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Investigation examines suspect death Procedure is common when an officer kills someone while on duty

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Article Text:

The preliminary investigation into the fatal shooting of a Ball Ground man by the Holly Springs Police Department officer he hit with a car may be completed by the end of the month. David Michael Purdy, 58, was killed Sunday night after leading police on a chase from Marietta through Cherokee County, which ended when he was cornered by police on Interstate 575 near Sixes Road. He rammed his 1984 dark blue Mercedes Benz 380 into a patrol car that then hit Holly Springs Police Officer William Round. The officer, who has been with the department since October 2004, then shot at Purdy, striking the left side of his face, according to the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office incident report. "When the suspect saw that he was trapped, he threw the car into gear and attempted to run down two of the officers who were moving in to take him into custody," Holly Springs Police Sgt. Dolly McMahon said. Round, 31, who suffered deep bruising, is on paid administrative leave, as is policy in such incidents. The sheriff's office is investigating the shooting as is routine when an officer kills a suspect. The preliminary report could be finished as soon as in the next week to 10 days, Lt. Steve Edwards said. Holly Spring Police Officer Steven Eidson, 31, who suffered deep bruising in the accident as well, also is on paid administrative leave. Both he and Round were treated and released from WellStar Kennestone Hospital in Marietta on Sunday night, Sgt. McMahon said. The suspect's son, David Purdy Jr., 37, also was in the car, but was not injured. He was interviewed by police and released. According to the Marietta Police Department, the incident began at 5:30 p.m. Sunday on Interstate 75, when an officer looking for a stranded driver saw Purdy swerve into his lane. The officer, who said he narrowly avoided being hit by the car, then saw Purdy apparently punch his son before coming to a stop on the side of the road. The officer turned on his lights and siren and stopped in front of Purdy's car. Purdy then pulled around the officer's car and began driving north on I-75, with the officer in pursuit. At 5:40 p.m., the Holly Springs Police Department received a call from Cobb County 911 dispatch that the pursuit was headed their way. Officers from the department and the sheriff's office responded. "It's our standard procedure to send an officer to the scene to assist whenever an incident like this comes into the county, but the Holly Springs Police Department was the agency actively in pursuit of the suspect," Sheriff Roger Garrison said. "Our primary task was to deploy stop sticks along I-575 at Sixes Road and to assist the Holly Springs officers in containing the suspect." At 5:50 p.m., the agencies shut down I-575 northbound and southbound between the Sixes Road and Holly Springs Parkway exits. Deputies put down stop sticks along Towne Lake Parkway and Sixes Road, which the suspect swerved into the grassy median to avoid. Officers continued the pursuit, and successfully cornered Purdy just south of the Marble Quarry Road overpass. Two Holly Springs patrol cars and one sheriff's office patrol car suffered moderate body damage. The interstate was shut down during the pursuit and as officers cleared the scene. Lanes again were closed Monday as

the investigation continued. ajones@cherokeetribune.com
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