

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Onalaska Police Department has been working a series of thefts that began Sunday April 16th through Tuesday April 18th. On Sunday (April 16th) there was a theft from a motor vehicle in Onalaska that resulted in the theft of a check book. On Monday (April 17th) an individual walked into the Onalaska High School after normal school hours but when the building is normally open to the public for after school activities and stole a bag that contained a computer and various other items. Prior to leaving the school grounds, the individual cut a lock off of a bike and rode off with it. On Tuesday (April 18th) an individual went to the Kwik Trip located at 902 2nd Ave. North in Onalaska and attempted to pass a forged check that was stolen from the vehicle the previous Sunday. When that attempt failed the individual fled the store with various items including \$50 worth of scratch off tickets. The individual that was caught on video at the Kwik Trip was the same individual that was caught on video at the Onalaska High School.

The Onalaska Police Department did a Facebook post on Tuesday seeking the identity of the person in the high school. From that Facebook post a tip came from an officer with the Winona Police Department who provided a name and photograph of whom he felt the individual was. The Onalaska Police Department started focusing on locating that person.

On Wednesday afternoon, Investigator Chad Marcon was on a car stop in the area of 2nd & Royal when he noticed the suspect ride by him on a bicycle. Investigator Marcon requested assistance from Officer Tony Cavadini. Officer Cavadini located the suspect in the 600 block of 2nd Ave. South. A foot pursuit ensued with officers losing site of the suspect. A perimeter was set up with the assistance of Campbell P.D. and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. With the assistance of some residents, the person was eventually located in an outbuilding in the backyard of a residence.

The suspect has been arrested with several pending charges. Those charges consist of forgery, possession of methamphetamine, and 4 counts of theft.

The investigation took investigators to a specific room at a regional motel early this morning. One person in that motel room was arrested on warrants and some of the stolen items were located in that room. The stolen bicycle was located on the grounds of the motel.

The Onalaska Police Department wants to thank all of those that assisted our department in the apprehension of this person, including the many that shared our Facebook post, which enabled the post to be viewed by thousands of Facebook users. There is little doubt that this individual would have continued victimizing others and it is with the joint effort with other agencies and the community that matters like this can expeditiously end with a positive conclusion.