

Weekend welfare check leads to Wilkes situation

Written by

Monday, 05 November 2007 19:00

Wilkes County deputies had a hard Sunday night.

Just before midnight, deputies went to a residence on Bagley Springs Road to check on the welfare of Randy Lee Childress. Reports say Childress immediately began to threaten deputies- initiating a standoff. As deputies tried to explain they were checking on his safety, Childress threatened to kill anyone who came in the house. Deputies say it was likely that Childress was trying to provoke deputies into shooting him, "suicide by cop," and they weren't about to take the bait.

After waving a baseball bat at deputies on the property, Childress climbed into an SUV and attempted to run an officer down. Childress crashed the SUV into the porch and ran back inside the home, once again threatening to shoot authorities. Deputies heard what they believed to be gunfire.

Additionally, Childress is alleged to have taken shots with a bow and arrow. While he missed the deputies, the incident forced authorities to call for the Critical Response Group.

Before the group could arrive, however, Childress set the house on fire and ran out the back door into the woods. It was at the woods' edge where he was finally apprehended without incident by Wilkes deputies. He faces an extensive list of charges, including assaulting an officer and arson.