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Santa Cruz County lawyer armed, barricaded in office

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

LOS GATOS — A man with a rifle barricaded himself in a law office across the street from Los Gatos High School today, forcing authorities to cancel classes.

The man has been identified in radio reports as Gary Smith, a Los Gatos attorney who lives in the summit area of Santa Cruz County. He told officers he wanted to be alone and threatened to shoot anyone who approached, Los Gatos Police Sgt. Jeff Miller said.

Miller said there were two unconfirmed reports of gunshots.

Police have been unable to reach the man by telephone since the second shot was reported, Miller said.

The man was apparently in a family dispute in Santa Cruz Coun-

ty before making the trip to Los Gatos, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Sgt. Joseph Hemingway said.

Hemingway said a deputy responded to a domestic disturbance call at the summit, and found the husband was not home. The deputy spotted the man driving nearby, and followed him into Los Gatos.

When the deputy pulled the man over, the driver got out of his car with a gun at his side and "invited" the deputy to shoot him, Hemingway said. The man then went into the law office.

Los Gatos police were told to be on the lookout for a man who could be suicidal, Miller said.

Los Gatos High School students were told to stay home, but teachers reported for work, school spokeswoman Donna Jeffries said.

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