

# Armed robbery at state line Time Saver

By DEUCE NIVEN  
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An armed robbery at the Time Saver convenience store at the state line just south of Tabor City involved both the store and an apparent customer last Wednesday morning, with no one hurt and very little suspect information, an Horry County Police Department report said.

Police from Tabor City were first to respond, and

were “out attempting to locate the suspect,” HCPD Officer David McCallum said in his report.

Tony Cleavland Watts, 53, of Tabor City was also a victim of the robbery, the report said, but did not provide details. The robber got away with \$492 in cash, the report said.

No other information was available as the HCPD continued to investigate, spokeswoman Mikayla Moskov said.

# Thief may have had a gun, suspect caught

A quick arrest followed a confrontation between victims of a vehicle break-in and a suspect who may have had a gun outside of a weekend auction in downtown Tabor City.

Jaquan Mark McCray, 21, who shows addresses on Woodrow Street in Tabor City and Bruce Street in Fair Bluff, was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle and larceny, the Dec. 1 report by Officer Ronald Edwards said.

Winfred Earl Livingston, 58, and his son Winfred Earl Livingston II, 33, both of Old Stake Road, told police that they watched as a suspicious man walked past cars parked outside an auction house on East 5th Street before 8 p.m., disappeared from sight as the younger Livingston approached, then “stood up out of the vehicle,” the elder Livingston’s 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier.

McCray is accused of taking a seafood platter and soft drink worth \$17 from the car and running, the younger Livingston in pursuit, the report said.

Catching up with the robber, the younger Livingston told police he punched the man twice in the face, the man running into an alley before stopping, turning, and pulling what appeared to be a gun, prompting Livingston II to stop as the robber began running, eventually eluding his pursuer.

Police found McCray a short time later, and the Livingstons identified him

as the thief, the report said.

## Bogus \$20s

A pair of bogus \$20 bills passed at McDonald’s restaurants in Tabor City and Loris have been taken by police in both municipalities, a Tabor City Police Department report said.

Police were summoned to the McDonald’s in Tabor City about 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 26 after an employee realized the \$20 bill she had been given was counterfeit, the report by Officer Ronald Edwards said.

Officers spoke with Amber Lynn Burroughs, 18, of Edwards Road in Loris, who said she had received the money in payment for a pair of shoes she had sold to the mother of a friend, the report said.

Burroughs told police that she had made another purchase earlier at the McDonald’s in Loris, where she had used another \$20 she had received from the friend’s mother.

As she was speaking with police, Burroughs said she received a text from an employee of the Loris McDonald’s who said “he was in trouble at work” because he had taken a counterfeit \$20.

Edwards spoke with the manager of the McDonald’s in Loris, requesting that Loris police be contacted. An LPD officer responded, took a report, and exchanged information and case file numbers with Officer Edwards, the report said.

# Mom to be had drugs in her, warrant says

A new mother accused of ingesting drugs while pregnant, marijuana possession and damage to property charges are among recent reports on file at the Loris Police Department:

- Alexandra Renee Quillen, 20, of Rushwood Drive, was charged with unlawful neglect of a child, arrested Nov. 9. She is accused of testing positive for cannabinoids and opioids in her blood just after giving birth on Oct. 29.
- Christina Renee Sessoms, 31, of Hagen Road, was charged with driving with

a suspended license, possession of marijuana, and improper taillights, a Nov. 18 report said.

- Sebastian Drake Suthers, 19, of Jonestown Road, Galivants Ferry, was charged with marijuana possession, a Nov. 16 report said. Suthers was stopped by police who had observed a speeding violation, the report said.
- Jerome Rydle Spain, 31, of Oak Street, was charged with damage to property on an Horry County warrant after family members reported a disturbance at his home, a Nov. 19 report said.



