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## CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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Today at about 11:15 a.m., Caldwell Police Officers responded to a call regarding a male suspect who was driving in a neighborhood at a high rate of speed, allegedly nearly striking a citizen intentionally. The suspect, who was later identified as 81-year-old Erwin Dahlke of Caldwell, was also threatening the citizen with further physical violence. When the first officer arrived and attempted to stop the suspect in his vehicle, he refused to yield to the officer and quickly fled into his residence.

A perimeter was established by the Caldwell Police Department and occupants of nearby residences were evacuated. As the investigation continued, officers learned additional information about the suspect that further raised concerns that he posed a significant and imminent threat to the surrounding residents and general public if not taken into custody. Moreover, the suspect was believed to be heavily armed, threatening to shoot, so officers trained in crisis negotiation responded to the scene and attempted to contact Dahlke to help end the incident peacefully. Dahlke refused to communicate with the officers and continued to barricade inside his residence.

Additional officers and resources were called to the scene to handle traffic control and perimeter security. Drone pilots, armored vehicles, several members of the Caldwell SWAT team, members of the Caldwell Fire Department, and Canyon County Paramedics also responded. The manpower to handle this incident exceeded 30 people.

At about 5:00 p.m. after continuous attempts to contact the suspect by phone, text, and PA system with no response, the officers on scene were able to approach the residence and turn off the power. A short time later tear gas was introduced into the residence causing the suspect to exit; however, he still refused to comply with officers. The suspect complied after being struck with a bean bag round and was taken into custody without further use of force. Following his arrest, officers took the suspect directly to get medical attention and ensure his well-being. He was then booked into the Canyon County Jail for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, eluding an officer, and resisting arrest.

“This suspect has a history of violence in this community. The combined efforts by the Caldwell Police Department, Caldwell Fire, and Canyon County Paramedics resulted in a dangerous person being taken into custody while protecting the surrounding community and the suspect

himself from serious injury or death. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of the neighborhood during this operation. Reverence for human life is our guiding principle and we will always exhaust every resource and the time it takes to apprehend a violent person without resorting to deadly force,” said Chief Ingram, Caldwell Police Department.

ERWIN JOHN DAHLKE



*All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*

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