



Ohio man committed suicide with letter-opener

An Ohio sex offender who fled from the Olathe police in April and stabbed himself to death inflicted the injury before he was tasered.

“He chose not to use lethal force. He chose a non-lethal

option, even though he was confronted with a person wielding a sharp instrument,” District Attorney Dan Hotsenpiller said Thursday, announcing that no charges are to be filed against Pacheco.

“It was reasonable for him

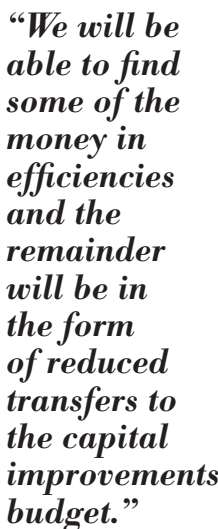
"Under Colorado law, his use

"In this case, it is important to note that the officer chose to use a Taser, a less-than-

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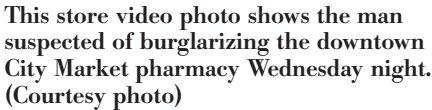


Above: Culinary Specialist for Taste of Home Cooking School Guy Klinzing gives a demonstration during the event at the Montrose Pavilion on Thursday. Right: Dave Langlois throws back a Goose Point Oyster, 'neat' before the Taste of Home Cooking Show (Nate Wick/Daily Press)



Shani Wittenberg
Financial director

A still frame of the footage that police shared shows a man, probably white, with a slender build, wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt with a logo that has red writing on the front; a grey or light-colored shirt underneath and what appear to be blue



They are working to determine what type of drugs may have been stolen from the pharmacy; Chinn said the store will have to conduct an audit of the controlled substances that are kept in the pharmacy.

People who think they see the suspect should not approach him, but instead call 911.

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Scarecrows take center stage

Botanical Society hosts fundraising fest

STAFF REPORT

The Montrose Botanical Society is hosting a new kind of fundraiser with a fall Scarecrow Festival at the Botanic Gardens, a free event with donated, decked-out scarecrows from local families and businesses.

The scarecrows will be auctioned to support the Gardens, but first, they'll spend a few days showing off for local families.

"We're hoping to see lots of kids come and get excited," said Botanical Society member Pat Brown.

Brown has seen similar festivals in California and Idaho, and decided to bring the idea to Montrose. So far, 20 scarecrows have been submitted to the festival.

"There's a dog scarecrow, an Alfred Hitchcock scarecrow, one by the Weed Warriors," she said.

The event is free, but donation jars will be set up around the Gardens.

The event is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Botanic Gardens, 1800 Pavilion Drive.

To submit a scarecrow to the festival, call Anne at 249-3577 or Linda at 941-224-9555.



One of the more than 20 scarecrows submitted for the Scarecrow Festival, entitled "Retired Garden Fairy" and brought to life by Linda Bentley. (Courtesy Photo)

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lethal use of force option," Olathe Police Chief Justin Harlan said in a statement to the Daily Press. "The officer was in possession of a firearm, but commendably exercised discretion to use a lesser degree of force in this difficult circumstance."

Pacheco and Officer Kevan Arreola, who was working with Pacheco when Reynolds was stopped on April 25, have since returned to duty.

Hotsenpiller reviewed the 7th Judicial District Critical Incident Team findings to determine whether the involved officers should be charged for unlawful use of force. Arreola did not use any force, but had merely assisted in the arrest, Hotsenpiller said, while the facts cleared Pacheco.

The prosecutor informed the Town of Olathe of his decision in a letter.

The town through its attorney David Masters refused to provide a copy of the letter, citing two Colorado statutes.

Colorado Press Association attorney Steven Zansberg said the first statute cited does not apply to correspondence sent from a law enforcement agency to a town clerk, while the second applies only to criminal law enforcement agencies.

Masters said he disagreed with Zansberg's reading of the statute.

While Hotsenpiller could not release the document, he spoke to the Daily Press about his decision and the evidence upon which it was based.

Reynolds, a sex offender, was facing arrest in Akron, Ohio, on a warrant alleging unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. (See the April 28 Daily Press.) He fled while the warrant was pending, but knew he was going to be arrested, Hotsenpiller said.

Reynolds left Ohio with his girlfriend, telling her they should go on a road trip because they had always wanted to see Las Vegas.

Investigators were later able to confirm through receipts that

the couple stayed one night in a Kansas hotel before arriving in Colorado on April 24, when, per ticket stubs found in Reynolds' wallet, they caught a late movie in Montrose.

Reynolds' girlfriend later told investigators that she noticed Reynolds was speeding as they went down U.S. 50, and that she told him to slow down. By that time, though, Pacheco and Arreola were already behind his vehicle, because someone had called in a "Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately" complaint.

Reynolds pulled over and provided his identification. When the officers ran his information, they saw a pending warrant in Ohio and informed him they needed to check the warrant to see if it had in fact been issued and whether it was extraditable.

"They were very cooperative," Hotsenpiller said of Reynolds and the woman with him.

