



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Todd Johns

SHERIFF/CORONER/O.E.S. DIRECTOR

Upon the completion of the internal investigation and review of the criminal investigation regarding the escape of inmate Caleb Lee Duerr, the following was determined.

NARRATIVE:

On September 27th, 2024 at 0733 hours, Inmate Caleb Duerr was moved from his cell to the inclement weather yard, a detached building from the old correctional facility for his BSCC required yard time. Once he was secured in the indoor yard, the officers returned to the jail to begin monitoring Duerr by camera from the control room along with performing other tasks within the facility. The officers on shift were busy with incoming commissary, prepping inmates for court, distributing cell cleaning supplies and failed to continually monitor the inclement weather yard.

At 0805 hours, the on-duty Sergeant received a phone call from a citizen, possibly related to Duerr stating they believed Duerr had escaped. The Sergeant checked the indoor yard, noting Duerr was missing and the interior and exterior chain link fences were damaged. Dispatch was notified and patrol units immediately responded to the area to begin searching for Duerr. Within the first hour, it was discovered inmate Duerr was able to get a ride from the O'Reilly's parking lot, located next to the correctional facility and dropped off in the area of A-23 and Highway 70 in Beckwourth. Duerr was last reported walking S/B on County Road A-23. A K-9 unit from Sierra County along with CHP Helicopter H-14 responded to the area in an effort to locate Duerr with negative results.

For the next 21 days, the Plumas County Sheriff's Office, along with multiple local state, and federal law enforcement agencies continued to search for Duerr in the Reno area as well as his residence and surrounding areas. After receiving a viable lead, on October 27th 2024, a SWAT operation was deployed by the Plumas County Sheriff's Office with assistance from Washoe County and Sacramento County and Duerr was arrested and returned to custody without incident. Upon Duerr's escape an internal investigation was immediately started. Due to the pending criminal complaint being filed with the Plumas County District Attorney's Office, specific details will not be made public in order to prevent jeopardizing the legal process.

The PCSO immediately launched an investigation into the circumstances that lead to this occurrence.

An associated factor was the lack of sufficient staffing and the inexperience of the staff working. In response to this, the PCSO will ensure that Patrol staff be available to work at the correctional facility when Correctional staffing is short or unavailable to ensure shifts are properly covered. The Jail Commander is working with the scheduling Sergeant to ensure proper staffing routinely occurs. This has been extremely difficult with the continual lack of staffing available in dispatch, corrections and patrol.

Both the Sergeant and senior officer acknowledged their lack of adherence to current policy and procedure with security checks for damage to the facility and continual monitoring of inmates by either in person or video surveillance. Policy review will continue to ensure staff is properly following procedures in place for the facility's safe operation. The results of this investigation will be forwarded to the Plumas County Disciplinary Team for review and recommended disciplinary action.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad Hermann,
Undersheriff,
Plumas County Sheriff's Office