



Spokane County
Sheriff
Ozzie Knezovich
News Release

Sgt. Dave Reagan
477-6612
Pager 477-4209 #0348

April 13, 2007

Officer-Involved Shooting Investigation Ends With Arrests

Investigation into the February 26th shooting by a Spokane Police Officer of the man he suspected of stealing his truck has been completed.

A warrant charging SPD Officer James Jay Olsen with First Degree Assault and two counts of Reckless Endangerment was issued Friday afternoon after review by the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office.

The shooting victim, 27-year-old Shonto K. Pete, also was charged in connection with the early morning shooting in downtown Spokane. He was charged by warrant with Taking a Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Permission, a felony.

Olsen and a female acquaintance were leaving Dempsey's Brass Rail in downtown Spokane about 2:30 a.m. that morning, and were seated in her car while the 43-year-old officer's pickup was left running to warm up.

Detectives believe Pete stole the truck and was followed by Olsen and the woman in her car. When the truck was abandoned west of Monroe on Riverside Avenue, Olsen chased Pete down over an embankment that leads to Peaceful Valley.

The pursuing officer fired five shots at Pete as the suspect fled, one of the bullets striking him in the head.

The First Degree Assault charge is based on the shooting and wounding of Pete. The Reckless Endangerment counts are based on Officer Olsen firing in the direction of occupied homes, and striking one.

The sheriff's office was the lead investigative agency. — rdr



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Truck Thief Arrested

Shonto Pete, the suspect accused of stealing SPD Officer James Olsen's pickup on February 26th, was arrested late Friday on a felony warrant charging him with Taking a Motor Vehicle without Owner's Permission.

Sheriff's detectives began tracking Pete as soon as his felony warrant was authorized and signed about mid-afternoon Friday. His arrest came about 45 minutes after Olsen's.

Officer Olsen turned himself in at the Public Safety Building shortly after 3 p.m. and was arrested by detectives on his warrant charging him with First Degree Assault and two counts of Reckless Endangerment.

rdt



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNE E. KIRKPATRICK
CHIEF OF POLICE
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Cpl. Tom Lee
509-625-4060
Pager 477-4209 #1554

Date: April 13, 2007
Incident #

SPD Officer Olsen Arrested

A Spokane Police Officer has been arrested on three charges in connection with an off duty shooting that occurred on February 26, 2007.

James J. Olsen was arrested this afternoon at the Spokane Police Department for FIRST-DEGREE ASSAULT, a class-A felony, as well as two charges of RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, a gross misdemeanor.

Chief Anne Kirkpatrick has placed Olsen on unpaid layoff status. His pay and benefits stop immediately. This action is in accordance with Spokane City Civil Service rules and regulations.

Olsen has been on paid administrative leave since the incident in which a man named Shonto Pete was shot and wounded. An internal Affairs investigation will now begin per department policy.

Sheriff's Detectives arrested and booked Olsen into jail about 30-minutes ago.

Questions about the investigation must be directed to the Sheriff's Office.

(end)

Reference:

RCW 9A.36.011 First Degree Assault
RCW 9A.36.050 Reckless Endangerment