



**** MEDIA RELEASE ****

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT



160 Lake Street North, Big Lake MN, 55309

Incident Number: 15-3803

Date/Time: 05/27/2015

Suspect(s) Arrested for Shooting at a Train

On May 24 2015 at 11:00 p.m., Big Lake Police Officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Jefferson Boulevard in regards to gunshots being fired. On their arrival, Officers interviewed several witnesses, in doing so the following information was obtained.

Two suspects were observed firing gunshots at a passing BNSF Freight Train. A male suspect later identified as Shawn Tomlinson (Age 30 – Big Lake) was observed discharging the first round from the handgun, at the passing train. The handgun was then passed to a female suspect identified as Mary Nowak (Age 41 – Big Lake), who discharged a second round from the handgun at the same train. The witnesses observed both the muzzle flash, and sound of a handgun being discharged. Tomlinson was then heard telling others present not to talk about this if; “they knew what was good for them.” Officers interviewed both Thomlinson and Nowak on the scene. Thomlinson denied having possessed or firing the handgun. Officers searched Nowak, recovering a .38 caliber handgun with 2 empty shell casings in the cylinder. Nowak admitted to firing 2 rounds at the passing train. Thomlinson is a convicted violent offender in the State of Minnesota, which precludes him from possessing a firearm. Nowak had a current Conceal and Carry Permit, but was determined to be under the influence of alcohol at the time of this incident. Both suspects were placed under arrest and transported to the Sherburne County Jail.

The following charges were filed by criminal complaint;

Shawn Thomlinson – Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person (Felony), Carrying a Firearm without a Permit (Gross Misdemeanor), and Reckless Discharge of a Firearm in a Municipality (Felony).

Mary Nowak – Reckless Discharge of a Firearm in a Municipality (felony), Carrying a Pistol While Under the Influence of Alcohol (Misdemeanor).

The Big Lake Police Department continues to work with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Police to determine the extent of the damage to the train involved. Several individuals in the area are also believed to have seen, and or videotaped what took place. Anybody with information about this case is asked to contact Investigator Rich Berg at 763-263-2500.