

Tense Moments in Avery Traffic Stop

Written by Steve Frank

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A combination of events led to some tense moments in Avery County late yesterday afternoon, elements including drugs, a suspect fleeing on foot and gunfire. Sheriff Kevin Frye said the incident started around 4pm when an Avery deputy stopped a vehicle on US 19E in the Frank Community. With the traffic stop, his suspicions were raised, leading to a search of the vehicle and the discovery of methamphetamine. Then a male being questioned took off on foot from the car, running in the vicinity of Frank Presbyterian Church, but as the pursuing deputy approached the church shots were fired from the back side of the church, causing a call for backup to come emergency traffic. A bulletin was issued on the male suspect in the chase, but within minutes, that suspect was being held at gunpoint by the deputy while two others from the car were questioned about the drug found there. Frye said that it turned out that the gunfire came from someone target practicing, calling that 'bad timing' coming while the chase was underway. And for a time, all three occupants of the car were placed into custody, according to Sheriff Frye, but finally the one man who fled owned up to ownership of the methamphetamine, and he was arrested. So far, the Avery Sheriff's Office has not released the name of the man as their investigation continues.