

The logo for timesdispatch.com, featuring the text "timesdispatch" in a blue sans-serif font above ".com" in a smaller blue font, all enclosed in a black rectangular border.

How can I get something FREE?  
NO spam! NO work! NO hidden fees.

May 13, 2003

## Bumpass man shot by Va. police sniper

BY AUSTIN GRAHAM AND LIESEL NOWAK  
MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

MINERAL - A Bumpass man was shot by a Virginia State Police sniper and seriously wounded yesterday after he rammed a truck into a school, set fire to a nearby barn and attacked an armored car, authorities said.

Charles B. Henshaw, 41, has been charged with breaking and entering and two firearms violations in the incident, which police said began when his black Ford truck crashed into a trailer at Jouett Elementary School on state Route 648 in Louisa County at 6 a.m.

According to Maj. Donald A. Lowe of the Louisa County Sheriff's Office, the driver then ran north across a field of Christmas trees, forced his way into a nearby barn and armed himself with "three or four" weapons he happened to find inside.

After hours of fragmented negotiations by telephone, Lowe said, the gunman torched the barn from inside, then approached a state police armored car and opened fire with an assault rifle.

"It wasn't just a random shot," Lowe said. "When he fired upon the officers at very short range, the sniper took him out."

Henshaw was felled by a single shot to the chest, from a state police sniper watching from the thin stand of evergreens to the south. He was then flown to Medical College of Virginia Hospitals in Richmond. A hospital spokesman said Henshaw was "in recovery" yesterday evening.

Lowe said Henshaw separated from his wife and that yesterday's standoff was rooted in an ongoing domestic dispute. Henshaw's 8-year-old daughter is enrolled at Jouett, Lowe said.

The truck hit the trailer before anyone other than cafeteria workers had arrived at the school. Administrators told staff to stay home for the day, and assistant superintendent Roger Collins said bus drivers told the children on their routes that classes had been canceled "due to a closed road in front of the school."

"We were very fortunate that it happened outside of school hours," Collins said.

The damage to the school structure was "significant," Lowe said, but he was unable to provide a repair estimate.

The barn - which neighbors recalled as a place to buy Christmas trees, Halloween pumpkins and fruit preserves - was destroyed. Lowe said the fire ignited a considerable amount of leftover ammunition, as well as fuel for the farm equipment that was inside.

Lowe said that there were as many as 22 officers from the state police and Louisa County Sheriff's

Office on the scene. The investigation is ongoing, with other charges pending. Classes will resume at Jouett Elementary today.

Austin Graham and Liesel Nowak are staff writers at The Daily Progress in Charlottesville.

This story can be found at: <http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/vametro/MGBHXAW8NFD.html>

- [Go Back To The Story](#)