

Henry escapees back in jail

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By Aisha I. Jefferson

The last of four inmates who escaped from the Henry County Jail in McDonough made their first appearance in court Monday morning.

Michael Williams, 29, and Jonathan Scruggs, 22, had court-appointed attorneys present as they waived their hearings, and their cases were bound over to Superior Court.

"They were two dangerous individuals taken off the street," said Henry County Sheriff's Office Lt. Scott Perry said. "They need to be behind bars."

Meanwhile, the Henry County Sheriff's Office announced changes in its security measures, such as adding more deputies, reducing the number of inmates on the yard at one time and having the Warrant Division assist in watching the outer perimeter, Perry said. He said they are still trying to get a secondary fence.

Although they believe someone on the outside helped the men escape, Perry said the men are not saying who may be involved. "That's one thing that they refused to talk about," Perry said.

On Sunday, a male cousin of Williams drove the escapee to the Clayton County Police south precinct, where he surrendered without incident around 11 a.m., according to Clayton County Police Capt. Jeff Turner.

"He said he was just tired of running," said Perry, who interviewed Williams for an hour Sunday once he was in Henry County's custody.

Turner said they received an anonymous tip that Williams was staying at a residence located at Hatch Cover Circle in Jonesboro, just down the street from the south precinct. But Williams and his cousin had already left for the police station when authorities arrived at the home.

Regarding the cousin, Turner said, "there's no reason for us to believe he was helping him, because he wouldn't have brought him to us if that was the case."

About two hours later, Clayton County Police also apprehended Scruggs.

"An anonymous tip said he would be traveling on Tara Boulevard on the south end of the county around 1 p.m. in a red Firebird with a dealership tag on it," Turner said. Clayton County police were dispatched to be on the look-out for the vehicle. When police pulled it over, they discovered Lori Robinson, who was not charged, driving the car with Scruggs as a passenger.

"We wanted to make sure he did not flee," said Turner, adding approximately six officers were on hand during his arrest. Turner said Scruggs did not try to resist arrest and did not appear to have plans to surrender.

No other arrests were made regarding the recapture of the two men, he said.

Williams and Scruggs escaped along with inmates Hubert Sprayberry, 43, and Marvin Cannon, 52, Wednesday evening. Sprayberry and Cannon were recaptured early Thursday morning in a wooded area near Moreland Avenue and Interstate 285. They waived their right to a hearing Friday morning, and their cases were bound over to Superior Court, also.

The four men escaped from the county jail around 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, while 49 prisoners were on recreational break under the supervision of two deputies, police said. One guard was on the outside perimeter and another was at the doorway leading back inside the jail, Henry County Sheriff's Office, law enforcement officials said.

The escapees, who were awaiting trial on unrelated charges ranging from aggravated assault and armed robbery to drugs and weapons possession, were discovered missing after a head count was taken. They now face an additional five to 10 years

imprisonment for felony escape charges. According to Perry, a fence at the back of the jail was cut, and police are trying to determine if the hole was made from the inside or the outside of the recreation yard.

Perry said the men befriended each other in the recreation yard.