# NC House honors fallen Trooper

A Representative Resolution honoring the memory of Master Trooper Kevin Conner of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, killed during a Oct. 17 traffic stop in Columbus County, was sent forth by state Rep. Brenden Jones of Tabor City on Wednesday. Taking part in the presentation were, from left, Col. Glenn McNeil, Angela Jones, Briley Conner, Miranda Conner, House Speaker Tim Moore, Braxson Conner, Rep. Jones, and Sgt. Richard Capps.

# Longs woman charged in federal inmate, military personnel fraud scheme

By DEUCE NIVEN  
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A woman from Longs is among 15 people from across the Carolinas charged in a two-state wire fraud conspiracy involving prison inmates who targeted active duty military personnel in an elaborate extortion and money laundering scheme.

All 15 have been charged in federal court with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, extortion and money laundering, US Attorney Sherri A. Lydon announced Thursday in Columbia.

Roselyn Pratt, 28, of Longs is charged in a three count indictment with Rakeem Spivey, 27, of Bishopville of taking part in the scheme taking place “in or about 2016,” the indictment said. If convicted both face up to 60 years in prison and fines that could total \$1 million, the indictment said.

Spivey was a South Carolina Department of Corrections inmate during the alleged conspiracy, Pratt accused of aiding him from the outside with financial transactions that were part of the conspiracy, the indictment charges.

Spivey, and other inmates, allegedly were able to smuggle smart phones into state prisons, and are charged with using those phones with Internet access to pose on dating websites as young women, and eventually to exchange photos of young women with military

personnel who responded.

Spivey and other inmates, the indictments allege, then called the military personnel involved, claimed to be the father of the young woman, and said she was underage. Spivey, and other inmates, are charged with then threatened to notify authorities unless the military personnel wired money through MoneyGram or Walmart to individuals in South Carolina, including Pratt.

Spivey collected more than \$5,000, the indictment against him said. Pratt is accused of being Spivey’s contact outside of prison involved in the scheme.

The federal government will seize any proceeds of the scheme that it can find, the indictments said.

“This case should sound the alarm that these kinds of scams are a significant threat to members of our military and to the citizens of South Carolina,” said U.S. Attorney Lydon. “These indictments are just one step in holding these inmates and the defendants on the outside, who allegedly assisted, accountable. We do not lock criminals up only to have them continue their criminal enterprises from inside prison. It is the unfettered use of contraband cell phones that allows inmates to continue harming the public. We are thankful to our partners in state, local, and federal law enforcement and across

the military branches for their hard work in bringing the perpetrators of this scheme to justice.”

This case was investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Services, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations, Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Services, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Command, United States Marshals Service, South Carolina Department of Corrections, and South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Assistant United States Attorneys Emily Limehouse and Rhett DeHart of the Charleston office are prosecuting the case.

## Others

Other inmates named in the indictments were Wendell Wilkins, Jimmy Dunbar, Antwine Lamar Matthews of Bishopville, and David Paul Dempsey of Ridgeville.

Those charged with aiding this inmates include:

- Kingtree – Andreika Mouzon
- Florence – Flossie Brockington
- Aiken – Edgar Jermaine Hosey
- Charlotte – Tiffany Reed
- Orangeburg – Laben McCoy
- Batesburg – Mitchlene Padgett
- Rock Hill – Malcolm Cooper
- Spartanburg – Jalida Thompson, Brandon Thompson,

# Shooting into home wasn’t an accident: CCSO

Initially believed to be accidental, a Nov. 14 shooting into a home on Lebanon Church Road resulted in the arrest of a Loris man this week.

Levon Junior Campbell, 23, of US 701, Loris, was charged with discharging a weapon into occupied property, arrested Monday.

Campbell is charged with shooting into the home of Tabor City area resident Roger Dale Ward after 4 p.m. on Nov. 14, sheriff’s spokeswoman Michelle Tatum said Tuesday.

During their investigation detectives were able to determine the direction from which the bullet came, penetrating an exterior wall and lodging in the headboard of the home’s master bedroom, Tatum said.

Then a witness came forward, providing information that led detectives to

Campbell, Tatum said.

