

# SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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## PRESS RELEASE

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**Immediate Release**  
**February 29, 2024**

### SHOOTING INVESTIGATION AND ARREST

Deputies responded to a reported shooting on February 28, 2024 at 9:27PM in the Sheetz parking lot located in the 5000 block of Mudd Tavern Road in the Thornburg area. Two Detectives quickly arrived and found a 29-year-old male and 45-year-old male suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Both Detectives administered first aid to the victims until medical personnel arrived. The victims were transported to an area trauma center with critical injuries. Witnesses and surveillance footage were able to provide Detectives with a description of the suspect and vehicle that left the scene. With the assistance of Caroline County Sheriff's Office, Douglas Wayne Cornett, 57-year-old of Caroline was arrested by Caroline County Sheriff's Office and Spotsylvania Detectives for aggravated malicious wounding (x2) and additional firearm violations. Cornett was incarcerated at the Rappahannock Regional Jail under no bond. A preliminary motive for this violent and unprovoked act appears to be hate/bias related. Both victims were Hispanic and from Prince William County. This investigation is ongoing and further charges may be forthcoming. Sheriff Harris said "Hate crimes are a stain on our society and have no place in a civilized world. As a society, we must stand united in denouncing and combating hate crimes in all forms."

Remember, your phone call or online tip can make a difference.

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