

Deputies put on leave in violent arrest

By TAMI ABDOLLAH and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — A California sheriff placed 10 deputies on paid administrative leave Friday after news video recorded the violent arrest of a man fleeing authorities on a horse.

San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon said the video “disturbed and troubled him” and appeared to show an excessive use of force.

McMahon announced the action after 30-year-old Francis Pusok was arrested by deputies in a violent encounter filmed by a KNBC-TV helicopter that capped a 2 1/2-hour pursuit. Pusok fled by car and then on a stolen horse, traveling several miles while deputies chased him on foot after deputies tried to serve a search warrant in an identity-theft investigation Thursday.

The video shows the man dressed in bright red clothing falling from the horse as a deputy runs up and uses a stun gun on him. McMahon said the stun gun was believed to be ineffective because of the man’s loose clothing.

The man falls face down with his arms and legs outstretched and put his hands behind his back. The video shows two deputies appearing to come up and kick him in the head and crotch. Other deputies arrive moments later.

Two deputies received injuries including abrasions, a twisted knee and hurt back from being struck by the horse. Pusok had abrasions and bruising. He was booked on suspicion of felony evading, theft of a horse, possession of stolen property and reckless driving.

McMahon said there is an internal and criminal investigation, which looks at Pusok’s and the deputies’ actions. The FBI announced Friday that it has also “initiated an investigation to determine whether civil rights were violated” during the incident.

He said the department won’t release the names of deputies, including a sergeant and a detective, until they’re sure that multiple threats made aren’t valid.

“I’m asking for some patience



AP Photo/KNBC-TV

In this frame from video provided by KNBC-TV, officers beat and kick a man Thursday near Apple Valley, Calif. A Southern California sheriff on Thursday ordered an immediate investigation after deputies were recorded beating and kicking a man who fled in a car and on horseback.

while we complete a thorough and fair investigation,” McMahon said. “I am disturbed and troubled by what I see in the video. It does not appear to be in line with our policies and procedures ... I assure you, if there is criminal doing on the part of any of our deputy sheriffs or any policy violations we will take action.”

The deputies were wearing audio recorders, but McMahon said he had not listened to them and the recordings will be part of the investigation.

Attorneys for Pusok told KNBC-TV Friday as they left the jail that their client has a badly swollen eye, marks from the beating over his face and body, and is in pain.

“He remembers being beat, and he remembers that he wasn’t resisting, that he laid still, he complied immediately. He says that he didn’t even move a muscle because he didn’t want to be continuously beat, yet it still happened,” said attorney Sharon Brunner.

After the beating, a deputy whispered in his ear: “This isn’t over,” attorney Jim Terrell said.

“And that’s why he’s scared to death for himself and his family right now,” Terrell said.

Ken Cooper, a use of force expert, said the deputies took their frustration out on the man and that one even appears to be striking Pusok with his expensive, department-issued Taser.

“It doesn’t look good. It looks like his hands are behind his back even

when they’re doing the blows,” Cooper said. “The justification for using force is to gain compliance from the suspect, and the suspect seems to be complying. So what this looks like is those blows are not justified, they’re not necessary and they’re not professional.”

Cooper said the officers should be disciplined, retrained to deal with stress especially, and the video should be used for training. He said the officers allowed their emotions and adrenaline to overtake their professionalism.

“When chasing a fleeing suspect, in high stress, you have to control that. It’s your obligation as a professional,” Cooper said.

McMahon said deputies had previously been called to Pusok’s home where he allegedly made threats to kill a deputy and fatally shot a family puppy in front of family members. “We were very familiar with his aggressive nature,” McMahon said.

The beating of Pusok came as recent violent episodes by officers dealing with suspects have provoked outrage after being captured on video, including the shooting death of an unarmed man as he ran from a police officer last weekend in North Charleston, South Carolina.

The American Civil Liberties Union released a statement saying it is “deeply troubled by the video images” and applauding McMahon’s call for an investigation.

