



Big Lake Police Department

790 Minnesota Ave, Suite 100 · Big Lake · MN · 55309

Press Release

Incident Numbers: 2000-3781, 3926, 4006

Date/Time: 03/30/2020 9:00am

Officers Continue Felony Narcotics Enforcement

20003781

On 03/19/2020 at approximately 5:52pm Big Lake officers responded to a report of a female on the train tracks. Officer Tyler Sinclair arrived and observed female matching the description of the suspect walking on the tracks east of the train station.

Officers made contact with the female, Kendra Mitchell (Age 29 – Onamia, MN). Mitchell had her hands in her pockets and would not remove them as directed by the officers. Mitchell admitted she had a hypodermic needle in her bra that contained heroin.

A search of Mitchell confirmed the possession of the hypodermic needle containing a substance. The substance field-tested positive for heroin.

Mitchell was arrested and transported to the Sherburne County jail. She was charged by criminal complaint with; 5th Degree Possession of Controlled Substance (Felony) and Trespass on Railroad Tracks (Misdemeanor).

20003926

On 03/23/2020 at approximately 2:30am Officer Tyler Hecht stopped a bicycle for suspicious activity. The rider, Jason Schmahl (Age 46) had two outstanding warrants and arrested.

During a search of Schmahl, the following items were located:

- Several plastic baggies with a substance consistent with methamphetamine.
- A yellow glass one-hitter with burnt residue.

- A small baggie with suspected marijuana.
- Suspected methamphetamine inside one of the bags.
- A rubber hose connected to a pipe that contained burnt residue.

The suspected methamphetamine field-tested positive methamphetamine and weighed 2 grams. The suspected marijuana field-tested positive for marijuana and weighed .5 grams.

Schmahl was transported to the Sherburne County jail. He was charged by criminal complaint with; 5th Degree Possession of Controlled Substance (Felony) and Possess Small Amount of Marijuana (Misdemeanor).

20004006

On 03/24/2020 at approximately 11:52pm Sergeant Tom Kucala stopped a vehicle for a hands-free cell phone violation, failing to signal a turn, and weaving. While speaking to the driver, Gena Sanford (Age 50 – Princeton, MN), Sergeant Kucala observed she was visibly shaking, rapidly blinking, and avoiding eye contact.

Sergeant Kucala had Sanford perform Field Sobriety testing. Sanford failed the tests, but Sergeant Kucala ruled out alcoholic impairment due to Sanford passing the preliminary breath test. Sergeant Kucala placed Sanford under arrest for driving under the influence of a controlled substance.

MSP Trooper Milless, a certified drug recognition evaluator (DRE) performed a drug recognition evaluation. Trooper Milless believed Sanford was impaired by a controlled substance in the CNS depressant category.

During a search of the vehicle, a clear pill capsule containing a white crystalline substance was located in a small bag. The substance inside the pill field tested positive for methamphetamine.

After obtaining a blood sample at the Monticello Hospital, Sanford was transported to the Sherburne County jail. She was charged by criminal complaint with; 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) and 3rd Degree DWI – Under the Influence of Controlled Substance (Gross Misdemeanor).