

POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Integrity, Honor, and Courage"

1005 WEST MAIN, SUITE 900, BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810 -4403

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August 4, 2015 04:00 hours Joint news release St Croix County – Polk County

A search is underway for an armed fourteen (14) year old male in the Cedar Lake area of southern Polk County.

A series of incidents began in Eau Claire County in the afternoon of Monday, August 3rd, 2015 where Cole Laird had his first contact with police. Later in the afternoon, Laird operating a stolen vehicle, and brandishing a handgun, attempted an armed burglary at a rural residence in the Woodville area of St Croix County, WI. Laird fled the residence prior to officers arriving and the vehicle was observed in New Richmond, WI a short time later. Laird failed to stop for law enforcement and a high speed chase ensued. Laird abandoned the stolen vehicle near Star Prairie, WI and fled on foot.

After several miles on foot, Laird stole another vehicle only to abandon that vehicle a short time later and again fled on foot. Reports of a gunshot in the area were heard as officers attempted to locate Laird.

As darkness set in authorities believe Laird is in the general area of the east side of Cedar Lake, a lake that is separated by the Polk/St Croix County line.

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Cole is described as a fourteen year old white male. He is 5'04" and weighs about 100 lbs. He was last seen wearing a white t-shirt and has short, blond hair. We are asking anyone with information about Laird or his whereabouts to contact either the Polk or St. Croix County Sheriff's Offices.

Law Enforcement officers from several surrounding counties responded to the area and are assisting Polk and St. Croix Counties.

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