COURTS

SUITS FILED

PENDLETON — The following suits have been filed in Umatilla County courts:

- Discover Bank vs. Barbara Davis; seeks \$1,877.16 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Bianca Romero; seeks \$3,242.10 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Christine E. Pease; seeks \$8,239.49 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Ana R. Lopez; seeks \$1,593.21 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Rodrick Carmin; seeks \$3,620.65 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Tyson Jones; seeks \$1,155.21 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Eric S. Morin; seeks \$4,233.63 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Christian Corona; seeks \$1,846.15 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Ann Denney; seeks \$841.68 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Tatyana Edwards; seeks \$3,390.77 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Ford Motor Credit Company LLC vs. Candi Guzman; seeks \$6,361.41 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Rocky Mt. Therapy Services Inc. vs. Sylvia R. Medelez; seeks \$2,047.70 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Rocky Mt. Therapy Services

Inc. vs. Steven R. Isaac; seeks \$559.46 plus interest, costs and fees.

- Rocky Mt. Therapy Services Inc. vs. Donna R. Reuter (Brown); seeks \$513.85 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Midland Funding LLC vs. Lori Quintero; seeks \$938.38 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Midland Funding LLC vs. Charlotte Baxter; seeks \$1,367.88 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Midland Funding LLC vs. Josue Estrada; seeks \$1,476.43 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Rhody Hayes vs. EPHA Inc.; seeks \$68,154.20 plus costs and fees.
- Margaret Bowen vs. Jaquelin Espain-Ortiz; seeks \$49,885.43 plus costs and fees.
- Toyota Motor Credit Corporation vs. Shanon J. Mitchell; seeks \$10,380.87 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Discover Bank vs. Jeremiah S. Hastings; seeks \$1,529.25 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Citibank N.A. vs. Minerva L. Bethal; seeks \$4,542.95 plus interest, costs and fees.

JUDGMENTS

PENDLETON — The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts:

- Collection Bureau of Walla Walla Inc. vs. Tim (TJ) and Veronica Elliott; judgment for \$4,448.15 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Credits Inc. vs. Sondra L. Hardie; judgment for \$4,336.40 plus interest, costs and fees.
- United Finance Co. vs. Elizabeth Star; judgment for \$3,125.13 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Debra Mosher; judgment for \$6,276.62 plus interest, costs and fees.
- United Finance Co. vs. Staci Page; judgment for \$6,340.10 plus interest, costs and fees.
- Credits Inc. vs. Darla and James Wishart; judgment for

\$3,151.83 plus interest, costs and fees.

SENTENCES

PENDLETON — The following sentences have been imposed in Umatilla County courts:

- Timothy Golden McMurphy, 28, Pendleton, pleaded guilty to Coercion; sentenced to 15 months Oregon Dept. of Corrections, 2 years post-prison supervision, \$140 fine, \$60 unitary assessment and \$150 attorney fees; pleaded guilty to Assault III; sentenced to 15 months Oregon Dept. of Corrections, 2 years post-prison supervision, \$140 fine and \$60 unitary assessment.
- Kristopher Michael Smith, 36, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Possession of Methamphetamine; sentenced to 18 months probation, 90 sanction units, 30 maximum jail units, \$440 fine and \$1,000 fine-suspended, \$60 unitary assessment and \$700 attorney fees-waived; pleaded guilty to DUII; sentenced to 2 days jail and 180 days jail-suspended, 2 years probation, \$685 fine and \$1,000 fine-suspended, \$255 State obligation, \$100 bench probation assessment, \$60 unitary assessment and 1 year driver’s license suspension.
- Michael Lee Wickham, 30, Pendleton, pleaded no contest to Failure to Appear I; sentenced to \$140 fine, \$60 unitary assessment and \$750 attorney fees-waived.
- Danyell Dove Sowell, 18, Hermiston, pleaded guilty to Assault II; sentenced to 5 years probation, 90 sanction units, 30 maximum jail units, \$140 fine and \$1,300 fine-suspended, and \$60 unitary assessment.
- Shelly Dolores Schiller, 31, Pendleton, pleaded guilty to Failure to Appear I; sentenced to \$140 fine and \$60 unitary assessment.
- Randall James Beehler, 60, Umatilla, pleaded guilty to Possession of Methamphet-

amine; sentenced to 10 days jail, 18 months probation, 30 sanction units, \$500 fine and \$1,250 fine-suspended, and \$25 probation violation assessment.

