CAUGHT IN THE DITCH—

On January 27th at 8:09 p.m., officers responded to Wal-Mart for a shoplifting incident. A witness alerted the officer that the suspect’s car was in the ditch on the W. Frontage Road near 26th Street. The officers learned that the witness watched the suspect walk out of Wal-Mart carrying a 50” flat screen TV without paying for it. The officer found the suspect outside his car and arrested him for theft, then found the TV in the trunk. During the officer’s roadside chat, the suspect confessed to stealing the TV, valued at $598.00. The officer also believed the driver was intoxicated and administered field sobriety tests, which he failed. The suspect, identified as Daniel Decker, age 35, was charged with a gross misdemeanor level theft, and a second degree DWI based on two prior alcohol related convictions.

KNIFE WIELDING ASSAILANT—

On January 20th at 04:26 a.m. a lone male subject went to Cash Wise to pick up groceries. Upon checking out, the subject left his shopping cart and store goods in the checkout lane and went back into the aisle to look for more goods. Upon his return, he surprised the night clerk wielding a large butcher knife in close proximity of the clerk on the employee side of the check-out lane. After a brief altercation with the clerk, the suspect fled the store. The store clerk sustained minor cuts from the attack. Further investigation upon the suspect’s escape route discovered a store wrapper and an electronic GPS monitoring device that was believed to be associated with the assailant. The device, worn around the ankle, was linked to a juvenile offender out of Blue Earth County Corrections. The name and photograph associated with the electronic monitoring device matches the description of the assailant. The assailant was apprehended on Friday, January 22nd when OPD officers received a tip on the whereabouts of a wanted person, Duol Luk Ret (pictured below). Upon locating Ret during a traffic stop, an officer recognized a passenger in Ret’s vehicle responsible for the Cash Wise assault based on the subject’s appearance and unique shoe and jacket design. Although the subject gave a false name, he was positively identified and arrested for probable cause assault with a deadly weapon. The suspect was then determined to be under 18 year of age, therefore he was transported and held in custody at a juvenile detention center. A petition has been filed against the juvenile for two felony counts of assault. Due to the assailant’s juvenile status, his name and identity can not be released.

CAPTURED—

In last week’s edition of Just the Facts was a “Wanted” poster for Duol Luk Ret. On Friday evening, officers received a tip on the whereabouts of Duol Ret. Officers apprehended Ret in Owatonna as he was traveling in a vehicle leaving his residence. Along with Ret was another subject that was wanted by our department for probable cause felony assault involving a deadly weapon (knife) that occurred on January 20th ~ see the featured story.

SHOPLIFTERS NABBED—

On January 27th at 1:49 p.m. Kohl’s contacted an OPD officer of suspicious activity as four males arrived in one car but began entering the store at different intervals. They selected a store duffel bag and began concealing themselves amongst merchandise displays. They were also observed entering and exiting the same changing room. One subject exited the store with the duffel bag which appeared to be stuffed – presumably with clothes. The others exited the store wearing concealed store clothing. Once in their car, they were observed disrobing – in layers. Just a few blocks away awaited marked and unmarked police cars. A subsequent vehicle stop and search of the car revealed $1,130.99 in store merchandise. All four subjects from Rochester, MN were arrested and charged with felony theft.