

Young Otto resident takes own life Saturday evening

An Otto man died shortly after arriving at Memorial Mission Hospital Saturday night, where he was being treated for an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Billie Joe Jones, 28, of the Mulberry community, who suffered a single gunshot wound to the right temple, was discovered on the back porch of his house by Deputy Jerry Cook and State Trooper Bruce Harwood.

The shooting followed a heated argument between Jones and his wife, Linda, after Jones' wife had left the residence, according to authorities.

Deputy Rita Robinson

received a call at 7:41 p.m. Saturday from a neighbor who reported that shots had been fired at the Jones' residence on Mulberry Road.

Deputies and highway patrolmen surrounded the house, and talked to Jones by means of a public address system. When there was no response, Deputy Tom Bishop and Trooper Gary Cooke cautiously entered the house from the front door, while Cook and Harwood went around back.

Jones, who was still alive at that time, was found on the back porch. A .22 automatic rifle was lying nearby.

Trooper Harwood administered first aid until EMTs Meritha Dowdle and Joe Doster arrived at the scene. Jones was taken by EMS ambulance to Memorial Mission Hospital, where he died a short time later.

During the domestic quarrel between the couple, Jones demolished the interior of the house, Deputy Cook said. He left several notes, the deputy said, before shooting himself.

Also assisting with the incident were Deputy Melvin Ashe, and Larry Moses and Todd Ensley, Southwestern Technical College law enforcement trainees.