



June 24, 2010

## Cop calls

### Assault at Walmart

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office is warning residents about the possibility there may be a new, dangerous gang initiation after a man was assaulted in the early morning hours of June 16 at Walmart in Lyon Township.

According to police reports, the 34-year-old Lyon Township man was on his way home from work around 1:45 a.m. when he decided to stop at Walmart on Lyon Center Drive to return some cans and bottles. While in the parking lot, he began to load the returnables into a shopping cart when he noticed a man coming at him. Before he knew it the man walked up to him and began spraying a solid stream from some kind of aerosol can into him eyes and face. The man then laughed and headed north on foot, away from Walmart.

Police describe the man as a white male in his 20s, about 5-feet 10-inches tall, and weighing about 180 pounds. At the time he was wearing a blue shirt or hoodie. The victim said the man was alone at the time of the crime.

Sgt. Mark Venus of the Sheriff's Lyon Post said he is concerned that this might be some kind of new initiation ritual.

"We just want people to be aware of it, so they can take precautions," Venus said. "We think this could be some kind of gang initiation thing."

Although the victim thought it was pepper spray, police believe the suspect used some kind of aerosol.

"We think it was carburetor cleaner. It was definitely an aerosol. It made his eyes sting and his face red," Venus said.

### Disorderly conduct

Walmart in Lyon Township was also the scene of another assault, this one taking place shortly after 2:30 a.m. on June 20. According to police reports, deputies from the Lyon Post were dispatched to Walmart after two employees reported being assaulted by a 23-year-old Milford Township man.

When the deputies arrived, two Walmart workers had the suspect restrained and down on the ground. The two employees (one male, one female) told police they were sitting outside on a bench near the entrance, when the man came over to them and began spitting on the ground near them. He also began saying derogatory things, hoping to provoke the two employees. They decided to get up and walk inside the store, but the man pursued them.

The 26-year-old male employee warned the man that he was going to call police. That's when the suspect punched him in the face. That's when the employees grabbed the man and detained him until police arrived.

The deputy was able to speak to the suspect's sister and her friend, who were inside shopping and had no idea anything was happening. The sister provided the deputy her brother's Minnesota driver's license.

The employee who was punched told the reporting deputy that he didn't want to press assault charges against the man, but he was cited for disorderly conduct and then turned over to his sister.

#### Auto larcenies

Northfield Township police are warning residents that there has been a recent rash of larcenies or thefts from autos. They say residents need to remember to keep vehicle doors locked, but more importantly do not leave anything of value inside or within eye sight. Remove all laptop computers, cameras, purses, briefcases, GPSs and packages from your vehicle while it is parked for the evening. They say most thefts are crimes of opportunity, and you will limit the opportunity if the thief does not view anything to take.

If you have information to report that could help lead to an arrest in these crimes/crime activity, please contact the Northfield Police Department at (734) 449-9911.

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