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EUCLID MAN KILLS HIMSELF AFTER STANDOFF WITH POLICE

Dateline: EUCLID

Article Text:

A 39-year-old Westport Ave. man, wanted for threatening his former probation officer, shot and killed himself late Tuesday or early yesterday after holding police at bay for four hours.

Euclid police went to the home of Michael Candela about 7:40 p.m. Tuesday, seeking to arrest him on a warrant obtained earlier in the day by North Olmsted police. Candela slammed a door on police, refused to surrender and threatened to kill anyone who entered the house, according to Euclid police Detective David Brooks.

North Olmsted police Detective Ken Vagase said Candela had threatened to kill his former probation officer and harm her family, apparently blaming the woman for 18 months Candela served in prison for felonious assault in a Lakewood case. Candela's probation ended in July. Calls made to the probation officer's home and office over several days were traced to Candela's home, Vagase said. A man who called Tuesday accurately described her home and warned her, "Today is going to be the day."

"We firmly believed she was in danger," Vagase said. "It seemed to be escalating."

Euclid police negotiated with Candela by telephone, with the last contact coming between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Brooks said Candela was drinking and became increasingly agitated. At one point, he demanded that police supply him with marijuana.

About 12:45 a.m. yesterday, police forced their way into the house and found Candela in the third-floor attic, dead of a gunshot wound to the head. Brooks said no shot was heard, but he noted that Candela had placed mattresses against windows.

No one else was in the house during the standoff.

Memo:

LOCAL NEWS

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