

Man Accused Of Attempted Murder Was Charged In Playground Shooting

BY ERIC CARLSON
A Shallotte woman narrowly escaped being shot to death last week by a man previously accused of firing an assault pistol at three men playing basketball on a crowded playground in May, according to court records and a Brunswick County sheriff's detective.

Nathan McMillan, 27, of Hankins Drive, surrendered to police after allegedly shooting Lisa King, 33, four times with a .25-caliber pistol at her Mulberry Street home late Wednesday night (July 14), Detective John Ingram said Monday.

The shooting came within days after a break-up between McMillan and King, who until recently had been living together, Ingram said. McMillan spotted King on Mulberry Street and stopped at her house to talk. The two got into an argument and McMillan allegedly pulled a gun and started firing.

The first shot hit King in the left hand, Ingram said. The second shot hit her left ring finger. As she turned to run, she was hit in the left hip by a third bullet.

King ran into her house, locked the door and hid in the bedroom,

Ingram said. But McMillan allegedly broke in through the back door. The two struggled and King fell.

"He shot her once in the face. Then he pulled the trigger again and the gun clicked," said Ingram, who took a statement from King in the hospital.

McMillan has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury and felonious breaking and entering.

Court records show that McMillan was charged with four counts of assault by pointing a gun by three men who say he fired a 9mm Tech-9 semi-automatic pistol at them after a dispute on the Supply Park basketball court last Memorial Day weekend.

A Tech-9 is an inexpensive semi-automatic copy of an automatic machine pistol used by military and police organizations.

David E. Johnson of Durham, one of the four men who swore out warrants after the shooting, said in an interview last week that he and three other men were playing basketball at the public park when McMillan approached and asked to join in. Johnson said they agreed to let

McMillan play in the next game.

Johnson said McMillan left the area for a while. When he returned, he got into an argument after being told that he had missed his turn to play. McMillan left the park again and came back carrying the assault pistol and a shotgun, Johnson said.

McMillan fired about seven shots from the handgun, sending the basketball players and other people at the crowded park running into the woods, Johnson said. He estimated that there were about 50 or 60 people at the park, including about 30 children.

Three Brunswick County sheriff's deputies responded to the shooting. McMillan was arrested three days later after Johnson and the three other men swore out warrants against him. He was released on a \$500 secured bond and ordered to stay away from the prosecuting witnesses.

At a court appearance June 23, McMillan was arrested again after he allegedly called Johnson's brother a "punk" and threatened to hurt him outside the courtroom. McMillan was charged with communicating threats and released on a written promise to appear in court.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Commended For Honesty

Sandra Dennis, a Brunswick County cafeteria employee, receives a commendation from County Manager Wyman Yelton at the board of commissioners meeting Monday night. Dennis was praised for her honesty and dedication after she found a briefcase in the government complex parking lot and located its owner, which turned out to be Yelton. Dennis will lose her job August 1 as part of a reduction in force called for in the recently adopted county budget.

Teens Accused Of Stealing Vehicles

BY DOUG RUTTER
Three Brunswick County teenagers arrested last week following a stakeout near Holden Beach face multiple charges after allegedly stealing six vehicles and committing several break-ins in the area.

The Shallotte Police Department and Brunswick County Sheriff's Department both filed charges against the youths following their arrests last Friday morning.

Shallotte Police have charged the teens in connection with the July 11 theft of five vehicles from County Auto Retailers, a used car dealership on Main Street.

County authorities suspect the youths of breaking into two businesses in the Civietown area, stealing a rifle and taking more than \$1,000 in items from a residence, according to arrest warrants.

Arrested were Fredrick Allen Evans, 19, of Route 3, Supply; John Robert Cuff Jr., 17, of Shallotte; and Christopher Eugene Porter, 17, of Winnabow. Police plan to file charges against a fourth suspect who is 15 years old.

