

Press Release

Contact: Jeffrey Trotnic
Phone: (608)392-0273

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EARLY MORNING ROBBERY IN ONALASKA

This morning at approximately 9:05 a.m. an individual entered the Community Credit Union located at 943 12th Ave. South in Onalaska and demanded money. The suspect, described as a white male with a scar on his face in the area of the left eye fled in a maroon GMC model truck with a snowplow attachment with an undetermined amount of cash. The scene was processed by members of the Onalaska Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Shortly after the robbery a vehicle matching the suspect's vehicle description was located abandoned in La Crosse by La Crosse County Deputy Dean Sorenson at the far south end of Oak Street near the Kwik-Trip Corporate office. Deputy Sorenson located the vehicle by searching various parking lots surrounding the area of the robbery. Deputy Sorenson located footprints leading from the vehicle that went over the railroad tracks leading further into La Crosse. That vehicle was later determined to have been stolen out of Eden, Wisconsin.

The Holmen Police Department assisted with the search of the suspect on foot. Officer Terry Kind, assisted by his K-9

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partner Ori was able to conduct a track, which gave a clear indication of the direction of travel that the suspect fled.

The La Crosse Police Department joined in the collaborative effort to locate the suspect. Several officers checked multiple locations throughout La Crosse in an effort to locate the suspect. Those efforts paid off when Investigations Sergeant Andy Dittman and Investigator Ryan Fitzgerald with the La Crosse Police Department was checking the area of Bridgeview Plaza and located a possible suspect at Coney Island. That contact eventually led to the arrest of the individual for the robbery.

Onalaska Chief of Police Jeff Trotnic states that this case is a perfect example of how a total collaboration between citizens and the police pays off in a huge way. It started with the ideal description of the suspect, all the way down to the scar on the face. That was then followed up by a witness observing a maroon truck leaving the parking lot and was able to give a detailed description of that vehicle as it left. From that point the case came together with old fashioned solid police work from multiple agencies. Locating the vehicle in an obscure area by Deputy Sorenson was crucial in determining that the suspect did not flee the area. The Holmen K-9 was able to assist us with giving us a clear direction that the suspect fled. All of this came to a successful conclusion by going business to business looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack and finding it.

The name of the suspect will not be released at this time.