

# Pasco officer who shot man previously dragged him from fire

By GENE JOHNSON  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — One of the officers who killed an immigrant farmworker in Pasco in a shooting that helped fuel the nationwide debate over police use of force had dragged the man away from his burning rental home just weeks earlier.

Antonio Zambrano-Montes, who in another case had pleaded with police to kill him, was sitting on the ground in January in a meth-induced trance near the fire when Officer Adam Wright found him, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press under public records requests.

Weeks later, Wright and two other officers shot Zambrano-Montes after he had been throwing rocks in a busy intersection in Pasco. Video footage that showed the man running away, then turning around with arms outstretched just as police unloaded, prompted months of protests. He was the third person killed by Pasco officers within six months.

The documents obtained by the AP shed new light on Zambrano-Montes' run-ins with police and his erratic, sometimes dangerous behavior.

While Pasco police say their officers generally receive more training than state standards require, records show only a half-dozen had taken an extended course on dealing with people in the throes of drug-abuse or mental health crisis — fewer than other departments in the region.

And none of the officers who shot Zambrano-Montes had that advanced training, the records show.

"Any time you see a police officer shoot someone who is known to have mental health issues, it makes you wonder: Who has responsibility for this? Where did the system break down?" said Sue Rahr, a former sheriff who now heads Washington's Criminal Justice Training Commis-



In this Jan. 22 photo, Pasco firefighters and Dean Perry, right, a Pasco police officer, help Antonio Zambrano-Montes, second from right, to an ambulance following a house fire in Pasco.

sion. Despite the farmworker's contacts with police, the documents contain no record he ever wound up in counseling or treatment. In one instance last July, after Zambrano-Montes gouged his forehead with a knife and asked police to kill him, an officer alerted a crisis response unit. It's unclear if anything came of it.

"They never referred him to any type of treatment whatsoever," said George Trejo, a lawyer for the man's family.

Meanwhile, Zambrano-Montes was floundering on the margins.

He had been living in the U.S. illegally for a decade, and was estranged from his daughters and wife, who obtained a protection order against him. He had broken his wrists in a fall, had been out of work and despaired over his inability to send money home to his parents, his family said.

In January 2014, witnesses called police because he was hitting cars with a broom. He threw a mailbox at responding officers and tried to grab an officer's gun. He admitted taking methamphetamines and spent five months in the county jail.

On July 15, he cut his forehead and locked himself in a basement. Officers busted in. After a struggle, he said he wanted police to kill him. Medics sedated

him before taking him to an emergency room.

Police requested felony assault charges for what they described as Zambrano-Montes' attack on officers, but prosecutors declined. "From reviewing the reports it appears the suspect was a 'mental,'" a prosecutor wrote.

On Jan. 22, two city workers discovered Zambrano-Montes in his home as it burned. They walked him outside, where Wright soon found him and asked him to move. He didn't respond. "Because he was so close to the fire, I grabbed the man and pulled him farther away for safety reasons," Wright said. A day later, when he was sober, Zambrano-Montes told him he'd been high on meth and probably started the fire accidentally.

Wright had more than 200 hours of training in 2014, including a 40-hour course on domestic violence and protection orders.

But Wright and Officers Adrian Alaniz and Ryan Flanagan did not have the extended crisis intervention training, though some courses they took would have covered how to de-escalate volatile situations. In 2007, Flanagan took a three-hour course on people with mental illness and developmental disabilities.

Capt. Ken Roske emphasized that the officers were "extremely well-

trained and professional." He said all of the department's 71 officers have taken a basic four-hour crisis intervention course, and that in the past two years officers have had training on dealing with veterans in crisis, de-escalation and use of deadly force.

But training rosters show only six full-time Pasco officers had attended a week-long course hosted since 2009 by the department in neighboring Kennewick, which has sent at least 28 of its 93 officers to the training. That course is considered especially important for departments in the region because it focuses not just on techniques for safely dealing with drug-addled or mentally disturbed people, but on how to direct them into appropriate local services.

Ideally, departments would have about one-quarter to one-third of their officers take the extended training, said Bob Graham, a program manager in the advanced training division of the police training commission. Roske said if he had known that, he would have sent more officers to the training.

The Zambrano-Montes shooting has sparked further interest in Kennewick's training. A record 45 officers, including six from Pasco, registered for this year's course, which is being held this week.

