



KLAMATH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Chris Kaber

3300 Vandenberg Rd
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
(541) 883-5130
sheriff@co.klamath.or.us

Media Release

Date: December 18, 2020

Re: Oregon State Sheriff's Association Award – Award of Valor

Contact: Brandon Fowler – PIO / Emergency Manager
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On December 16, 2020 Klamath County Sheriff Chris Kaber & Klamath County Commissioner Derrick DeGroot presented Oregon State Sheriff's Association Award of Valor to Klamath County Sheriff's Office Deputies, Deputy Shasta Petersen, Deputy Maria Gray, Deputy Levi Justman, and Deputy Jimmy Leach.

On Friday, April 10, 2020 at approximately 4:15 PM Klamath County 911 Communications District received a report of a disturbance in the 1700 block of Fargo Street. The reporting party advised that when the suspect arrived at a residence on Fargo Street he was intoxicated. The suspect was believed to have taken his 6-year-old child with him and he had a semi-automatic rifle in the front seat of the vehicle.

Oregon State Police Sergeant Austin Hopson located the suspects vehicle as it traveled northbound on Crater Lake Parkway. A short time later officers began to pursue the suspect who attempted to elude them.

While officers pursued, KCSO Deputy Levi Justman was able to position himself to deploy a spike strip. Shortly after, OSP Trooper Justin Henrick performed a Tactical Vehicle Intervention maneuver on the suspect vehicle and it stopped on Wocus Road.

The suspect exited the vehicle and immediately began firing at officers on scene. The vehicles of Trooper Henrick, Deputy Petersen and Deputy Gray, along with OSP Trooper Kameron Gordon all sustained damage from gunfire. Trooper Henrick, while taking the majority of the fire, waited until a lull and began to return fire, striking and incapacitating the suspect.

Deputy Petersen then rescued the 6-year-old child from the vehicle who was unharmed, and moved to a safe location. OSP Trooper Gordon sustained a gunshot wound during the firefight and OSP Recruit Torres, who had not yet graduated from DPSST, performed initial first aid on Trooper Gordon. Responding troopers and deputies, OSP Lieutenant Donnie Miller and KCSO Deputy Jimmy Leach continued first aid while evacuating Trooper Gordon from the scene to an area that was safe for medical personnel to evaluate and transport.



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Sheriff Kaber made a separate presentation of the Award of Valor to the following Oregon State Police personnel in recognition of their contributions:

Oregon State Police Trooper Justin Henrick
Oregon State Police Trooper Kameron Gordon
Oregon State Police Trooper Kyle Torres
Oregon State Police Sergeant Austin Hopson
Oregon State Police Lieutenant Donnie Miller



(L to R) Sheriff Chris Kaber, Deputy Maria Gray, Deputy Shasta Petersen, Deputy Jimmy Leach,
Deputy Levi Justman

Photo Credit – Chuck Collins

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