

I would like to submit Officer Dawn Hanizeski and K-9 Kuiper for the 2023 Meritorious Track with Apprehension award.

On July 26th at approximately 11am there was the report of a man who battered a woman at the Motel 6, 1201 W. College Ave, Oak Creek, WI. The subject also had a felony probation warrant. He had fled on foot prior to officer's arrival and was last seen entering a large wooded area adjacent to the I-94 freeway, in the 6400 blk of S. 13th St. It was rainy, 70 degrees with a southwest wind blowing at 10mph.

The track was fresh within a few minutes and went south from the parking lot of Crowne Plaza into the marsh directly into standing water. The track went from marsh into thick brush and woods which was so thick that you couldn't see anything in front of you. The track continued south through the woods and brush as the suspect zig zagged through the area. K-9 Kuiper located the suspect after close to a quarter mile into the woods and started to bark, but officers could not see him. The tracking leash got hung up in the brush and K-9 Kuiper could not be released for the apprehension. After untangling the leash, K-9 Kuiper continued to track coming out of the woods to an 8ft fence line with about 6ft marsh grasses. The track turned west along the fence for another few hundred yards before turning back into the thick woods. Officer Hanizeski trusted K-9 Kuiper was still on the track as there was no indication that the track went back into the woods. K-9 Kuiper continued tracking back north and then turning west. The track went west to the I-94 interstate fence where the suspect had jumped the 8ft fence. K-9 Kuiper indicated that the fence had been jumped by jumping against it. Officer Hanizeski walked K-9 Kuiper north along the fence and K-9 Kuiper picked the track back up where the suspect had jumped back over. K-9 Kuiper tracked north and then back east into the woods again. K-9 Kuiper then turned north and located the suspect again hiding in the thick brush. Officer Hanizeski advised the suspect to stop, but he got up and ran up a hill and out of sight. K-9 Kuiper and officers were again caught up in thick brush and the leash was tangled. After getting untangled K9 Kuiper continued tracking and came to a creek. K-9 Kuiper crossed the creek and continued tracking through the woods north to another creek. K-9 Kuiper crossed this creek as well and then track north out of the woods until turning back west into tall grass. The track continued in the tall grass and turned north along a ditch. The track continued this direction until K-9 Kuiper located the suspect hiding in the grass. The suspect was ordered to stop but he ran north. After 2 verbal warnings to stop or he would be bitten, the suspect surrendered and was taken into custody. He was arrested for Felony VOP, felony strangulation, battery, and CDTP.

The track from start to finish was over a mile and lasted over 20 minutes. This track occurred in a difficult search area with very thick vegetation and trees and several marshy areas. I am mailing a DVD of the body camera video of the track for review. Thanks for your consideration.