

Fire call turns into drug bust

Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 22 September 2023 02:30



Police check on situation, find woman with fentanyl

A woman was caught with fentanyl after police initially thought she was setting fires at a local business.

On Sept. 4, Gallup Police Officer Timothy Hughte was dispatched to the Home Depot at 530 Kachina St. after a woman, who was later identified as Amanda Gruber, was trying to start fires at the business.

When Hughte arrived at the scene, he was told that Gruber, 38, was headed toward Walmart (1650 W. Maloney Ave.). Sgt. Terrance Peyketewa was able to talk to her, and she said she hadn't stopped at Home Depot, but had merely been walking through the parking lot. She gave her identity "just in case [the police] needed her further" and Peyketewa let her walk off toward Walmart.

Hughte ran Gruber's name by Metro Dispatch and they told him she had a warrant out for her arrest. He found her on the east side of Walmart. She said that she knew she had a warrant, and according to Hughte's report she asked if she could take care of it the next day.

After that conversation, Hughte searched Gruber for weapons by looking into the pockets of her baggy sweatpants. He found a used foil with black residue on it in her left pocket and a wallet and another used foil with a bobby pin and the plastic body of a pen inside her right pocket. The pen's ink had reportedly been taken out so now it was just a hollow tube.

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When Hughte opened the foils he found a single blue pill inside one of them.

Gruber was charged with her initial warrant and possession of a controlled substance. Her preliminary hearing is scheduled for Sept. 27.

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