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Roswell suspect shot, killed by Carlsbad police officers

Article Text:

The man accused of firing shots at Roswell police officers on Thanksgiving night was shot and killed by Carlsbad Police Department officers Monday night.

Ryan "Rhino" Baker, 27, died at the scene.

According to Capt. Jeff Zuniga of the Eddy County Sherriff's Office, investigators with the Carlsbad Police Department received a tip regarding Baker's whereabouts Monday night and drove to a location in the 2700 block of Montana Street. At about 9 p.m., Baker was observed leaving the residence in a sports utility vehicle.

Zuniga said when officers attempted to stop the vehicle, Baker led them on a short, high-speed pursuit through Carlsbad. The pursuit ended after Baker came to a dead end inside an apartment complex parking lot at the intersection of Iona and Fifth streets.

Zuniga said an altercation ensued between Baker and officers, which resulted in the injury of one officer. He declined to comment on the details of the officer's injures, but said the officer was transported to Carlsbad Medical Center and is expected to make a full recovery.

Baker was fatally shot by officers.

Two of the officers involved have been placed on administrative leave, which is standard procedure for the CPD.

Baker's body was sent to the Office of the Medical Investigator in Albuquerque for an autopsy.

Baker, whose last known address was in Artesia, was wanted in Eddy County for failure to comply with conditions of probation from a previous charge of shooting at or from a motor vehicle. He also faced charges of aggravated battery and larceny in Eddy County, and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest in Lea County after he failed to appear on a charge of driving without a license in October.

Baker also faced several charges in Roswell including aggravated assault on a peace officer, conspiracy to commit a felony, aggravated fleeing from law enforcement and possession of a firearm by a felon.

On Nov. 26, Baker and another man, Elvis Abbott, led Roswell police officers on a low-speed pursuit through town. According to police, Baker fired several shots at the officers during the pursuit using a handgun and a shotgun, and reportedly stopped several times to reload.

Baker and Abbott escaped that night, but Abbott was apprehended by Roswell police on Nov. 28. Abbott is currently being held at the Chaves County Adult Detention Center on a $250,000 bond.

RPD Officer Travis Holley said he's glad to have Baker off the street. "It's a tragedy, but Carlsbad did an excellent job of handling the situation."

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