Ward, 57, was in the living room when he heard the gunshot, and was not hurt.

Campbell was held at the Columbus County Detention Center with no bond set, a jail report said.

Other recent reports on file at the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office include:

- Michael Lee Johnson, 61, of Seal Street, Tabor City, was charged with shoplifting, two counts of larceny, and three counts of trespassing, arrested Nov. 21.
- Edward Devon Grainger, 33, of Big Avenue, Tabor City, was charged with seven counts of violating his parole, including two counts in the county, arrested Nov. 20.
- Kayla Hope Tyndall, 21, of Canyon Drive, Clarendon, was charged with obtaining property by false pretense,

arrested Nov. 20.

• Charles Edward Sweat III, 19, of Deerwood Drive, Tabor City, was charged with two counts of larceny, arrested Dec. 3.

• Jeffery Scott Anderson, 43, of G&B Lane, Loris, was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and failing to appear in court, arrested Nov. 29.

• Roger Ray Suggs II, 27, of Savannah Road, Tabor City, was charged with five counts of failing to appear in court, arrested Dec. 1.

• Don Avery Herring, 45, of Gloria Faye Court, Green Sea, was charged with driving while impaired, arrested Nov. 25.

• Joshua Tysheem McKivian, 25, of Memory Lane, Tabor City, was charged with two counts of failing to appear in court, arrested Dec. 3.

• Travis Donnell Jackson,

24, of Pine Circle Road, Tabor City, was charged with failing to appear in court, arrested Nov. 28.

• Shaska Lebria Long, 24, of Old Dothan Road, Tabor City, was charged with failing to appear in court, arrested Nov. 28.

• Dusty Johnathan Prince, 29, of Will Inman Road, Tabor City, was charged with failing to appear in court, arrested Nov. 28.

• Daijha Lasha McRoy, 22, of Scott Circle, Fair Bluff, was charged with failing to appear in court, arrested Nov. 29.

• Derrick Cornelius Clay, 29, of Clay Estates, Tabor City, was charged with two probation violation counts, arrested Nov. 28.

• Tracey Bullard, 46, of Main Street, Fair Bluff, was charged with failing to appear in court, arrested Nov. 19.

# Recovery center closes today, disaster response continues

With the deadline for most disaster recovery applications related to Hurricane Florence just a week away, the disaster recovery center for Columbus County in Whiteville closes at 5 p.m. today (Wednesday).

That center is currently located at the Econo Lodge, 503 North JK Powell Blvd in Whiteville.

Those seeking help for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) assistants or SBA (Small Business Administration)

loans still have options, which include visiting disaster recovery centers nearby, including one in the Soaring Eagle Community Building, 442 Norment Road in Lumberton.

Other online or telephone options include:

- Calling the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 (TTY) from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. local time seven days a week.
- Downloading the FEMA mobile app or the FEMA mobile app in Spanish.

• Downloading the Ready-NC app.

North Carolina homeowners, renters or business owners who sustained property damage or loss caused by Hurricane Florence should register until now for assistance.

Survivors should register even if they have insurance. FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but eligible homeowners and renters may be able to receive money from FEMA for losses not

covered by insurance to help pay for basic home repairs, temporary rental assistance and other needs such as replacing personal property.

FEMA Individual Assistance is grant money that does not have to be repaid.

Home and business owners may also qualify for low interest loans to help repair or rebuild damaged properties through the SBA.

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Page from the Past  
Compiled by Al Leonard  
Town Manager  
Town of Tabor City  
Sept. 13, 1961  
Circus will be In town for Yam Festival  
The Beer-Barnes Circus will be in town for a one day stand in connection with the annual Yam Festival. The circus will be sponsored by the Merchants Association. The circus will set up on the parking lot behind WF Cox Company at Railroad and 6th Streets.

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*“Life is precious...Mankind has no mandate or inherent right to limit opportunity and privilege to his fellowman of a different color or culture” - W. Horace Carter, Founder*