

Scottsburg man dies of apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound on November 26

Written by Marty Randall

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When two Scottsburg police officers knocked on the front door of Russell W. Skaggs' home on Monday afternoon, November 26, Skaggs apparently went out his back door and shot and killed himself.

Information released by Scottsburg Police Chief Scott Zellers related that Skaggs, 40, lived on Scottsburg's north side. Lt./Detective Mike Nichols needed to go to the home to set up a time for an interview with Skaggs about an accusation made against him.

Det. Nichols was familiar with Skaggs and knew he was a hunting enthusiast who owned several guns.

He asked Sgt. Joe Nicholson to accompany him to the residence.

They knocked on the front door. "It probably wasn't a minute or two later when they heard the gunshot," related Chief Zellers.

The officers responded quickly, moving to the back yard, where they found Skaggs lying on the ground and bleeding profusely. A gun was found nearby.

Scott County EMS was summoned. Though technicians tried to keep Skaggs alive, he died at the scene, it was learned. Scott County Coroner Kevin Collins pronounced him dead.

A funeral service for the Clark County native will be conducted at a later date, according to an announcement from staff of the Stewart & Hoagland Funeral Home, Scottsburg.

An education fund has been established for Skaggs' children. Expressions of condolences to the family may be conveyed by visiting the funeral home's website at www.stewart-hoaglandfuneralhome.com.