

Deputy's name released in fatal officer-involved - Pike County News-Watchman (Waverly, OH) - February 9, 2018

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The identity of the Pike County Sheriff's Office deputy involved in the officer-involved fatal shooting in Pike County on Feb. 1 has been released.

The deputy, Eric Zirneskie, 25, has been employed with the sheriff's office since August 2016. Prior to employment with the Pike County Sheriff's Office, Zirneskie was employed part-time for the Put-In-Bay Police Department and held additional reserve posts in other locations.

Per union contract, Zirneskie has been placed on paid administrative leave until the officer-involved shooting investigation, led by BCI Crime Scene and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, is completed and it is determined he can return to work.

The fatal shooting of **James M. Burks**, 35, of Peebles, took place following what began as a traffic stop on Route 124, Piketon, in the early morning hours on Thursday, Feb. 1. According to Pike County Prosecutor Rob Junk, Burks held two active warrants through Pike County Court, including driving under DUI suspension and domestic violence.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader stated that the incident began when Zirneskie attempted to stop a vehicle in the 13000 block of Route 124 at 3:59 a.m. The vehicle turned into the drive at 13324 Route 124, according to Reader, and three subjects allegedly fled from the vehicle.

"The deputy (Zirneskie) gave chase on foot where he made contact with one of the fleeing subjects and a physical altercation and/or incident took place that ultimately resulted in an officer-involved shooting where the suspect died due to the injuries he sustained," Reader stated.

Following the incident, Zirneskie was transported to Adena/Pike Medical Center, where he was medically treated and released.

The number of times Burks was shot has not been released.

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