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CANNON FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   CONTACT: Chief McCormick

March 14, 2018   PHONE: 507-263-2278

On March 13 at 11:29 pm the Cannon Falls Police Department was requested to assist the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office with a burglary in progress of an occupied residence in Cannon Falls Township. Officer Fluhrer was the first officer to arrive and as he drove into the driveway he encountered the suspect driving towards him in what he believed to be a stolen vehicle. The suspect left the driveway and tried to drive through the ditch to get away. The suspect got stuck in the ditch. Officer Fluhrer held the suspect at gunpoint while waiting for additional officers to arrive. Officer TerBeest was the next to arrive and parked to block in the vehicle.

The suspect was yelling at the officers to shoot him. Officers recognized that his behavior was indicative of a person impaired by controlled substances. Officer TerBeest utilized de-escalation techniques while Officer Fluhrer requested an ambulance to respond and stage until safe. Once a State Patrol Trooper Aspnes arrived, Officers were able to get the suspect to unlock the doors and to come out the vehicle. The suspect was taken into custody without any further issues. The suspect was transferred to the custody of the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation revealed a mini crime spree connected to this suspect. In addition to stealing a vehicle from the residence, he broke into the residence and confronted the occupant. This was a result of him driving another stolen vehicle from Ramsey County off the roadway not far from the residence. About an hour earlier Officer Fluhrer had seen that vehicle at an excessive high speed, but was not able to catch the vehicle or figure out where it had gone.

On 3-14-18 at approximately 9:00 am, Officer Larson responded to two separate incidents in the west frontage business area in the southern part of Cannon Falls. Both incidents were linked to this suspect who had driven through a gate and crashing into a vehicle at one business and found equipment from the back of the stolen vehicle at a different business.

This incident had a successful outcome due to the actions of Officer Fluhrer and Officer TerBeest in calming a tense situation and gaining the suspects cooperation to take him into custody. The Cannon Falls Police Department wishes to thank the Minnesota State Patrol for their assistance during this incident.

The Cannon Falls Police Department wants to remind our residents to report anything suspicious that they may see or hear as soon as possible so an officer can check on what is occurring. The easiest way to report suspicious activity is calling 911.