Cooperation on Reynolds' part ended after the officers confirmed the warrant and headed back toward his car: he drove off.

Officers did not engage in a pursuit, but instead began driving north to see if they could spot the car. They soon located it stopped by the side of the road and saw Reynolds hauling himself over a fence and into a field.

Pacheco chased him to a large irrigation ditch. Blocked from going any further, Reynolds turned, coming face-to-face with the officer, whose flashlight served as the only illumination.

Pacheco "immediately observed" a sharp object in Reynolds' hand, Hotsenpiller said.

Reynolds told the officer to stay away from him. He alternately held the instrument, later identified as a sword-shaped letter opener with a 6-inch blade, up to his chest with both hands, and down at his side, but somewhat extended.

Reynolds' girlfriend was able to see from the vehicle that Reynolds had something in his hand, and she also reported hearing him say to stay away, according to the DA.

Pacheco drew his Taser and tried to talk Reynolds down.

Reynolds instead moved toward Pacheco "aggressively," with the letter-opener in hand.

"Officer Pacheco described that as being charged. He believed Mr. Reynolds would stab him, and fired his Taser," Hotsenpiller said.

Arreola had by then arrived to help secure Reynolds; he reported that Pacheco had to use the Taser multiple times. Together, they were able to cuff Reynolds and at that time, realized what he was holding.

The officers and Montrose County Sheriff's Office deputies responding to assist then noticed the blood and two puncture wounds to Reynolds' chest.

Reynolds informed authorities he had stabbed himself; they upgraded an existing call for paramedics to emergency status.

Reynolds struck his pulmonary artery at the location where it connects to the heart. He died of internal bleeding; the manner of death was certified as suicide.

Per Hotsenpiller, Reynolds' girlfriend told authorities he'd grabbed her letter-opener, which they had "for protection," from a dashboard compartment when he exited the vehicle. She saw him "hurting himself" when he faced the officer. She then heard the "pop" of a Taser.

Reynolds had previously made suicidal statements, but indicated that he wanted to see mountains first, Hotsenpiller said.

Reynolds had stabbed himself before being Tasered and restrained, per the findings.

At autopsy, pathologists found Taser marks, but these were not in the same location as the fatal injuries. Dr. Thomas Canfield, Montrose County coroner, said in April that the only lethal injury to Reynolds was the stab wound.

"The autopsy really confirmed what everyone else reported," Hotsenpiller said.

Forensic evidence indicated that the letter-opener was not in Reynolds' chest when officers tried to cuff him and the Taser did not contribute to his death, the DA said.

"All medical evidence shows he stabbed himself," Hotsenpiller said.

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What Does God's Word Say About...

Eternal Separation From God

A question many people ask today is, "How can we believe in a loving, powerful God who would also cast people into an eternal destination of pain and torment?" Reconciling the horrible nature of hell with a God who desires all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9) can be a challenge for most to understand. However, hell is compatible with an all-loving and all-powerful God.

The issue of hell does not disprove the Bible or Christianity, even if people do not fully understand the nature of hell or why it must exist. Objections to hell's existence are based on emotional responses to the idea of its severity. People feel negatively about hell because they do not like the concept. If hell is real, then our emotions cannot change the reality of it and the fact that there are consequences for sin that separate us from a holy God (Isa. 59:2).

The denial of hell is based on redefining both who God is and what our concept of ultimate justice is in connection with God's character. Because we do not like the concept of hell, we then try to re-shape God into the mold we think He ought to fit. In the human mind, God, who is all about love, is not a God who could actually support a notion like hell, so God, justice, or both must be denied or re-made. The re-shaping of God into our image is then supported by our view of what ultimate justice should be.

Our mind would not conceive of such a terrible penalty so obviously God would not condemn us. This sounds familiar to what Satan told Eve in the garden, "You will not surely die," (Gen. 3:1-5). The essence of the devil's lie is that God does not mean what He says when it comes to punishment and we bite the forbidden fruit by planting the idea that God is really not going to be that strict for rebellion against His word. We feel that we know better than God, and if His will is not our will we just deny God.

What did Jesus say about hell? Jesus used the imagery of Topheth in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom from the Old Testament. This valley outside of Jerusalem was where idolatrous sacrifices took place by "passing their children through the fire" (2 Chron. 28:3; Jer. 7:31-32). This place was a fire pit which was an abomination and a place where there could be no fellowship with God. Gehenna is the New Testament term for this valley and is also a description of eternal separation from God. Jesus said that hell [Gehenna] is where the "worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:47-48). He referenced hell as a "sentence" for wickedness (Matt. 23:33). It is where the soul and body meet destruction (Matt. 10:28). Hell is conceived as being "outer darkness"..."in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth," (Matt. 25:30). It is the "eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels," (Matt. 25:41). Hell is "eternal punishment," (Matt. 25:46). If we accept Jesus as Lord of our life and do His will (Matt. 7:21), then we accept the reality of what He taught, and we will adjust our lives accordingly.

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