- Willie Lee McLemore, 47, Hermiston, pleaded no contest to Possession of Stolen Vehicle and Unauthorized Use of Vehicle; sentenced to 18 months probation, 90 sanction units, 30 maximum jail units, \$140 fine, \$60 unitary assessment and \$700 attorney fees.

- Christina Mary Simmons, 42, Pendleton, pleaded guilty to Possession of Methamphetamine; sentenced to 18 months probation, 90 sanction units 30 maximum jail units, 120 hours community service, \$200 fine and \$1,800 fine-suspended, \$60 unitary assessment and 6 months driver’s license suspension.

DIVORCES

PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:

Randell Eugene Tune II and Sarah Melissa Tune; Kenneth Troy Lilienthal and Eryn Breeayn Lilienthal; Ryan William Hodgson and Bethany Dawn Hodgson; Carmen Rodriguez and Noe Ramon Rodriguez.

MARRIAGES

PENDLETON — Marriage licenses have been registered in Umatilla County for:

Jose Sigfrido Garcia Diaz, 46, and Lorena Garcia Mendoza, 45, both of Stanfield.

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PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

THURSDAY

- A Heppner landlord at 8 a.m. asked the Morrow County Sheriff’s Office for a trap because as many as 18 cats are on his rental property on Southeast Green Street.
- A caller from the Eastern Oregon Alcohol Foundation, Pendleton, told police a former client called Wednesday night and threatened to burn down one of the buildings.
- A male a little after noon at Ranch & Home, 85342 Highway 11, Milton-Freewater, told an employee he was getting his checkbook to pay for a pair of boots he put on. He walked out, got into a white box truck and left.
- A Pendleton man on Southwest 16th Street told police he argued with his neighbor last week, and now the neighbor throws items into his yard, including dog feces.
- An Irrigon cat at about 6 p.m. raised some citizen concerns because it was in a tree at Southeast Utah Avenue and Division Street. A Morrow County sheriff’s deputy talked to a person who lives there, and that person said the cat gets down every night and goes home.
- A caller at 4:32 p.m. reported the theft of a check for more than \$1,300 from a residence on Lind Road, Hermiston.
- A caller at 7:19 p.m. reported her children heard gun shots in the area of Southwest 30th Street, Pendleton.
- An Irrigon resident at 7:38 p.m. reported someone with a pellet gun shot at chickens on Third Street.
- A young couple tried to sell a Kirby vacuum door-to-door at about 8 p.m. on Southwest 12th Street, Pendleton. One resident called police and said they wanted to enter her home.
- A dark blue recent model Ford F150 pickup at about 10 p.m. ran another driver off the road at Kosmos and North Loop roads, Stanfield. The victim tried to follow the subject to get a license plate but the Ford got away.
- An Irrigon resident at 11:27 p.m. reported the theft of a Sony surround sound system from Kangaroo Court Lane.

ARRESTS, CITATIONS

- Pendleton police arrested Ashley Noel Dedios, 22, of 23 S.W. Fourth St., No. 1, Pendleton, for driving under the influence of intoxicants and recklessly endangering another.
- Oregon State Police arrested J. R. Wise, 51, no address provided, for duii.

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HOME (PG) 2D: 11:50* 2:00* 4:20 6:40 9:20

LEGENDS FROM THE SKY (NR) 12:10* 2:30* 4:50 7:10 9:30

THE LONGEST RIDE (PG13) 1:10* 4:10 6:50 9:40

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