



NEW BERN POLICE
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New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage



FRANK PALOMBO
CHIEF OF POLICE
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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

September 10, 2010

“Suspect Charged in Connection with Wood Forest Bank Robbery”

On September 7, 2010, New Bern Police Department detectives were able to identify a license plate number of a rental vehicle possibly used by the suspect in the Wood Forest Bank robbery that occurred on August 27, 2010. Detectives immediately began surveillance of the Enterprise Rental Car office located at the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport. The suspect vehicle arrived at the airport within hours of the start of the surveillance. As an Enterprise employee attempted to take possession of the vehicle, the suspect, **John Calvin SPELLER, D.O.B. 7/18/1968**, of Virginia, struck the employee and fled from the scene. Officers of the New Bern Police Department, Craven County Sheriff's Office and North Carolina Highway Patrol pursued the vehicle. After a pursuit of approximately 5 miles, **SPELLER** jumped from the vehicle in the Oakview subdivision located in Jones County and attempted to elude officers on foot. **SPELLER** was apprehended without further incident.

SPELLER was arrested and charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon Larceny of a Motor Vehicle, and Fleeing to Elude Arrest.

SPELLER was also a suspect in a similar bank robbery that occurred at the BB&T Bank located at 301 S. College Road, Wilmington NC on September 3, 2010. New Bern Police Department detectives, working with the Wilmington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations were able to obtain an arrest warrant and charged **SPELLER** with Common Law Robbery for the Wood Forest Bank. **SPELLER** was confined in the Craven County Jail under a \$500,000.00 secured bond and his first appearance today. **SPELLER** is awaiting additional charges from other jurisdictions for similar crimes.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a “**Partner in Policing**,” by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Edward Preston, Deputy Chief at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4145.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police