



Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

826 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Date: June 9, 2011

From: Lt. Steve Knight
(707) 268-3630

Subject: Assault with Deadly Weapon, Robbery

Case: 201103076

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On 06-08-2011, approximately 8: 00 p.m. the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a 23-year-old Eureka man who said he was just shot at by an unknown person on the side of US 101 near the Miranda Bridge, Miranda. The victim had been parked in the turnout working on his vehicle when the assault occurred. The victim told the dispatcher he was hiding in a wooded area near the bridge waiting for law enforcements arrival. The California Highway Patrol (C.H.P.) and Humboldt County Sheriffs Deputies responded to the scene. As the C.H.P. Officer arrived on the scene, he saw a male subject, later identified as Thomas Leonard Lusk, 29 years of Miranda, flee the area of the victim's car and try to hide in the bushes. A Humboldt County Deputy Sheriff joined the C.H.P. Officer at the scene about the same time this occurred. The officers ordered Lusk out of the bushes and he complied. They detained Lusk in the deputies' patrol car. They learned Lusk was not the victim who had called 911, and the victim was still on 911 hiding from the suspect. The victim then revealed himself to the officers after learning they were on scene.

The victim told the deputies he was working on his broken down vehicle on the side of US 101 in a turnout, when he saw a subject (Lusk) mistreating a dog. He verbally confronted Lusk about mistreatment of his dog. Lusk got angry, threatened to shoot the victim and rode off on a bicycle. The victim went back to working on his vehicle

. About five minutes later Lusk returned on his bicycle now carrying what appeared to be a rifle. Lusk started shooting at the victim who fled into the bushes and called 911. Lusk entered the victims' vehicle and began removing the victims' property, which is when law enforcement arrived. The victim identified Lusk as the person who shot at him. Deputies located a loaded shotgun near the victim's vehicle hidden in the bushes. Deputies also located witnesses in the area who corroborated the victim's account as to what occurred.

After deputies informed Lusk he was under arrest, he began kicking the inside of the deputies' patrol car, damaging it. He was transferred to another deputy's patrol car, and kicked the interior of this deputy's car too, causing damage.

Lusk was booked into the Humboldt County Correctional Facility on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, unlawful discharge of a firearm, robbery, and vandalism. His bail is set at \$100,000.00.

No one was injured.

Mike Downey
Sheriff

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