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Man shoots himself after high-speed chase Chase End Video

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This one-minute video is from the dash camera of Chiefland Police Officer M. Watkins' cruiser. This is the end of the chase where the suspect driver locked up his brakes, lost control and that vehicle was hit by a Levy County Sheriff's Office cruiser. This video shows Chiefland Police Chief Scott Anderson's cruiser going toward the woods, where it was stopped by a tree. LCSO spokesman Lt. Scott Tummond said LCSO Lt. Jimmy Anderson, CPD Chief Scott Anderson and CPD Officer M. Watkins all followed protocol perfectly. The other law enforcement officers attempting to slow the chase by flattening the tires of the vehicle being chased with stop sticks also did their jobs right on time. Lt. Tummond said the officers performed their duties exactly right.

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Video Provided Thanks To Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum, LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond, Chiefland Police Chief Scott Anderson and CPD Officer M. Watkins

In this video, a few of the final FHP cars and troopers are seen as they wrap up their work after the end of a high-speed chase, where Levy County Sheriff's Office and Chiefland Police Department officers ended a carjacking incident on Thursday morning (Jan. 26). Here the *HardisonInk.com* news vehicle approaches the area where three damaged vehicles had just been removed -- about one mile south of Gulf Hammock on the west side of U.S. Highway 19 southbound.

Story and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 26, 2017 at 8:47 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY -- Mario Daniel McDonald, 27, of Silver Springs died after a car chase through Levy County, according to a press release from Levy County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Scott Tummond. The suspected carjacker was witnessed inflicting himself with a gunshot, according to a press release.

On Thursday morning (Jan. 26) at 9:05 , the LCSO 9-1-1 center received a call and subsequent be on the lookout notice from the Dixie County Sheriff's Office, Tummond said.

The 9-1-1 operators from the DCSO told the LCSO their deputies were responding to a reported carjacking in Old Town.



The stolen pickup truck. Photo provided by LCSO

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Dixie County operators said the stolen vehicle was a black truck pulling a camper. Dixie County also told the LCSO the suspect was armed with a handgun.

At 9:12 a.m., Tummond said, the LCSO 9-1-1 Center received simultaneous calls from a bystander and a victim at the Waco 6 Citgo gas station located at 8731 N.W. 174th St. in Fanning Springs.

Both reported an armed man had just carjacked a gold Chevrolet truck. They told 9-1-1 operators the carjacked vehicle was fleeing south on U.S. Highway 19 from the store.

LCSO Deputy Nelson Macias was pulling into the gas station as this report was being made and the dispatch call was being broadcast. The victim pointed at the vehicle departing the parking lot and Deputy Macias gave chase, Tummond said.

Additional units were notified of the pursuit as well as the Chiefland Police Department (CPD). The chase continued south on U.S. 19 and through the City of Chiefland. CPD units deployed "stop-sticks" which are utilized to deflate the suspect vehicle tires. However, McDonald was able to avoid the CPD officer's efforts, Tummond said.

The LCSO deputies, now accompanied by a CPD officer, continued to pursue the vehicle south on U.S. 19 at speeds reaching 100 m.p.h., Tummond said.

The LCSO deputies deployed stop sticks at the intersection of U.S. 19 and State Road 24 in the Town of Otter Creek, which McDonald was able to evade, Tummond said. Stop sticks were again deployed at the intersection of U.S. 19 and Levy County Road 326 in Gulf Hammock and again the driver was able to evade them, Tummond said.

Approximately one mile south of Gulf Hammock, LCSO Lt. Jimmy Anderson whom was the primary chase vehicle, took evasive actions as the suspect driver abruptly locked up his brakes. Lt. Anderson said the suspect vehicle abruptly locked up the brakes a second time and the driver lost control of the vehicle, Tummond said.

Lt. Anderson, who was in the outside lane southbound on U.S. 19 said the vehicle rotated clockwise and entered his lane of travel from the inside lane. Lt. Anderson's vehicle struck the vehicle that McDonald was driving in the passenger door and both vehicles slid off of the south shoulder, Tummond said.

CPD Chief Scott Anderson had to take evasive actions to avoid crashing into both Lt. Anderson's vehicle and the suspect's vehicle, Tummond said. Chief Anderson's vehicle slid to a stop on the south shoulder and struck a tree.

Both Chief Anderson and Lt. Anderson quickly exited their vehicles and both reported hearing a gunshot. Chief Anderson was able to move into a position and observed McDonald had suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

The Levy County Department of Public Safety (LCDPS) responded to the scene and transported the suspect to Shands at UF for emergency treatment.

One LCSO vehicle was damaged in the pursuit and one CPD vehicle was damaged. No injuries to any LCSO deputies were reported. However Chief Anderson sustained minor injuries and was treated by LCDPS at the scene. The Florida Highway Patrol responded to the crash scene to conduct the crash investigation.