact of that calculation error meant

that a portion of students — not every student — had grades that were too high, some had grades that were too low and that semester averages could be impacted by 2 or more points," he said.

Jackson said DPI informed school districts that it "would not be correcting ... any stored student grades." If any corrections needed to be made, the districts would have to "identify and make the changes," he said. DPI officials advised school districts they would work with them to resolve any potential problems that arose during future grading periods this year.

Todd Silberman, a spokesman for DPI, said

Wednesday that while the software problem seems to be widespread, it does not affect every school district.

Edenton-Chowan officials, meanwhile, are reviewing all student grades from the first quarter, Jackson said. Officials will correct errors that are identified, he said.

"We believe that it is important that students receive the grades that they earned, and we are working to review and calculate every student's grades and correct any errors that may have occurred," Jackson said.

"We currently have staff and teachers doing this work to ensure the proper grades are issued. Teachers will be making these

corrections in their grade book for all affected students."

If an error occurred in reporting grades, those errors will be corrected and reported in the next report card, Jackson noted. Corrections will also be available after report cards are issued in the Parent Portal.

"We appreciate the understanding of our parents and the hard work of our teachers and staff as we work to correct this issue and make sure that students' grades accurately reflect the scores earned," Jackson said. "We apologize for any inconvenience."

Reggie Ponder, a staff writer for The Daily Advance, contributed to this report.

## SHUTDOWN

Continued from 1A

ever, we are fully prepared to help."

American Legion Post 40 is accepting donations of baby items, (diapers, formula), non-perishable food and money to benefit the Coast Guard and Federal employees being affected by the Government Shutdown. The Legion will accept items on Thursday and Friday (1/24, 25) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Post.

The Legion also is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner from 4-7 p.m. Saturday for those affected by the shutdown. The Legion is in contact with the Coast Guards Chief Petty Officers Club in regards to needed items as well as sending out invites to the families.

For the rest of January

*"None of us are exactly sure of the need in Chowan County but we want to be prepared and not have anyone go without food."*

Roger Coleman  
Food pantry director

and through the month of February, the Edenton Historic State Sites are offering free general admission to all active duty Coast Guard members and their family with identification. The sites include the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse, the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse, and the James Iredell House.

Many Elizabeth City businesses and agencies are offering specials and other help to families affected by the government shutdown. The following are among those offering a local re-

- \* Firehouse Subs — 50 percent off every Sunday during shutdown for all USCG and family plus all furloughed employees
- \* Dairy Queen — Free combo on Jan. 21 and 22 to furloughed employees
- \* Ghost Harbor Brewing Company — Donated product for family morale event
- \* The Mills Downtown Bistro — Free family meal for USCG and furloughed employees on Jan. 22 - by reservation only; a Mills employee said Saturday few reservations are left and families should call early Sunday to reserve spots
- \* Paradiso Roma — Free meals to families by reservation
- \* Alison L. Boone DDS — Free exams at no charge if clinic on base is closed for active-duty Coast Guard
- \* Flours Girls — 25 percent off and free desserts every Friday during shutdown for USCG and family
- \* Captain D's — Free Meal for UCCG and family — Jan 22
- \* Hwy 55 — Free meal for UCCG and family — Jan. 21
- \* B&M Contractors — Offering free diagnostics to all the military families as well as 10 percent off any repair estimates.
- \* SPCA of NENC — Offering free pet food for furloughed employees

## KNIGHTON

Continued from 1A

sion Edenton's monthly financial reconciliations have been up to date for the last 12 months, town employees received intensive procurement training and a new procurement software system is expected to be operational by March 2019. She said the LGC staff also reported high turnover in the finance officer position contributed to the violations. The current finance officer has been in place for a year and has brought stability to the position and is participating in various training programs for new finance officers.

State Auditor Beth Wood voted to approve Edenton's request, but she zeroed in on the town's checkered fiscal management in initially recommending its denial. Edenton's fund balance plummeted from 36 percent in 2017 to 15.4 percent, or \$972,301, in 2018. A serious lack of internal financial controls, and failure to reconcile a number of budget areas were cited, among other trouble spots.

Knighton explained the matter in more detail.

"Two members of the Commission, primarily NC Auditor Beth Wood expressed frustration and, quite frankly anger, that one audit finding was a violation of a State Statute that regulates local government procurement processes," she said. "Auditor Wood basically said she was sick and tired of local governments blaming violations on staff

turnover. She threatened to vote no, speculating that turning down Edenton's application for debt would send a message to the North Carolina League of Municipalities (organization that represents towns and cities) and its members that statutory violations will not be tolerated."

