

Suspects in custody after standoff in Pelahatchie

Special to Pelahatchie News

On Wednesday, June 10, Rankin County Criminal Interdiction deputies were working Interstate 20 eastbound in Rankin County. At approximately 2:30 p.m., deputies stopped a Chevy Tahoe for speeding and careless driving. During the stop, deputies suspected the two occupants of possible criminal activity and obtained consent to search the vehicle. During the search, approximately one pound of cocaine was located in a box on the back seat. When deputies located the cocaine, the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Jeffery Sellers, fled on foot.

Sellers ran across the eastbound lanes then across the westbound lanes of Interstate 20 and into a heavily wooded area north of the interstate. A deputy, along with his K-9 partner, pursued the suspect on foot. When the deputy and canine neared Sellers, he displayed a weapon and told the deputy he would shoot the deputy and his dog. The deputy took cover and radioed for backup.

Numerous Rankin County deputies, along with MHP Troopers and Pelahatchie Officers, responded to the deputy's call for assistance. The area was soon saturated with law enforcement of-

ficers. Contact was made with the suspect again approximately 50 yards off the interstate in heavy woods. Sellers

The Jackson Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations was contacted, and additional Hostage Negotiators and

tiation, with little progress and darkness approaching, the decision was made to attempt to take Sellers into custody using "less than lethal" force. At approximately 7:40 p.m., diversionary devices were deployed in coordination with rubber pellets and sponge rounds. A specially trained sheriff's office K-9 was deployed and within seconds had the suspect detained. Officers moved in and were able to restrain Sellers and safely take him into custody.

Sellers was immediately examined by Pafford Ambulance Service was then transported to the Rankin County Jail. Jeffery Lamar Sellers and Erick Dwayne Sellers have both been booked in the Rankin County Jail on the charge of "Trafficking of a Controlled Substance."

District Attorney Bubba Bramlett will bring both before Rankin County Court Judge Kent McDaniel for an initial appearance.

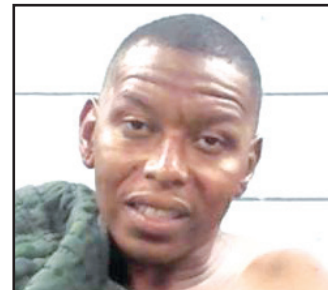
Sheriff Bryan Bailey thanks the brave men and women of the Rankin County Sheriff's Department, the Pelahatchie Police Department, the MS Highway Patrol and the FBI, who put themselves in harm's way to keep the citizens of Rankin County safe and bring a peaceful end to the incident.



Approximately one pound of suspected cocaine was found on the suspects.



Erick Dwayne Sellers is 43 years old from Temple, Georgia.



Photos special to Pelahatchie News
Jeffery Lamar Sellers is 38 years old from Decatur, Georgia.

threatened to shoot the officers and then repeatedly threatened to shoot himself. Officers trained in negotiations were soon on the scene and began to communicate with the suspect.

FBI Agents were requested to respond in support of the standoff. Several FBI Agents responded and assisted with the negotiations and security of the scene.

After approximately 5 hours of nego-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town of Pelahatchie, Mississippi, will host a public hearing to be held electronically via conference call at 5:00 PM on Monday, August 3, 2020. Members of the public may attend by calling 601-487-4999 and using the conference ID 846894#. The Town has prepared a Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report for proposed wastewater improvements, including enhancements to the Wastewater Treatment Facility at 221 Lake Road, Pelahatchie, MS. The Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report will be presented at the public hearing to explain the current facilities planning effort, the proposed improvements to be constructed, why the improvements are needed, environmental assessment of the proposed improvements, and the proposed project. The purpose of the public hearing is to present the Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report, receive further suggestions and comments, and answer questions.

The Town of Pelahatchie will begin a public comment period on July 1, 2020. The comment period will allow citizens to review the 2020 Wastewater Improvements Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report and offer additional comments.

A copy of the 2020 Wastewater Improvements Facilities Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report is available for review at the Town Hall during regular business hours. Written comments, suggestions, and questions may be submitted to Hayden Overby at hayden.overby@waggonereng.com until August 3, 2020.

Publishing Dates: July 1, 2020


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