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Stockbridge man shot, killed by police

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Article Text:

A Stockbridge man is dead after he reportedly threatened to shoot police, and himself.

Hitesh "Sam" Patel, 44, died at Henry Medical Center Thursday, police said. Police responded to a 911 call that evening from a home on McKenzie Drive in Stockbridge. The caller, Patel, was threatening suicide, according to Henry County Police Sgt. Rene Swanson.

"Henry County Police responded to the residence," Swanson said. "Upon entering ... officers encountered an armed male subject and began negotiating with him. Approximately 30 minutes into negotiations, the male subject turned his gun from himself onto the officers."

Swanson said one of the officers fired at Patel, in order to protect himself and the other law-enforcement personnel at the scene. Patel suffered a gunshot wound, Swanson said, and was transported to Henry Medical Center where he later died.

"As is standard in officer-involved shootings, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) responded to the scene to investigate," Swanson said. "Per police policy, the officer has been placed on administrative leave."

GBI Spokesman John Bankhead said that when the GBI completes its investigation of the shooting, the case will be turned over to the Henry County district attorney's office for review.

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Edition: ALL

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Page: B06

Topics:

Index Terms:

briefs

ACROSS THE NATION

Article Text:

Georgia

Police fire fatal shot after man points gun

MCDONOUGH - A man threatening to kill himself was shot and killed by a police officer.

Henry County police spokesman Jason Bolton said the shooting occurred Thursday evening when officers were called to a residence where a man was threatening suicide. Mr. Bolton said

officers tried to talk to the man for about 30 minutes before he pointed his gun at officers. Mr. Bolton said an officer then fired one shot at the man, who died at a local hospital. Mr. Bolton said the man was identified as 44-year-old Hitesh Patel.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating the shooting.

Solar energy projects get \$4.5 million boost

ATLANTA - State officials say solar energy projects are receiving \$4.5 million through Georgia's Clean Energy Property Rebate Program.

A bill approved by the Georgia Legislature this year created a commercial clean energy rebate program for solar, wind, energy efficiency and geothermal heat pump projects, with funding contingent on the availability of federal stimulus money.

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority executive director Phil Foil says his agency received \$82.5 million in stimulus funds for the state energy program and obligated \$4.5 million for clean energy rebates.

South Carolina

State says swine flu shots to meet demand

COLUMBIA - South Carolina health officials say there is now enough of the swine flu vaccine to give shots to everyone in the state who wants them.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control said Friday that 1.4 million doses of the vaccine will be available starting Monday.

South Carolina has reported 40 deaths associated with the H1N1 virus since September. DHEC spokesman Thom Berry says there have also been 855 hospitalizations related to the outbreak.

Last month, infectious disease experts said South Carolina had rejoined the list of states reporting widespread swine flu. Mr. Berry said case numbers have gone down somewhat.

- Associated Press

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