



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

Kirk M. Taylor Sheriff
J.R. Hall Undersheriff

Mark A. Mears
Bureau Chief
Emergency Services

David J. Lucero
Bureau Chief
Law Enforcement

Paul Toth
Bureau Chief
Detention

News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471

Date: March 25, 2022

Suspect Arrested Peacefully After Barricading Himself Following Crime Spree

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies, with assistance from the Colorado State Patrol, arrested a 40-year-old man peacefully Thursday night after a brief crime spree in which he stole items from a hardware store, menaced two men and then barricaded himself in the garage of a Pueblo West home.

Deputies responded to a call at 7 p.m. of a man who took tools from Big R, 115 W. Industrial Blvd, without paying for them. While en route to the call, deputies were notified that a man who had witnessed the shoplifting, located the suspect, later identified as Erik Hannula, in a field near Industrial and Enterprise. The witness said he confronted Hannula and Hannula pulled out a knife and threatened him with it. The witness said he then took out a handgun and Hannula took off running northeast through a field.

Hannula ran into the attached garage of a home in the 300 block of E. Longmont Drive and barricaded himself inside. The residents in the home were able to get out safely. Deputies then gave Hannula several verbal commands to come out of the garage, but he refused.

Deputies looked through a window and saw Hannula hiding under a bench. Deputies, along with a Colorado State Patrol Trooper, entered the garage and quickly apprehended Hannula and took him into custody without incident. A knife was recovered.

While investigating the incident, deputies learned Hannula also had threatened another man as he was leaving Big R.

Hannula was arrested for two counts of felony menacing, theft and first-degree criminal trespass. He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

"I commend the deputies for their quick thinking and decisive actions to peacefully take this armed suspect into custody," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor.

###

