

Incident: Case Still Under Investigation of SPD, Rangers

From Page 1
from the residence due to them fighting during the last couple of days.

According to the release, the "wife" entered the residence and observed Brooks pointing a gun at her. She quickly ran out of the house when

the officer heard a gunshot coming from the residence. The SPD officer on scene grabbed the wife and took her to safety.

The identity of the woman or the officer who pulled her to safety were not identified by Kraft as of Wednesday afternoon, due to the

on-going investigation of the case. Other SPD and local officers from the Gaines County Sheriff's Dept. and Texas Dept. of Public Safety immediately set up a perimeter around the residence and began evacuating the other residences in the area.

caused from a single-shot fired from a .357 Ruger Magnum revolver, which was recovered from the scene.

Gaines Co. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 Tammy Clark was called to the scene, and pronounced Brooks dead at 7:10 p.m. She ordered an autopsy on Brooks, which will be conducted by the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's on Friday morning, according to Kraft.

Kraft added that at no time were any officers on scene shot at. "It appears by the investigation that only one shot was fired which was at the beginning of the ordeal," said Kraft.

The Seminole PD with the assistance of the Texas Rangers are completing the investigation, which is anticipated to take up to two weeks to complete.

Witnesses: From Page 1

"It was crazy," said Dagley. "(Law enforcement officials) came and said they needed to evacuate me out of the area."

Dagley stated that due to being removed from her residence, she found refuge at her parent's home a few blocks away from the scene and returned home around 9 p.m. Tuesday evening.

A fellow neighbor, who requested not to be identified by the *Sentinel*, said she watched Tuesday's events unfold from her and her parent's residence, located across the street from Tuesday's standoff scene.

"It was very scary at the time, being across the street and not really

knowing what is going on, other than (seeing) police with rifles in your front yard," she said.

"(An) officer knocked on the door, asked to enter and told us to get to the back of the house for safety," she said, stating that she and her mother were the only occupants of the home at the time of the incident.

She added that the outcome was a "sad situation."

The standoff incident, according to a Seminole Police Dept. press release late Tuesday evening, began at 4:37 p.m. with an SPD officer being called to a residence located at 611 S.W. 16th St., in relation to the stand-by request.

"The purpose of the stand-by was for the wife to gather some belongings from the residence due to them fighting during the last couple of days," said Bernie Kraft, Chief of Police for the Seminole Police Dept., in the release.

"The wife entered the residence and observed her husband pointing a gun at her. She quickly ran out of the house when the officer heard a gunshot coming from the residence. The officer grabbed the wife and took her to safety."

The identities of the wife and the initial SPD officer on the scene were also not released in the media information e-mailed to the *Sentinel* late Tuesday evening.

The press release further stated that fellow officers from the Seminole Police Dept., Gaines County Sheriff's Dept. and Texas Dept. of Public Safety responded to the scene and immediately set up a perimeter around the residence and began evacuating the other residences in the area.

At 6:53 p.m., law enforcement officials entered into the residence after all attempts to make contact with the individual inside had failed.

Gaines County Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Tammy Clark, pronounced the man dead at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, according to a conversation with the *Seminole Sentinel* on Wednesday morning.

Clark stated she ordered an autopsy upon the deceased individual.

News Briefs

FSA Farm Loans Available for 2012 Losses

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought Oct. 1, 2012 and continuing are being accepted at the Gaines County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, according to a press release issued by the agency recently.

Gaines County is one of 14 contiguous counties in Texas recently named by the US Dept. of Agriculture as being eligible for loans to cover part of actual production and physical losses resulting from the disaster.

Cornelius said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 2.25 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of crop production or suffered any physical loss to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan under this disaster designation," said Wayne Cornelius of the Gaines Co. FSA in the press release.

Producers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their production loss. Additionally, any insurance proceeds received by producers as a result of the physical loss will have to be considered in determining their total loss.

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until Sept. 9, but farmers should apply as soon as possible, according to FSA officials, as delays in applying could create backlogs in processing with possible delays into the new farming season.

FSA is a credit agency of the US Dept. of Agriculture and is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living.

Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet U.S. citizenship requirements and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest.

The FSA office in Seminole is open from 8 a.m. until 4:40 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1301 S. Main St.

Additional information regarding the disaster assistance programs may be found online at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

EQIP Funding Applications Available at FSA

Applications for funding opportunities with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at the Gaines County NRCS office.

NRCS in Texas has received its initial allocation of EQIP funding for 2013 and will begin ranking and obligating EQIP contracts after February 15. All agriculture producers interested in submitting an EQIP contract application for 2013 should do so before this ranking deadline.

EQIP is a voluntary, continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical assistance for the application of specific conservation practices. Applications are approved for contracts periodically depending on budgetary allocations. Applications made after the deadline will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address

national, state and local priorities and provide higher cost efficiency.

NRCS encourages any person interested in participating in their programs to contact their local field office, located at 1301 South Main in Seminole, TX.

EQIP offers technical and financial help to install or implement numerous structural, vegetative, and management practices that can benefit the soil, water, air, plants, livestock, and wildlife. Common conservation practices in which NRCS provides financial and technical assistance within Gaines County include:

- Replacing 20-plus year old center pivot irrigation systems with either new center pivot or drip irrigation systems.
- Converting inefficient center pivot irrigation systems to high efficiency systems through converting nozzle packages and drop spacing.
- Removing invasive brush such as mesquite using mechanical or chemical methods.
- Planting existing cropland to native grass mixes or improved pasture grasses.
- Improving grazing distribution through drilling livestock water wells and/or installing livestock watering facilities.
- Financial and technical assistance is also available for, but not limited to:
 - Developing nutrient management plans
 - Planting cover crops
 - Converting to no-till, mulch-till or strip-till operations
 - Converting electric submersible livestock well pumps or windmills to solar pumps.

Last year, NRCS in Texas funded over 4,000 EQIP contracts with \$76 million on 2.1 million acres across the entire state. In addition to helping our environment, Farm Bill conservation program funds support rural communities. In Texas, it is estimated that each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional \$2.54 in sales of goods and services.

For more information, including eligibility requirements, call the Seminole USDA Service Center at (432)758-3722. Additional program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov



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