

Holdenville News

Volume 101 Number 59 1 Section (USPS 247-200) Hughes County, Oklahoma

Lengthy standoff ends peacefully



Dennis O'Neal

A number of law enforcement and emergency personnel became involved in a stand off that occurred after Holdenville police originally responded to a domestic abuse call and the suspect refused to surrender. As the situation continued, residents in the surrounding area were evacuated from their homes as a safety precaution.

According to a report filed by the Holdenville Police Department, Officer Anthony Regian was dispatched to an apartment on N. Bullitt at approximately 2:23 p.m. Friday afternoon to arrest Dennis O'Neal for alleged domestic abuse with strangulation. When Regian arrived O'Neal refused to come out of his bed-

room, talking to the officer through an open window. O'Neal eventually came out of the bedroom but refused to come outside. After Regian told him he was under arrest, the report states O'Neal put a knife to his neck and stated he was not going to jail and was going to kill himself.

Regian called for backup and Holdenville Police Chief Josh Kelley responded. According to the report, O'Neal told Kelley he had blocked the doors, he wanted to die, and would make the police shoot him.

Kelley called Hughes County Sheriff's Office for additional backup. O'Neal squatted in the hallway to speak with the police, going down the hall and in and out of their sight. During the negotiations, O'Neal covered himself and the floor with lighter fluid, lit a candle, and placed it on the floor, threatening to set himself and the apartment on fire as motivation to kill himself, the report states, adding that O'Neal poured vegetable oil on the floor as well. Holdenville Fire Department was called, as well as Hughes County EMS. Firefighters ran a hose next to the window in case O'Neal started a fire while they were negotiating.

O'Neal refused to cooperate, so Officer Regian and Chief Kelley contacted Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Chief Robert Hawkins and asked for assistance from Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse hostage negotiator Cpl. Danny Beaver. Chief Hawkins approved the request and Cpl. Beaver and K9 Officer Lyndon Spears responded. Cpl. Beaver took over negotiations with O'Neal at 7:12 p.m.

While Cpl. Beaver continued talking with O'Neal, Chief Kelley, Officer Regian and K9 Officer Spears evacuated occupants of the apartment complex as well as

surrounding block. They Highway Patrol needed a warrant to respond.

Regian left the apartment on the request. Police Officer Regian that a tank with him it up, according to Judge contacted Judge residence with well as an O'Neal. After Smith granted \$100,000, the warrant was signed who then contacted team was Sheriff and location.

The report O'Neal had on the floor, team arrived and took over personnel were replaced by Chief Kelley OHP Captain post a block were advised demands for O'Neal not cooperate. When in the OHP O'Neal. The O'Neal had a wall and entered to avoid the report, according to custody at Saturday morning



STANDOFF – Law enforcement and emergency responders avoided a potentially lethal situation during a standoff that lasted over 12 hours. Responders to a situation in which a suspect allegedly claimed he wanted the police to shoot him were: Holdenville Police Department; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Negotiator and K9 Officer; Oklahoma Highway Patrol Tactical Team, Task Force and Negotiator; Hughes County Sheriff and Deputies; Holdenville Fire Department; and Hughes County EMS. The tense situation began Friday afternoon ended in a peaceful arrest early Saturday morning.

Holdenville News

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1 Section

(USPS 247-200)

Hughes County, Oklahoma

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

12-hour standoff ends peaceful

A number of law enforcement and emergency personnel became involved in a stand off that occurred after Holdenville police originally responded to a domestic abuse call and the suspect refused to surrender. As the situation continued, residents in the surrounding area were evacuated from their homes as a safety precaution.

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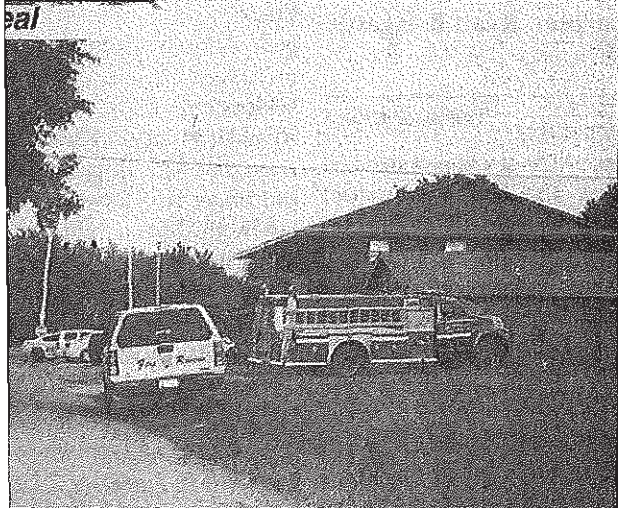
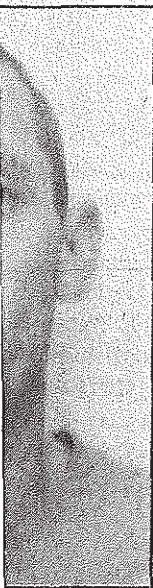
While Cpl. Beaver continued talking with O'Neal, Chief Kelley, Officer Regian and K9 Officer Spears evacuated occupants of the apartment complex as well as

surrounding houses in the entire square block. They next contacted the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and were informed they needed a warrant for the tactical team to respond.

Regian left the scene to write a warrant request. Police Chief Kelley informed Regian that O'Neal had a small propane tank with him and was threatening to blow it up, according to the report. Regian contacted Judge Trisha Smith and went to her residence with his affidavit for arrest as well as an unsigned arrest warrant for O'Neal. After reading the affidavit Judge Smith granted the warrant with a bond of \$100,000, the report states. Once the warrant was signed, Regian informed Kelley, who then contacted OHP, and the tactical team was dispatched. Hughes County Sheriff and deputies also dispatched to the location.

The report states that by this time O'Neal had cut himself and was bleeding on the floor, the report states. OHP tactical team arrived at approximately 9:50 p.m. and took over, and all other emergency personnel were moved to another area and replaced by tactical team members. Police Chief Kelley, Sheriff Maxwell, and an OHP Captain set up a unified command post a block north of the situation. They were advised that the OHP gave commands for O'Neal to come out and he did not cooperate, so OHP shot gas in the residence. When that did not work, they sent in the OHP bomb squad robot to locate O'Neal. They eventually discovered O'Neal had made a hole in the adjoining wall and entered a neighboring apartment to avoid the effects of the gas, according to the report, adding OHP took O'Neal into custody at approximately 2:39 a.m. Saturday morning.

See Standoff, page 2



enforcement and emergency responders avoided a potential fire during a standoff that lasted over 12 hours. Responding agencies include Holdenville Police Department; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Chief Robert Hawkins; K9 Officer Lyndon Spears; Oklahoma Highway Patrol Tactical Team; Hughes County Sheriff and Deputies; Holdenville Police Department; Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse; Hughes County EMS. The tense situation began Friday afternoon and ended with a peaceful arrest early Saturday morning.