"All of this crisis training is great before it's dangerous," Roske said. "Once someone is threatening the officer or threatening the public, all that training goes out the window. ... If they're charging people with a knife, you have to deal with them."

Training aside, Gordon Bopp, a mental health advocate in nearby Richland, said the problem goes beyond how police respond. He said it has to do with the death of treatment options. "We don't have any place where first responders can bring these people," he said.

## BRIEFLY

### House Committee takes up gun control proposal

SALEM (AP) — Oregon House legislators held a rare marathon public hearing Wednesday on a bill expanding background checks to encompass nearly all private gun transfers. The proposal that has sped through the Legislature in the wake of an election that helped Democrats increase their majorities.

Gun control supporters have unsuccessfully pushed legislators for years to expand background checks to nearly all gun sales and transfers, but similar bills have narrowly failed twice before. Last year's election, partly funded by a gun-control group that poured money into key legislative races, helped Democrats gain two seats in the Senate, a key battleground.

The House Committee on Rules heard several hours of testimony on a bill requiring all gun sales to take place in front of a licensed gun dealer, exempting exchanges between family members, including domestic partners. The dealer would, for a fee, have to conduct a background check before a gun transfer.

Aside from expanding the background-check system, the proposal also allows courts to determine whether or not a person ordered into outpatient mental health treatment should have possession of a firearm during treatment.

The bill has already made it through the Senate, where lawmakers passed it 17-13 on a mostly party-line vote. Democrat Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose crossed party lines over to vote against it.

The House committee is scheduled to vote on the measure Thursday.

### Penitentiary fight involves 25-30 inmates

WALLA WALLA, (AP) — A Washington state Corrections Department spokeswoman says a fight in a gymnasium at the Washington state penitentiary in Walla Walla involved 25 to 30 inmates.

Spokeswoman Shari Hall says two inmates received "significant injuries" in the Wednesday afternoon fight and were taken to a hospital while others suffered bumps and bruises. She did not immediately know the condition of the two inmates or the exact nature of their injuries. No staffers were hurt.

The cause of the fight during the recreation period is under investigation.

Hall says two housing units in the West Complex will be on lockdown through the weekend. The complex is the prison's second-highest custody level.

### No charges for officers in fatal police shooting

PORTLAND (AP) — Two police officers won't be charged in the shooting death of 29-year-old Chelsea Fresh.

The Oregonian reports eight rounds were fired at the suspect near her Beaverton home as she pointed a rifle, later determined to be unloaded, at the officers.

Beaverton Police responded to a call from Fresh's boyfriend, who said she was drunk and suicidal. A crisis negotiator tried to calm her, according to the deputy district attorney, but Fresh said she had ammunition and she'd fire at police.

She eventually came out of her home, pointing a rifle at police. Officers Dan Coulson and James Beane fired and hit her four times.

## Corrections

The April 22 article "Huff, puff, pass" misstated Nancy Kerns's title. She is Pendleton's city attorney. The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper please call 541-966-0818.

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny	Breezy with some sun	Cloudy most of the time	Partly sunny	Nice with periods of sun

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

62°	40°	59°	39°	58°	37°	62°	40°	72°	46°
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

64°	39°	64°	40°	63°	36°	68°	39°	76°	43°
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### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	58°	41°
Normals	64°	40°
Records	95° (1934)	29° (2006)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.27"  
Normal month to date 0.86"  
Year to date 3.01"  
Last year to date 5.35"  
Normal year to date 4.82"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	43°
Normals	66°	40°
Records	94° (1934)	25° (1951)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.26"  
Normal month to date 0.60"  
Year to date 1.78"  
Last year to date 3.24"  
Normal year to date 3.71"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:56 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:51 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:02 a.m.
Moonset today	12:17 a.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Apr 25	May 3	May 11	May 17

### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Times of clouds and sun today; a passing shower across the north.

**Eastern Washington:** Sunshine in south, near the Idaho border and in the mountains today; mostly cloudy in north, central parts and the Cascades.

