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P1578

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SWAT TEAM APPREHENDS MAN



PAUL AIKEN / Daily Camera

Juan Rosales, seated, yells out in pain after being shot with a Taser stun gun at the end of a six-hour standoff with authorities in Longmont on Monday.

Longmont standoff resolved

2 schools locked down as SWAT team searched for man wanted on warrants

By Christopher Anderson

Camera Staff Writer

LONGMONT — Children at two elementary schools hid inside classrooms, and nearly 50 apartment buildings were evacuated as a SWAT team attempted to apprehend a man Monday wanted on several warrants.

Juan Rosales, 28, of Longmont, barricaded himself inside of a Stonhedge Place apartment for several hours before a police negotiator talked him into coming outside at about 6:30 p.m.

Once outside the building, 600 Martin St., Rosales pointed a cell phone at officers simulating a gun and was immediately subdued with a Taser stun gun.

No one was hurt during the nearly six-hour effort to locate and arrest Rosales.

He was wanted on several

outstanding warrants including a domestic violence incident, second-degree kidnapping and carrying a concealed weapon.

Two nearby elementary schools, Columbine and Rocky Mountain, were ordered locked down about noon.

Columbine Elementary School was approximately three blocks from where SWAT officers found Rosales.

"We are just telling them there is a problem in the neighborhood and that the school is safe," said Jacki Shu-

bert, one of several officers at the school.

The officers and teachers ensured that the some 150 children who normally walk home were picked up by parents.

Maria Peña was at Columbine to pick up her 9-year-old son.

"My kid never came home, and there are cops all over the place," she said. "It's a scary situation."

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 P1646
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Police train their weapons on Juan Rosales, 28, of Longmont, as he leaves an apartment after he kept police at bay for more than six hours Monday. Rosales struggled briefly and was brought to the ground by a police Taser. He was arrested and taken to Boulder County Jail.

Times-Call photo by Jeff Haller

Man arrested after standoff

Schools locked down during six-hour ordeal

By Amanda Arthur and Travis Henry
 The Daily Times-Call

LONGMONT — A Longmont man was arrested after he barricaded himself in an apartment and kept police at bay for more than six hours. Juan Rosales, 28, walked uninvited into an apartment in the Stonehedge Place apartment complex, at 600 Martin Street, around 12:30 p.m. after a police officer spotted him in the complex, Longmont Police Cmdr. Craig Earhart said.



"The officer saw him go into one of the apartments, and before they could get a good perimeter set up, he apparently moved to a second apartment. Now we believe he went into a third apartment," he said. Rosales was believed to have visited apartments I-47 and I-49, he said. Rosales is not a resident of the apartment complex. Jody Beach said Rosales — who is

an acquaintance of hers — entered her apartment through an unlocked door around 12:30. "I was sleeping and he came in. ... I didn't know anything was wrong until the police came to the door," she said. She left the apartment with officers, but Rosales refused to leave, she said. Longmont police SWAT team members and patrol officers set up both inner and outer perimeters of the scene, Earhart said. "We set up an inner perimeter with SWAT to make sure he doesn't get away and then an outer perimeter to make sure no one comes into the area and possibly is harmed," he said. Police had been looking for Rosales for some time, he said. "He's got multiple warrants, five or six of them, with bonds totaling \$75,000," he said.



Times-Call photo by Patrick Kramer
Officer Stephen Schulz holds a child while helping residents of Stonehedge Place evacuate.

■ See STANDOFF / A3

STANDOFF: Long record

Continued from A1

The warrants included charges of carrying a concealed weapon, second-degree kidnapping related to domestic violence, traffic offenses, failure to appear in court to face charges and obstructing justice, he said.

"Those aren't particularly dangerous," he said.

Rosales does, however, have an extensive criminal history that includes four counts of assault, one count of menacing and one count of carrying a concealed weapon, according to Colorado court documents.

Rosales also allegedly dared a police officer to shoot him at the scene of a reported knife fight in September 1994, according to police reports.

Earhart said police took special precautions when facing Rosales, because they had received reports that Rosales might have been carrying a concealed weapon two weeks earlier.

Initial reports indicated Rosales was in possession of a weapon, but Beach said when he arrived at her home, he was unarmed.

Officers evacuated several buildings near the apartment Rosales occupied but met some resistance from known gang members, Earhart said.

The gang members refused to leave their apartment until police later arrived with a search warrant, Earhart said.

He said police believed Rosales had the possibility of hiding in both I-47 and I-49 with access to both through a crawl space that joined the apartments.

Nearby schools in the area were

placed on "lockdown" during the incident, he said.

Columbine Elementary and Rocky Mountain Elementary were both locked down, and buses transporting children who live in the area were diverted.

Some students from Heritage Middle School were prevented from returning to their homes after school.

Earhart said students from the diverted buses were taken to the Longmont YMCA.

Columbine was locked down at approximately 12:30 p.m., and students went to a pre-determined safe area in their classrooms; all of the doors were locked, said St. Vrain Valley School District Spokeswoman Nancy Herbert.

Columbine principal Brett Drobney said that the children responded well when the order for a lockdown came.

"We have practiced these drills before," Drobney said. "The teachers kept them calm."

When school was scheduled to let out at 3 p.m., students who are bused outside of the area were escorted to their buses by police officers.

"We released kids who needed to go home on buses," Herbert said. "They were not in the restricted area."

Parents who arrived at the school were allowed to pick up their children after they were positively identified by officers; the same situation took place at Rocky Mountain Elementary.

Students who walk home or whose parents hadn't arrived at the school yet were treated to snacks and movies in the gymnasium.

Out of the 435 students at Columbine, Drobney estimated that 150 were kept on the school grounds after the lockdown until their parents arrived.

Drobney said that school resource officers kept a patrol of the school grounds and were in constant contact with school officials.

"We felt absolutely safe," Drobney said. "It certainly is nice to know people acted appropriately in a time of emergency."

Parents said the situation was a little chaotic but not horrible.

"I called the school and they told me it was on lockdown. They said I could come pick my kids up," Bernadette Garfio said.

Garfio is also a resident of the Stonehedge Place complex.

"Then I come home and it's all going on here," she said.

Earhart said negotiators from the SWAT team established contact with Rosales via telephone and worked diligently as Rosales "both escalated and de-escalated the situation" at times.

Rosales gave himself up to officers just after 6:30 p.m. amid threats that he might commit suicide, Earhart said.

"There was a bit of a struggle when he (Rosales) came out of the house," he said. "He was very aggressive and pointed a cordless phone at officers, so they used a Taser to subdue him."

Police did not find a weapon on Rosales.

Residents were allowed to return to their apartments at about 6:45 p.m.

Earhart said Rosales would be booked at the Longmont Police Department and taken immediately to the Boulder County Jail.



Times Call photo by Jeff Haller

Police surround Juan Rosales after they used a Taser on him after he emerged from a six-hour standoff in a Martin Street apartment Monday.

He said he believed Rosales would possibly face additional charges of resisting arrest.

Although the situation may not have been as dangerous as initially reported, Drobney didn't question the police department's actions.

"I can't second-guess law enforcement. I am not a trained police officer, I am a trained principal," Drobney said. "As a dad, I would want the principal to act like I acted. Lock it down and keep everyone safe."

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