



Thomas Corning
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE: UPD CASE #26-0246

Date: 02-02-2026
Location: 581 N. State St. Ukiah CA, 95482
Suspect: Robert Wayne Bell 43-year-old male out of Willits

Violations:

- 245(a)(1) PC – Assault with a Deadly Weapon; Other than a Firearm - **Felony**
- 417(a)(1) PC – Brandish a Deadly Weapon; Other than a Firearm – **Felony**
- 69 PC – Resist/Delay a Peace Officer by Use of force – **Felony**
- 1203.2(a) PC – Violation of formal Probation – **Felony**
- 148(a)(1) PC – Resist/Delay Peace Officer – **Misdemeanor**

On Monday, February 2, 2026, at approximately 7:28 p.m., officers from the Ukiah Police Department (UPD) were dispatched to the 500 block of North State Street regarding a report of a male subject in possession of a large knife who was yelling and acting erratically. The subject was reported to be shirtless.

Upon arrival, UPD officers contacted the male subject, later identified as Robert Wayne Bell, who was making sporadic and incoherent statements. With the assistance of Redwood Community Services (RCS), officers attempted for over an hour to negotiate with Bell in an effort to have him drop the knife and accept assistance.

While attempting to de-escalate and gain compliance from Bell, he actively cut himself and exposed his genitals to officers. It was apparent that Bell was under the influence of a controlled substance and not comprehending any negotiations or attempts to talk. Throughout the encounter Bell made multiple aggressive and threatening hand movements with the knife, pointed the knife at officers, and swung it through the air.

After an extended period of trying to reason with Bell, he stepped down from an MTA bus stop bench, while holding the knife in his right hand and began walking across the street directly toward a Mendocino County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Sergeant in an aggressive, fighting stance. Due to Bell's agitated state, aggressive behavior, and continued possession of the knife, officers deployed less-lethal devices; however, these measures were initially ineffective.

Bell then fled northbound toward a multi-residential facility, where a brief standoff occurred at the entrance to the complex. Bell subsequently ran back to the east side of North State Street and into the parking lot of 605 North State Street, resulting in a second standoff. During this encounter, Conducted Energy Weapons (Tasers)



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were deployed and found to be effective. Bell was taken into custody without further incident and transported to Adventist Health Ukiah Valley (AHUV) for medical evaluation and treatment.

During the arrest one officer sustained a minor laceration which required medical treatment. The officer was later cleared and returned to duty.

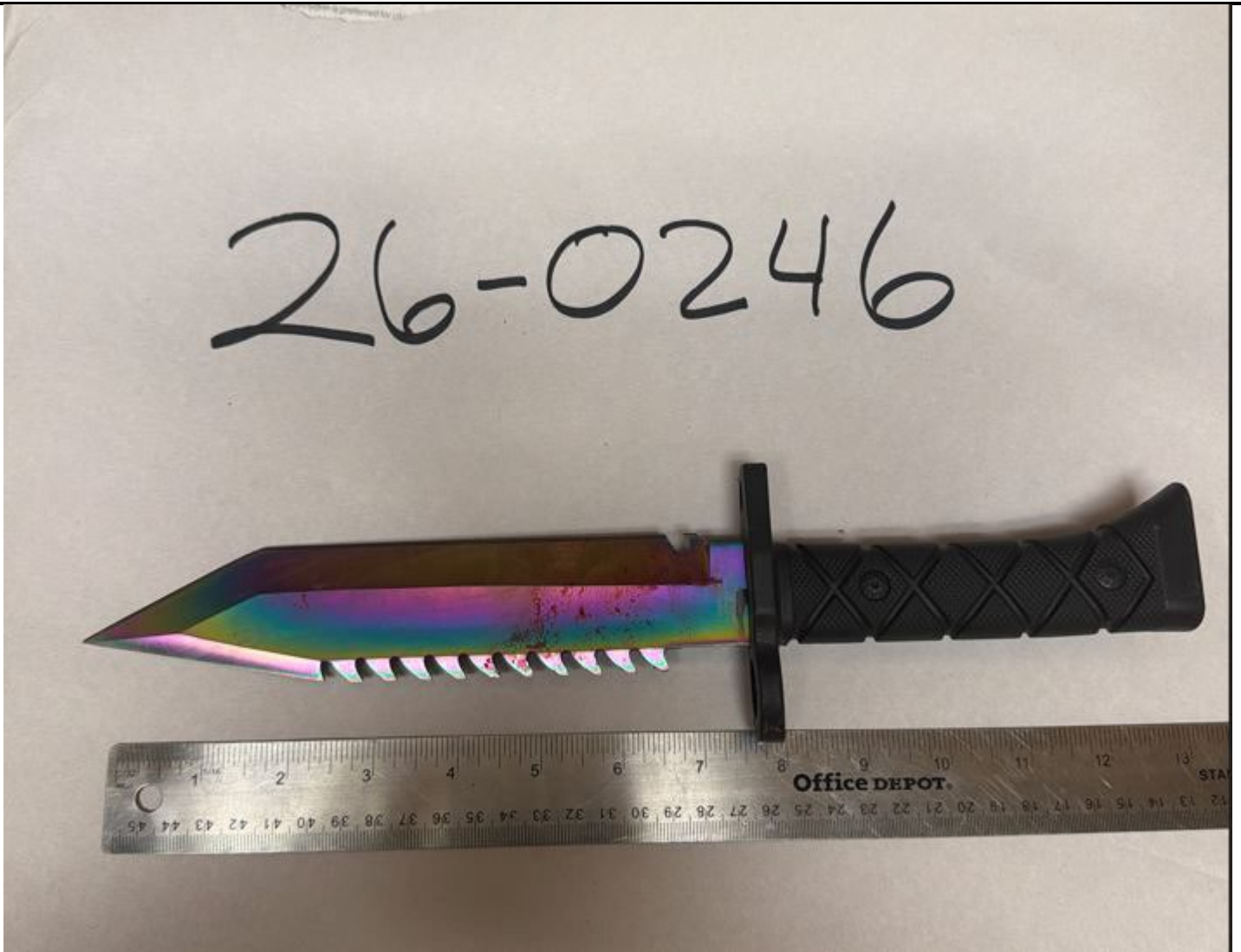
The Ukiah Police Department commends the coordination and response efforts of our allied agencies, including MCSO, CHP, UVFA, and RCS, which led to the safe resolution of this dangerous incident.

As always, our mission at UPD is to make Ukiah as safe a place as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone, and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website; www.ukiahpolice.com



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