



**** MEDIA RELEASE ****

**BIG LAKE POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



790 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake MN, 55309

Incident Number: 18-2228

Date/Time: 3/26/2018

Suspect Arrested Following Pursuit

On March 25th at 1:37 am Sergeant Matt Hayen observed a vehicle traveling eastbound on Highway 10 near Eagle Lake Road without its headlights on. Sergeant Hayen quickly caught up to the vehicle and activated his emergency lights and siren to initiate a traffic stop. The suspect, identified as Paul Guerts (Age 34 – Elk River) made a hard and wide left turn onto Eagle Lake Road, driving up onto the sidewalk and nearly striking a road sign. Guerts then rapidly accelerated northbound on Eagle Lake Road.

Sergeant Hayen and Officer Tyler Sinclair continued to follow Guerts with their siren and emergency lights activated, Guerts was traveling at an estimated 55 MPH in the 30 MPH Zone. Once clear of the residential area, Sergeant Hayen administered a Pursuit Intervention Technique on Guerts's vehicle, causing it to spin out and initially come to a stop. After stopping briefly, Guerts again accelerated away reaching speeds of 80 MPH in the 55 MPH Zone. Near 232nd Avenue, Guerts lost control of his vehicle running into the ditch, then returning to the roadway.

Guerts entered onto Eagle Lake on the south access point, extinguishing his lights. Guerts was tracked by Big Lake Police Officers and Sherburne County Sheriffs Deputies as he crossed the lake. Guerts was stopped as he attempted to exit Eagle Lake at the north access point off County Road 75. Guerts was taken into custody at this point without further incident, he was observed to be heavily intoxicated. Guerts was arrested and booked into the Sherburne County Jail. A search warrant was executed on Guerts for a sample of blood to establish his exact blood alcohol content. Guerts was charged by criminal complaint with; Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle (felony), and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Members of the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office were integral in their assistance to successfully bringing this incident to a close.