Knighton told the Chowan Herald how she responded to Wood's assertions — "the buck stops here."

"I told Commission members the buck stops with me, I was the town manager, these violations are my responsibility and then I reviewed the corrective actions the Town has taken. I did not blame the violations on staff, I took responsibility," she said.

Knighton said Commission members asked technical questions about the water treatment plant upgrades which were ably answered by Public Works Director Corey Gooden.

After much discussion and debate, LGC made a decision.

"Finally, after 45 minutes of deliberations, the Commission voted and approved our application," Knighton said. "Auditor Wood voted 'yes,' reluctantly. All other members voted 'yes' except NC Treasurer Dale Folwell, chairman of the LGC, voted 'no.'"

After Knighton thanked the Commission for their support, she and Gooden made a quick exit.

"After the meeting, Treasurer Folwell told us his vote wasn't targeted at Edenton, that there was a lot of pent-up emo-

tion in the room that was not aimed at Edenton," Knighton said. "He said LGC members were trying to send a message to local governments that they need to take seriously the statutory pre-audit and internal control requirements. He told us he voted no, because as chairman, he was sending a message to his commission members — he wanted them to know he heard their frustration."

Soon after the meeting, Knighton said she reached out to NC League of Municipalities' staff liaison to the LGC, who was not present at the meeting and briefed him.

"I offered to be a part of a NC League-sponsored effort to help other municipalities understand how seriously the Commission is now taking the statutory pre-audit requirements," she said. "I told him I wanted to be a part of the solution and not just walk away content that the Town's debt was approved."

Knighton said she also wrote a letter to Auditor Wood.

"I thanked her for voting 'yes' and supporting our application," she said. "I told

her I understood her frustration. I also updated her on the follow-up action I had taken which included implementing five recommendations our town auditor said would strengthen the Town's internal controls. Auditor Wood wrote back to me — she told me she really appreciated my letter to her, and she was impressed with the follow-up action I had taken."

The partial shutdown of the federal government is holding up Edenton's efforts to finance the improvements needed to get the town's drinking water back in compliance with state law.

"Obtaining approval for the USDA loan was a major milestone for the town," Knighton said. "We are, however, still in a holding pattern until furloughed USDA officials are allowed to return to work to sign documents needed to finalize the financial transition. Hopefully, the shutdown issue will be resolved soon. We expect the renovations to the water treatment plant to take six months and then the town will be back in compliance with state drinking water regulations."

## Suspect in fatal shooting arrested

2nd man wanted in connection to Edenton man's death

BY THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR — One of two suspects wanted in the Jan. 6 shooting death of an Edenton man has been arrested in Franklin, Virginia, the Bertie County sheriff says.

Tywan Jonshea' Outlaw, 28, is charged with being an accessory after the fact in the shooting death of Rayshon Carter, 36, Bertie Sheriff John Holley said.

The suspect charged with shooting Carter, meanwhile, remains at large.

Holley has identified Carter's alleged shooter as 29-year-old Jashawn De'Andre Brown. Warrants charge Brown, also known as "Southside," with murder as well as failure to appear on charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and assault by pointing a gun.

According to law enforcement officials, Carter was shot multiple times while attending a birthday party at the Midway Community Building on Jan. 6. Carter was taken to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville where he succumbed to his wounds.

Carter was employed by Le Bleu Water Distributors. Law enforcement offi-



OUTLAW



BROWN

cial has described Brown as a black male, 5-foot, 7-inches tall and weighing 170 pounds. He's believed to be a member of the Bloods street gang. Records show he has previous convictions for assault

inflicting serious bodily injury, robbery with a dangerous weapon and assault on a female.

Holley said Brown should be "considered armed and dangerous at all times, and should be approached with extreme caution."

Holley said investigators in his office are working with the State Bureau of Investigation on the probe of Carter's shooting.

"We are asking anyone who attended the party the night of the incident to come forward," he said.

Investigators are also asking anyone with information about Brown's whereabouts to contact the Bertie Sheriff's Office at 252-794-5330, Holley at 252-724-1681, or Lt. Matt Roebuck at 252-325-3350.

## DEATHS

EDENTON — Franklin Leroy Parsons, 77, died on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019. No service is planned. Arrangements by Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Edenton.

EDENTON — James Thomas Yarborough, Jr., 74, died on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Memorial service Friday at 2 p.m., at Edward G. Bond Post 40 of the American Legion.

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