

Cop-shooting case sent to grand jury

By Allison Hagenah

WILLIAMSBURG—A grand jury will decide Monday whether to indict a 20-year-old man on charges of attempted murder in connection with the shooting of James City County Police officer Pat Murray.

General District Court Judge J.R. Zepkin certified seven charges against Ranson Grandel Friday after a preliminary

hearing that lasted more than three hours.

Grandel, who is being held at the Williamsburg-James City County Jail without bond, was arrested on charges of attempted capital murder, two counts of malicious wounding, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and use of a firearm to commit a felony in connection with the Nov. 27 shooting of Murray and a 17-year-old girl who was hit by a

stray bullet.

Grandel also faces charges of malicious wounding and use of firearm to commit murder in connection with a 1994 shooting that left a man paralyzed.

Murray was shot in the neck and hand while pursuing what he considered to be a suspected drug dealer on foot in the middle of the night. Grandel, who was hiding behind bushes on Mildred Drive in James City County, ambushed Murray and fired several shots, Murray said during testimony.

17-year-old Tanea Jones was struck by a bullet as she slept in her house nearby.

According to defense attorney Andrew A. Protogyrou, his client will have a different story to tell at trial. Protogyrou will attempt to prove that Grandel was justified in shooting Murray.

"This case is about an officer chasing a man who hasn't committed a crime," Protogyrou said after the hearing. "Who fired first, in reality?"

If Grandel had wanted to shoot Murray, he could have done it from a distance of 2 feet and a lot sooner than when Murray was shot. He also pointed out that no fingerprints were found on the weapon Grandel is accused of having used, Protogyrou said.

Murray testified he had drawn his weapon before knowing whether Grandel was armed. "He pulled his gun when we don't even

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Working together to save Whaley

No racial slight intended

By Tracy Blevins

WILLIAMSBURG—What happened to Bruton Heights School is not likely to happen again, although that may not be of much solace to blacks a decade after their school was shut down.

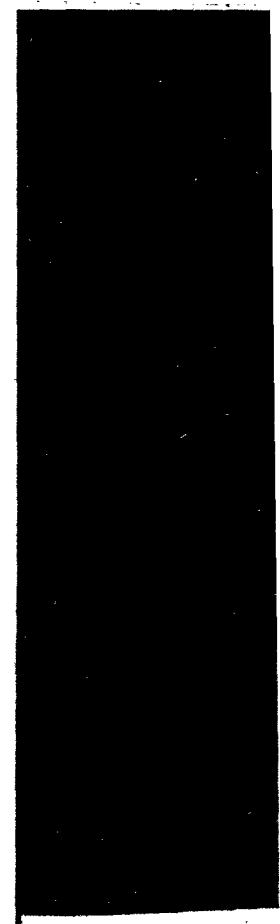
Responding to a sudden outburst of criticism among blacks over the pending \$5.4 million renovation of Matthew Whaley, Vice Mayor George Genakos has pledged not to close any of the

for planning. The WJC School Board, which meets Tuesday, may seek \$2.2 million next year so the renovation can proceed this fall.

"This school currently provides wonderful education for both white and black youngsters," said McConnell. "Although we no longer have Bruton Heights, we have Matthew Whaley, and the black and white community should work together to make it the best school that we can.

"I'm very concerned about

More on Whaley 7A 4D



The 757

Got y

By Bill Tolbert

Pop quiz: What do the 757 bring to mind? A nation of passenger jets? Pick-3 selection? Too many varieties?

For telephone customers in Eastern Virginia, it's the area code that kicks in midyear.

The 757 area code