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Officer fired in self-defense, sheriff's office decides

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Page: A5

XENIA ♦ A Yellow Springs man who threatened to blow up a hospital and was shot by a police officer after attacking the officer with a fireplace poker, remained in the Greene County Jail on Tuesday.

Corey N. White, 24, was being held in lieu of \$110,000 bond on charges of felonious assault and aggravated menacing. The charges were filed in Xenia Municipal Court.

White was booked into the jail after he was released from a hospital, where he was treated for three gunshot wounds to his legs fired by Officer Timothy Knoth, 39.

The officer, who had gone to the residence of **White**'s mother to check on the man's welfare, shot **White** after **White** hit him with a fireplace poker "at least eight times," said Capt. Eric Spicer of the Greene County Sheriff's Office.

Knoth, bruised and sore, was resting at home Tuesday.

"We believe he acted in selfdefense," said Spicer, implying the officer will not be charged.

The sheriff's office investigated the incident for the Yellow Springs Police Department. A formal report is being written, according to Yellow Springs police Chief John Grote.

White, in a series of phone calls, threatened to blow up Greene Memorial Hospital after workers there failed to connect him with his girlfriend, who was being treated there about 10 p.m. Sunday.

After Knoth arrived at the door of the residence in the 600 block of Omar Circle, **White** struck him with the poker and continued the assault in the front yard of the residence, Grote said.

Knoth had gone there in response to a call from the hospital to check on **White**.

Knoth fired four times, with three of the shots striking **White**.

"The young man that attacked the officer is well known to the police department," Grote said Monday. "We usually have been able to talk to him."

Although specific details are not available, Grote said **White** is known to suffer from mental illness.

Knoth, a 16-year veteran officer, remains on paid administrative leave. The attack left him with heavy bruising to his shoulder and forearm as well as rib pain, Grote said.

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Caption: Corey White In county jail

