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A DEADLY DAY

Suspect in slaying killed; woman's body found in lot

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Article Text:

Gwinnett deputies shot and killed a 27-year-old armed man Tuesday after a three-hour standoff at his home in a quiet subdivision a few miles south of Snellville.

SWAT officers were trying to arrest the man on a DeKalb County murder warrant accusing him of the death of his best friend, who was shot Saturday, police said.

About nine hours before the Snellville standoff, a woman's body was found at 6 a.m. in the parking lot of Emory-Eastside Medical Center off Ronald Reagan Parkway, police said. Police did not identify her Tuesday. Snellville Police Detective Tim Colgan said the body lay face down and was clothed but was not wearing a hospital uniform.

Late Tuesday, police were investigating the possibility that the deaths might have been related. "They're hearing rumors and they're still trying to track it down," said Darren Moloney, Gwinnett police spokesman. "It is going to be a lot harder now."

The shooting on Notting Glen Lane disturbed neighbors in the Willingham Manor subdivision. Many had to be evacuated as armed SWAT team officers circled the house.

"I can't believe this," said Victoria Whitely as she stared at the cadre of officers in her neighborhood. "I moved to Snellville to get away from this."

The man barricaded himself in his home about noon, authorities said. The SWAT team used an armored vehicle to break the suspect's garage door about 3:05 p.m. after negotiations failed and he would not respond to repeated phone calls, police said.

The man's uncle had been taken to the scene, but he could not persuade the man to come out.

The suspect had been inside a car parked in the garage during the standoff.

The man raised a semiautomatic pistol at officers, Gwinnett Sheriff Butch Conway said, and SWAT team members opened fire.

"We hate when something like this happens," Conway said. "I'm just happy that my deputies were not shot."

Conway said the 27-year-old was suspected of killing his best friend.

Arlington and Debra Glaze said the man killed Tuesday, whom they identified as Khalid Amir Nelson, was suspected of killing their 30-year-old son, Asim Glaze, in Doraville on Saturday.

The Glazes said they have been lifelong friends with Nelson and his family.

They said they knew DeKalb authorities were searching for Nelson for the slaying of their son.

When they heard Nelson was locked in his Snellville home, they called his uncle so he could try to persuade Nelson to turn himself in.

"What I was afraid of was the police killing Khalid," Arlington Glaze said. "He [the uncle] was there, trying to save another life."

Glaze said he doesn't know whether Nelson's death and their son's death was related to the death of the woman whose body was found in a parking lot near the Snellville hospital.

Glaze said he took no satisfaction in Nelson's death, which he described as tragic for both families.

"It is just another degree of depression," Glaze said.

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Go online for news developments and more photos from SWAT standoff.

Caption:

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Photo

VINO WONG / Staff

Gwinnett police used an armored vehicle to break down the door to the garage where the suspect was holed up. He raised a weapon at officers and was subsequently shot and killed.

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Photo

VINO WONG/ Staff

An armored vehicle was used to crash the garage door of a murder suspect near Snellville on Tuesday. Police said the man was shot when he raised a weapon.

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JOHN SPINK / Staff

Technicians work the parking lot of the Physician Center at Emory-Eastside Medical Center, where a woman's body was found.

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Map

CHARLES W. JONES / Staff

Map pinpoints SWAT shooting at 4925 Notting Glen Lane in Gwinnett County. Inset map outlines area of detail relative to metro Atlanta.

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