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PRESS CLIPPINGS

# Taser used to stop man threatening violence

By Robert Medley  
Staff Writer

For the second time in a month, a new police weapon in Oklahoma City has been used to safely subdue a person who threatened violence.

The M-26 Taser, an electric gun that fires small barbs on wires to shock people, was used Sunday to take down a man with a machete who threatened to kill officers.

Shawn Allen Staten, 37, of Oklahoma City was arrested about 1:10 a.m. on complaints of unlawfully carrying a weapon, disor-

derly conduct, public intoxication and a Cleveland County arrest warrant for larceny.

Staten, standing in the parking lot of the E-Z Mart convenience store at SE 36 and Shields, waved a weapon and screamed at officers to shoot him or he'd kill them, according to a police report.

Officer Rob Benavides first warned the man and then fired his Taser from about 15 feet. The barbs hit the man in the back and he fell to the ground and was handcuffed, the police report said.

Tasers have been available to Okla-

homa City officers since Oct. 23. On Nov. 2 police used a Taser on a woman who held a gun to her chin and threatened to kill herself while her boyfriend watched.

Capt. Jessica Cummins said police are using 80 Tasers, and more will be ordered as the budget allows. She said police are pleased with the results so far.

The Tasers won't replace guns, however.

"Tasers give officers another option without having to go straight to their firearms," Cummins said.

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