**Cascades:** Mostly cloudy today and tonight. Clouds and sun tomorrow with a shower possible.

**Northern California:** Partial sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	53	42	sh	54	38	sh
Baker City	61	33	pc	55	30	pc
Bend	57	27	pc	53	31	pc
Brookings	56	43	pc	53	45	pc
Burns	64	31	pc	57	29	pc
Enterprise	59	34	pc	52	34	pc
Eugene	56	39	c	56	42	c
Heppner	62	35	pc	58	38	pc
Hermiston	64	39	pc	64	40	pc
John Day	60	37	pc	53	35	pc
Klamath Falls	60	31	pc	55	32	pc
La Grande	61	40	pc	56	35	pc
Meacham	51	31	pc	50	31	pc
Medford	65	42	pc	62	41	pc
Newport	51	43	c	51	43	sh
North Bend	54	43	c	55	44	c
Ontario	68	44	s	63	39	pc
Pasco	66	41	pc	65	43	pc
Pendleton	62	40	pc	59	39	pc
Portland	54	44	sh	56	45	sh
Redmond	58	28	pc	55	31	pc
Salem	55	41	c	56	43	sh
Spokane	56	37	pc	56	38	c
Ukiah	57	33	pc	53	33	c
Vancouver	54	42	sh	56	43	sh
Walla Walla	61	43	pc	62	43	pc
Yakima	67	35	pc	64	37	pc

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	83	50	s	82	54	s
Hong Kong	81	72	pc	83	72	pc
Jerusalem	56	43	pc	59	44	pc
London	62	43	pc	65	51	sh
Mexico City	81	57	t	81	53	pc
Moscow	51	34	r	50	35	pc
Paris	69	44	pc	69	52	sh
Rome	67	52	pc	67	50	sh
Seoul	66	43	pc	69	43	s
Sydney	71	58	sh	76	56	s
Tokyo	68	56	pc	68	54	s

### WINDS

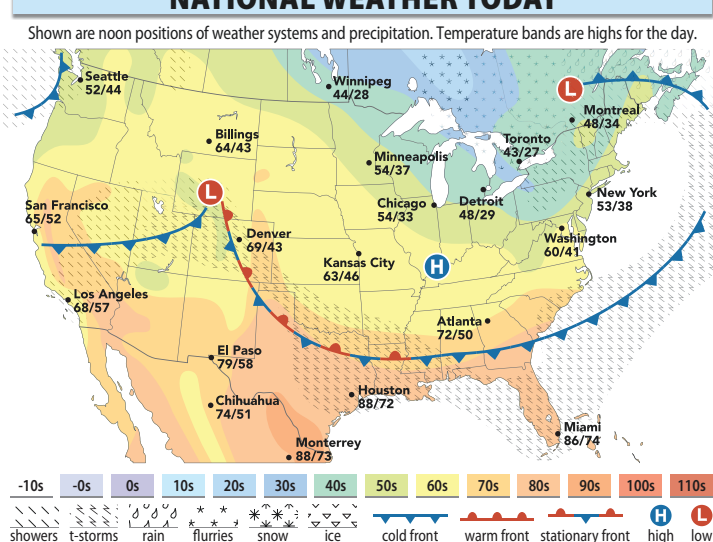
(in mph) Today Friday  
Boardman WSW 8-16 WSW 10-20  
Pendleton W 8-16 W 10-20

### UV INDEX TODAY

1 4 6 6 3 1  
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme  
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	72	45	pc	68	44	pc
Atlanta	72	50	c	72	62	pc
Atlanta City	50	36	pc	50	38	pc
Baltimore	55	35	s	57	34	pc
Billing	64	43	pc	67	41	c
Birmingham	67	51	t	73	64	c
Boise	67	45	pc	60	41	c
Boston	53	37	pc	54	40	pc
Charleston, SC	80	54	pc	73	59	pc
Charleston, WV	58	33	pc	62	40	pc
Chicago	54	33	s	54	39	s
Cleveland	45	33	pc	48	33	pc
Dallas	79	68	t	79	64	t
Denver	69	43	t	66	42	t
Detroit	48	29	c	54	34	pc
El Paso	79	58	pc	76	53	pc
Fairbanks	57	31	s	58	33	pc
Fargo	55	35	s	52	39	pc
Honolulu	86	72	c	85	72	pc
Houston	88	72	t	84	71	t
Indianapolis	55	34	s	60	45	s
Jacksonville	89	62	t	79	64	pc
Kansas City	63	46	s	65	52	t
Las Vegas	77	58	pc	77	57	pc
Little Rock	65	52	t	74	66	t
Los Angeles	68	57	pc	67	56	pc
Louisville	62	38	s	66	52	s
Memphis	63	53	t	71	64	t
Miami	86	74	t	87	75	t
Millwaukee	48	31	s	47	35	s
Minneapolis	54	37	s	54		