

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Suspect in Garage Burglaries Arrested**

With the assistance of LeadsOnline, a suspect has been arrested for the recent rash of garage entries in Onalaska. LeadsOnline is a national online investigative system used by law enforcement to recover stolen property. Pawn shops and police departments have the ability to enter property into the LeadsOnline database. In November, Investigator Chad Marcon entered the serial number of one of the stolen GPS systems into the database. On January 17<sup>th</sup>, Investigator Marcon received a hit on that item showing that it had been pawned at Pawn America in Onalaska. From that lead, a local female was arrested for receiving stolen property. That arrest led to the arrest of the boyfriend of the female suspect who ultimately confessed to 20 garage burglaries and 6 thefts from vehicles. Consent was given to search the residence where a large cache of property was located from the burglaries and thefts.

Over the past few months there have been three separate periods of time where there have been burglaries from garages. There was also a rash of

residential burglaries that were occurring during the daytime. Arrests have been made in connection with all the incidents. Solid police work combined with the use of available technology and a bit of good luck have led to the successful conclusion of these crimes. Chief Jeff Trotnic wants to remind everyone that it takes the community and the police working together to assist in solving these crimes. A resident who was suspicious of activity in his neighborhood wrote down the license plate number of a vehicle, which assisted in the apprehension of the suspects in the daytime residential burglaries. A citizen who took the time to write down serial numbers of their property assisted in the apprehension of the last two rounds of garage burglaries. Finally, the budgeting of LeadsOnline in the police department budget was the connecting piece that led to the latest arrests.

The Onalaska Police Department pays approximately \$2,000 a year to be a member of LeadsOnline. Pawn America was initially instrumental in giving us the ability to have access to this valuable crime fighting technology by paying for the initial membership costs. It has been used in the past to assist in solving crimes. It is incidents such as this that pays dividends to agencies that invest in the tools to combat crime in their community.