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Deputies kill man after he storms jail

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Article Text:

MENA - Polk County sheriff's deputies early Monday shot and killed a hatchet-wielding man who barged into the jail and demanded the inmates be set free, authorities said.

Christopher Allen Anderson, 23, of Mena showed up at the county jail about 12:30 a.m. with knives and a hatchet, authorities said. He demanded that a jailer leave her post and told her to release the inmates.

Three deputies who were nearby filling out paperwork intervened, ordering an agitated Anderson to drop his weapons, the sheriff's office said. He refused, and deputies requested backup from a Mena officer armed with a Taser.

Two blasts of electricity had no impact on Anderson, who then attempted to throw his hatchet at the officer, the sheriff's office said.

That's when deputies opened fire, the sheriff's office said. Anderson was killed, and his body was sent to the state Crime Laboratory in Little Rock for autopsy.

Arkansas State Police are investigating the shooting. The deputies, who were not identified, have been placed on paid administrative leave.

Jail records show Anderson was last held in Polk County in 2004 on a number of charges including residential burglary, second-degree battery and aggravated assault.

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