



PRESS RELEASE

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Arrest after multiple thefts and pursuit

On January 18, 2019, officers of the Sheridan Police Department were advised that a male subject had fled from a local sporting goods store with a stolen handgun. Officers were advised that the subject asked to handle the firearm and when he was given the handgun, he ran from the store and traveled east from Broadway Street. As officers were searching the last known area where the subject was observed, a victim called to report the theft of a motor vehicle from their driveway.

A Sheridan County Sheriff's Deputy located the stolen vehicle a short time later at a local gas station and engaged in a short pursuit with the vehicle when attempted contact was made. The pursuit ended when the vehicle entered a dead end road and the driver was taken into custody. The driver refused to identify himself to officers at the scene but was later identified as Michael Bearclaw, age 29 from Lodge Grass, MT. Inside the vehicle, officers recovered the stolen Glock handgun, along with numerous stolen rounds of ammunition. It was also determined that Bearclaw had placed fuel in the stolen vehicle, failing to pay for the fuel before attempting to elude law enforcement.

Bearclaw was subsequently charged with theft of a motor vehicle, two (2) counts of theft, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, one (1) count of theft of fuel, interference with a police officer and driving under suspension. Bearclaw's initial appearance is set for January 22, 2019.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE SHERIDAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
ASK FOR THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER -- (SHERIDAN) 672-2413