

Suicidal standoff ended

By Nick Todaro

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A five-hour suicide negotiation on Pinecrest Drive on Friday ended when law enforcement agents stormed a home to separate a suicidal woman from her weapon.

Ruston Police Chief Steve Rogers said the 48-year-old woman was apparently suffering under the weight of health problems and financial difficulties and a call came in that something was wrong at about 9:20 a.m.

The woman was reported suicidal by her daughter, who fled the house before law enforcement arrived, Rogers said.

Police arrived and began alerting neighbors to the situation.

Negotiation then began, Rogers said, after law enforcement got the woman, who had barricaded herself into the house, on the phone.

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None were injured

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The situation progressed from there for the next few hours with four negotiators with the Ruston Police Department trying to keep the woman from taking her life, Rogers said.

"She made no effort to leave the house," Rogers said.

Efforts to keep the woman calm worked for a while, he said, but after five hours, the "situation sorta deteriorated."

Police department SWAT team members and Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office SWAT team members en-

tered and took the woman into custody without injury at about 2:15 p.m. Friday, Rogers said. Members of the Ruston Fire Department Tactical Medic unit also assisted during the standoff.

"There were no problems with the entry," Rogers said. "No one was hurt, and we transported the woman to the hospital."

The 48-year-old was taken to North Louisiana Medical Center for evaluation.

Rogers said no criminal charges will be filed in the incident, which is why identities are being withheld.