



Hospital shooting by 'armed visitor' at Prisma Laurens

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

Well after sunrise on Thursday morning, visitors to the Prisma Health Laurens County Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department were being scanned by an officer with a hand-held metal detector wand after an early morning altercation just before 2 a.m. resulted in injuries to an armed visitor and a Greenville Health Authority Police officer.

"According to the police incident report, the officer and a (South Carolina) highway patrol officer attempted to talk with an armed visitor at the hospital's emergency department," said Sarah Moore, public relations coordinator at Prisma Health in a press release to media. "The visitor shot the police officer, and the officer shot the visitor in the arm while attempting to stop him. The incident is being investigated by the Greenville Health Authority Police Department and the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division."

By mid-day on Thursday the officer had been treated for his injuries and released but the alleged gunman was still in the care of Prisma Health physi-

cians and would be booked after he was released, according to SLED spokesman Thom Berry.

"It's my understanding from the report that it started in the Emergency Department and then continued outside," Berry said, explaining some of the specific timeline details were still under investigation and getting worked out. "We are investigating the entire incident, not just the portion involving the officer shooting."

Berry said no charges had yet been filed because the unnamed suspect was still under the care of Prisma Health physicians.

"That is all dependent upon what the physicians say," Berry said, referring to suspect's potential release. "We have been talking with the solicitor's office because we want to bring in local prosecutors and we will be ready as charges are brought."

With the shooting taking place less than 24 hours after a shooting in Orangeburg Regional Medical Center, Moore was asked if the hospital planned other security changes aside from scanning visitors Thursday morning, but she said she could answer no more questions related to the incident.



Photo by Judith Brown
'ARMED VISITOR' — A Greenville Health Authority Police officer was shot just before 2 a.m. Thursday by an armed visitor, in an altercation which started inside the Emergency Department, according to SLED. The injured officer was released before noon Thursday while suspect, who was shot when officer returned fire, remained hospitalized.

A Family in Fear

Additional security measures are just what Jahaza Duncan hopes to see, however, after she, her husband and teenage son overheard some of the altercation from behind a locked door where her son had been a patient in the ED.

"We had been there since about 11:30 and were signing the discharge papers and following the nurse out the door when she screamed and ran back in and threw her body against the door," Duncan said. "We thought it was something that had hit the floor, but she told us

to go in and lock the door to the bathroom but we said, 'Not without you.'"

Her husband called 911 and they huddled in the corner of the bathroom — Duncan praying over them and for the staff members who had just been caring for her son.

"Our nurse was a hero because we were seconds from being in the middle of it," Duncan said. "It was horrible because at that point we thought the officer was shot and there was a loose gunman."

(Continued on page 3)

Woodruff man dies in 3-car wreck

By John Clayton
Editor

A Woodruff man was killed Tuesday when the pickup he was driving collided with two other vehicles on Highway 101. The crash left a woman and a child injured.

Dude Waters Jr. was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, which occurred in Laurens County near Knighton Chapel Road, said Laurens County Deputy Coroner Vickie Cheek.

According to South Carolina Highway Patrol Cpl. Justin Sutherland, Waters' pickup crossed the centerline around 6:25 p.m. Tuesday and collided with a 1994 Buick driven by a Gray Court woman. The driver of the Buick was uninjured.

His vehicle then crashed into a 2014 Jeep SUV driven by a 36-year-old Woodruff woman and carrying a child passenger. The driver of the Jeep and the child were both airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital.

Cheek said an autopsy was scheduled for this week.

BREAKING NEWS

Presbyterian College names new men's Head Basketball Coach



See the story on Page 5.

 Easter activities in Laurens County begin this weekend!

See Page 2 for story.



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