



Rhinelanders Police Department

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Chief of Police

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Press Release – For Immediate Release

July 15, 2019

Rhinelanders Police involved in high-speed pursuit

On Sunday, July 14, 2019, at approximately 7:42 pm, the Rhinelanders Police Department was involved in a high-speed pursuit which ended in Vilas County when the suspect vehicle crashed. The Rhinelanders Police Department was initially responding to a shoplifting complaint at Wal Mart, but prior to officer's arrival the suspect left the store. The asset protection staff was able to provide a basic description of the vehicle the suspect left the area in, including that the vehicle had a Michigan license plate. A Rhinelanders officer observed a vehicle, believed to be the suspect vehicle, travel through the intersection on the STH 17 by-pass at Timber Dr. Upon seeing the vehicle, the officer turned on to the STH 17 by-pass and attempted to initiate a stop on the suspect vehicle. When the officer initiated the stop, the suspect vehicle accelerated from the area.

The suspect vehicle continued north on STH 17 eventually leaving the Rhinelanders City limits. The officer continued pursuing the vehicle with speeds at times reaching 120 miles per hour. While in the town of Pine Lake, an Oneida County deputy became involved and assisted in the pursuit. The Vilas County Sheriff's Office was contacted and notified of the pursuit that was going north and may enter their county. A Vilas County deputy subsequently positioned a squad in the south bound lane of STH 17 and deployed a tire deflation device in the north bound lane of STH 17 approximately one mile north of the county line. The suspect vehicle then attempted to get around the stop sticks at a high rate of speed and subsequently left the roadway, crashing into a wooded area. The male suspect was then identified as 47-year-old Kevin A. Block

Block was subsequently transported to Ascension Hospital in Eagle River for medical treatment. Block was later airlifted to Aspirus Hospital in Wausau for further medical evaluation and treatment where he remains under guard by law enforcement. It was later learned that Block has a nationwide extraditable warrant for the State of Michigan.

The Rhinelanders Police Department was assisted by the Oneida and Vilas County Sheriff's Offices, Eagle River Police & Fire Departments, Three Lakes PD, and Oneida and Vilas Co. EMS . This matter remains under investigation by the Rhinelanders Police Department and criminal charges are expected to be referred to the Oneida County District Attorney's Office.

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If the media has any questions, please contact Captain Ron Lueneburg at the Rhinelanders Police Department at phone number 715-365-5300.