



City of Napoleon, Ohio

Police Department

Chief Edward W. Legg

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Local Media
From: Edward W. Legg, Chief of Police
cc: File,
Date: 07/30/2025

On 07/30/2025 at 4:17 AM, Deputies of the Wood County Sheriff's Office attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a 2004 Silver Dodge Neon with Kansas Plates. The vehicle failed to comply with orders to stop and a pursuit was initiated with speeds reaching an excess of 100 mph.

Henry County Deputies joined the pursuit in the area of the Village of McClure and were able to flatten a tire utilizing Stop Sticks at County Road 11, on US RT 6/24. The vehicle came to a stop on US Route 24 West Bound, near the Industrial Ave. overpass. Napoleon Police Officers along with Henry County and Wood County Deputies approached the vehicle and the subject brandished a black and blue colored semi-automatic handgun.

Officers and personnel from multiple agencies arrived at the scene to cordon off the scene and attempt to negotiate with the subject which he refused to do for approximately 4 hours. US Rt 24 was shut down in both directions for public safety, with extensive efforts made to de-escalate and negotiate the male's surrender. The subject shot himself with his handgun at approximately 8:21 AM. Law Enforcement did utilize various forms of Less Than Lethal equipment in an effort to distract and incapacitate the subject during the event but at no time did they discharge any firearms.

The subject was identified as: Bryan Freed, male, Date of Birth 02/02/1987, age 38, his last address is listed as Wreath Ave. Manhattan, Kansas. An autopsy is scheduled at the Lucas County Coroner's Office later in the week.

The investigation is being conducted in cooperation with Ohio BCI&I, Henry County Sheriff's Office and the Napoleon Police Department. In addition, agencies assisting at the scene include Napoleon Fire and Rescue, Ohio Highway Patrol, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Henry County Coroner, Henry County EMA, Ohio Department of Transportation, Napoleon Operations Department and the Defiance County Sheriff's Office.

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