All three youths remained in Brunswick County Jail Tuesday afternoon. Bond was set at \$85,000 for Evans, \$80,000 for Cuff and \$60,000 for Porter, according to a spokesperson at the jail.

Evans and Cuff both face 12 charges, including seven filed by

Shallotte Police. Porter faces 10 charges.

Shallotte Police Det. Carey Gaskins has charged Evans and Cuff with five counts of felony larceny and two counts of breaking and entering and larceny. Porter was charged with four counts of auto larceny and one count of breaking and entering and larceny.

The sheriff's department has charged all three suspects with two counts of felony larceny, two counts of breaking and entering and larceny and larceny of a firearm.

Gaskins said the four suspects were living in a trailer they allegedly broke into off Holden Beach Road. Officers staked out the home last Wednesday night and arrested the suspects when they showed up early Thursday morning.

Shallotte Police, the sheriff's department and the N.C. Highway Patrol worked together on the stakeout. Police recovered three vehicles and other stolen property at the scene.

Shallotte Police arrested the teens in connection with the July 11 theft of five vehicles from County Auto Retailers.

Five vehicles valued at \$21,030 were reported missing from the used car dealership on July 12. A 1977 Chevrolet pickup truck was found just south of town on U.S. 17.

Also taken were a 1984 Ford Mustang, 1984 Chevrolet Camaro,

1987 Camaro and a 1984 Chevrolet pickup truck. Police believe the thieves entered the building on July 10 and returned July 11 to take the vehicles.

Gaskins said police found three of the vehicles at the residence off Holden Beach Road and the fourth behind a business on U.S. 17 between Shallotte and Supply.

County authorities have accused the suspects of the July 11 theft of a 1987 Chevrolet van from Sinbad Craft and Plants store on Civietown Road. They allegedly stole one set of vehicle keys and \$8 in cash in the break-in.

They also are suspected of a residential break-in that occurred between July 2 and July 7. Reported stolen were a video cassette recorder, color television, vacuum cleaner, cordless telephone and one cable television box with remote. The items were valued at \$1,173.

The sheriff's department also suspects the teens in the July 5 theft of \$751 in merchandise from Woody's Grocery in Civietown. Taken were 20 cartons of cigarettes, \$40 in candy, \$206 in change and a .22-caliber rifle.

Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause said information from area residents assisted in making the arrests. "We appreciate the tips we got from concerned citizens. If it wasn't for them we might still be looking."



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Driver Injured When Junked Vehicle Falls On Top Of Car

A Wilmington man was seriously injured last Thursday, July 15, in a rear-end collision with a truck towing a junked car on a boat trailer, according to the Wilmington office of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Joseph Thompson Johnston, 52, was admitted to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington with serious injuries after having been pinned inside the wreckage when his car caught fire.

The accident occurred at 2:25 p.m. on U.S. 74 about a half-mile west of Sandy Creek. Johnston was traveling east on U.S. 74 in a 1986 Honda, reported Trooper J.H. Kerr, when Jonas Floyd Moore, 35, of Route 1, Bolton, pulled his 1987 Ford truck into the highway, also traveling east. The truck was towing a junked car on a boat trailer.

When Johnston's Honda slammed into the rear of the boat trailer, the junked car landed on top of the Honda. Moore's truck pulled to the right shoulder, while Johnston's car came to rest in the roadway with the junked car on top of it.

The Honda caught fire briefly and Johnston was pinned inside the wreckage for approximately 50 minutes, according to Kerr's report.

Moore and his passenger, Jackie Crocker of Leland, both complained of minor injuries and were transported. Moore's truck was not damaged, while Johnston's car sustained an estimated \$7,000 in damages.

Moore was charged with careless and reckless driving, driving while his license was revoked and having no registration.

Two people waited for daylight to seek help last Friday after their truck landed in a drainage ditch on Old Mill Road (S.R. 1432) 15.8 miles north of Shallotte.

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