

PRESS RELEASE -- CUMULATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday, June 14, 2008

Vernon County Sheriff Gene Cary reports a significant increase in police services during the recent storms that passed through Vernon County, starting on June 7. The 911 dispatch center was required to handle over 1500 calls for service from the public in seven days. In comparison, the Sheriff's dispatch center routinely handles about 600 calls for service every week.

Dispatchers noted an increase in traffic accidents (28), disabled vehicles (18), and hazards removed from highways (99) in the same time frame. There were hundreds of telephone calls reporting situations created by the inclement weather. A significant increase was noted in cattle loose on roadways, motorists with car failure, and welfare checks for stranded residents where family could not reach them.

The Sheriff's Department Investigators continues to work on several burglaries in the rural areas of Viroqua and Villages of Chaseburg and Genoa. Break-ins occurred on May 29 at the Tippy Toe Inn Tavern in Chaseburg and on June 7 at the Big River Inn in Genoa. Items taken include cigarettes, money, and food products. There was also significant damage to both businesses.

Also, the vandalism to the Shreve Cemetery in the Town of Greenwood continues to be worked on by officers. Officers have interviewed suspects and are seeking two additional suspects to interview.

Anyone with information on these crimes can help by calling the Sheriff's Department at 608-637-2123 or anonymously to Crimestoppers at 800-657-6868.

Gene Cary, Sheriff

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