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Armed man rushes deputy, is shot dead

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Article Text:

A 19-year-old Hot Springs man was shot and killed Saturday after he pulled a gun on a Garland County sheriff's deputy, police said.

Deputy Matt Avant shot the man once in the chest shortly after 3 p.m. Saturday after the man pointed a semiautomatic pistol at him, said Lt. Rodney Neighbors, a sheriff's office spokesman. Neighbors, citing instructions from Sheriff Larry Selig, declined to identify the man, whose body was taken to the state Crime Laboratory for autopsy. Selig could not be reached Sunday.

Avant, 27, who's been with the sheriff's office for five years, was placed on administrative leave with pay pending an internal investigation, Neighbors said. The results of the investigation will be turned over to Prosecuting Attorney Steve Oliver.

The shooting occurred near Jasmine Lane and Jetson Loop, off U.S. 270 and five miles west of the Hot Springs city limits.

Deputies had been called to the area after getting a report of a man refusing to leave a nearby home and having a gun, Neighbors said.

Avant spotted the man but lost him during a foot chase, the spokesman said. After someone said he saw the man near an abandoned mobile home, Avant and another deputy approached it.

Avant went to the rear of the mobile home while the other deputy approached the mobile home from the front, Neighbors said.

The man ran from the rear of the mobile home toward Avant and pointed a .380-caliber semiautomatic pistol at Avant, who then shot the man once in the chest.

A round was in the chamber of the man's pistol and the pistol was cocked, Neighbors said.

"The gun was ready to go," he said.

Slug Line: xdeadmo 3B state

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