

## Area man shot in standoff identified

Written by Richard Anderson  
Wednesday, 21 November 2012 13:19

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An area man shot and killed Monday night by Ashe County deputies has been identified as 47 year old Walter Mark Houck. At approximately 11:00 pm last Monday night, deputies from the Ashe County Sheriff's Office, along with a West Jefferson

Police officer, responded to a report of a subject shooting from a residence on the Gaither Poe Road in the Laurel Springs area of Ashe County. The subject refused orders to put down his weapon and began pointing the weapon at the officers. The officers fired their weapons, striking and killing the subject. Sheriff Williams informed us that there is an on-going investigation being conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation and that two officers from the Ashe County Sheriff's Office and one officer from the West Jefferson Police Department have been placed on administrative leave with pay pending the completion of the investigation. Sheriff Williams expressed complete confidence in all the officers involved and stated that our hearts go out to the victim's family, as well as to the officers and departments involved.