

FROM A1



PHOTOS BY NELSON KEPLEY/News & Record

Greensboro Officer A.W. Riedell directs vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from the scene of a standoff on Westdale Place near Walker Avenue on Tuesday. Residents of about 15 houses in the area were evacuated and taken to the police substation on Swing Road.

# Standoff

Continued from Page A1

ing the man. "Get down on your knees! Get down on your knees!" Whitman heard them yell. "We didn't hear shots at all."

And so a day that began with gunfire and uncertainty ended peacefully.

About 7:40 p.m., the naked man walked onto the porch at his home at 421 Westdale Place and sat in his rocking chair. A police dog grabbed the man, who was able to escape and run back into his home. The High Point Police Department's Special Response Team ran inside and tackled the man, who resisted arrest, said Greensboro police Chief Ken Miller.

Police charged Jimmy Albert Burleson, 41, with attempted first-degree murder and assault with a deadly weapon on a law enforcement officer.

Burleson was transported to Moses Cone Hospital to be assessed by mental health physicians, Miller said. He will remain there until doctors deem him capable of being released to police and placed into the Guilford County jail.

Some Lindley Park residents said they saw Burleson walking his two dogs in the neighborhood. He was a chiropractor, they said.

Some neighbors, who didn't want to be identified, said they saw Burleson last weekend behaving erratically.

They said he spoke very intently for about half an hour about odd topics, often switching quickly from one to another.

The neighbors said they weren't afraid of him, but were put off by that behavior. Residents of between 10 and 15 homes near Burleson's had been evacuated or blocked from their homes for most of Tuesday. They were on high alert, using social media to find news and share stories of how they heard the first shots ring out that morning.

Danielle Hatfield and her husband, Brandon Pierce, were startled by the gunfire, although they don't live as close as Whitman. Shootings aren't com-



TIM RICKARD/News & Record

mon in the area.

"I heard shots," Hatfield said. "Then it went bam, bam, bam. Then I heard about three or four more. I just kind of looked at him, and said 'Are they gunshots?'"

She quickly tried to justify it, thinking the sounds came from firecrackers.

"You don't expect to be concerned with whether or not you've got to run out of bed and hit the floor."

Evacuated residents were taken by bus to the police substation at Swing Road, where police and Greensboro's American Red Cross chapter looked after them.

"My understanding is they were pretty much told to get warm clothes and come on out," said American Red Cross spokeswoman Melanie McDonough.

Some of the evacuees later found shelter with friends or relatives, McDonough said. The Red Cross housed a family of six at a local church after the police substation closed at 5 p.m.

All of the residents were allowed to return home Tuesday night, Miller said.

McDonough said Red Cross volunteers not only fed the families, but more than 100 first responders who took over the parking lot at Lindley Park Baptist Church. Mental health volunteers also counseled the evacuees.

"They know this neighbor," McDonough said. "I can't imagine, but put yourselves in their situation. Can you imagine the neighbor doing this? They're worried for their neighbor. Never in a million years could they see this happening."

Police initially surrounded Burleson's house

off Walker Avenue after police said he fired an automatic weapon at 13-year-old veteran officer C. Stevens Jr., hitting his patrol car several times. Miller said he saw at least two bullet holes himself.

Miller said a neighbor called police at 5:07 a.m. Tuesday to report hearing a man "calling out to God" while sitting on his porch with a gun.

When officers arrived, Miller said, Burleson went into his house and fired several shots. The man then came back outside and fired several times at the officer.

Miller said the officer returned fire with a handgun and shotgun.

Burleson retreated inside and failed to answer officers' instructions to leave the home unarmed and with his hands up, according to a police news release. The man was naked at the time, police said.

They fired tear gas inside the house, but it was not successful in getting the man out.

Burleson talked with police through a robot inside the house that is equipped with an audio/video link.

Police officers watched and spoke to him throughout the day, trying to resolve the situation without force.

Greensboro police had been trying to negotiate with the man, but needed relief from other area agencies.

Greensboro police tactical teams were replaced midafternoon by teams from the High Point Police Department and Guilford County Sheriff's Office. The Winston-Salem Police Department let Greensboro officers use their robot when the battery died on the Greensboro robot, Miller said.

The High Point team eventually arrested Burleson.

"The situation ended, I think, peacefully," Miller said. "Certainly the way we wanted it to end, with nobody being seriously injured, either police officers or innocent neighbors."

Staff Writer John Newsom contributed to this report.

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Pat McCrory shakes hands with supporters present for the kickoff to his campaign for governor Tuesday at the Oriental Shrine Club in Greensboro.

JERRY WOLFORD  
News & Record

# McCrory

Continued from Page A1

his 2008 loss to Gov. Bev Perdue.

"The result of that campaign will not be a surprise to you because Pat beat me like a drum," Hurley said. "Sadly, the power elite of the good ol' boy — and yes, good ol' girl — network, the bosses of North Carolina, they won. And they kept the same political machine in the office which has caused so much harm to our government and our economy," McCrory said. "Ladies and gentlemen, we won't be fooled again."

McCrory, 55, is a much different candidate today than when he declared his 2008 run. His rhetoric has a sharper edge, attacking not just the problems he sees in government but the individuals running it.

"We have already taken the first step, the current governor will not be re-elected," McCrory said, referring to Perdue's decision not to run for re-election. That got one of his biggest rounds of applause of the night.

More than 400 well-wishers cheered as McCrory reminisced about being taught to say "yes ma'am" and booed when he talked about Democratic proposals to raise sales taxes.

Guilford County Sheriff BJ Barnes emceed the evening. Ruth Revels, who taught McCrory in her drama class, attested to his "star quality," and Marshall Hurley, a lawyer active in GOP politics, told about running against

McCrory for student body president.

"The result of that campaign will not be a surprise to you because Pat beat me like a drum," Hurley said.

McCrory faces a relatively easy path to the Republican nomination this year. No other well-known Republican has declared a run. In addition, GOP establishment groups like the Republican Governor's Association and grass-roots activists have embraced him.

With more than \$2 million in his campaign account, McCrory can focus on burnishing his own image while Democrats scramble to find a standard bearer. Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton and Rep. Bill Faison have already declared their intentions, and many Democrats are hoping that former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, a Greensboro native, gets in the race.

Four years ago, McCrory was a late entrant into the contest, facing a field of fellow Republicans who suggested that McCrory was too liberal to represent the party. Voters in rural parts of the state were suspicious of his big-city ties, and fiscal conservatives looked askance at a sales tax he helped pass that pays for mass transit projects in Charlotte.

"There is infinitely more enthusiasm about a McCrory campaign than there was before," said Dallas Woodhouse, state

director for Americans for Prosperity, a well-funded conservative organization.

By helping legislative candidates in 2010, working with groups like Americans for Prosperity on such issues as lobbying for a voter identification requirement and effectively riding "the chicken dinner circuit" for the past two years, McCrory has established his conservative bona fides.

"It seems like he's going to be my choice," said Christopher Phillips, a Greensboro resident who said he's working part time preparing taxes while looking for a full-time job. "It seems like he has the same values I do."

Republicans are hoping to pair a McCrory win with continued dominance in the General Assembly, where a handful of signature GOP efforts have been frustrated by Perdue vetoes. Democrats, by contrast, say that electing McCrory will hand a rubber stamp to the GOP-led General Assembly, which they say has cut too deeply in education and health care.

But McCrory didn't shy away from the budget cuts Tuesday.

"I think he will be a partner in good budgeting," said Rep. John Blust, a Greensboro Republican. "And I think he'll tend to sign bills and not be an impediment."

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