

Mobile idea shower helps North Dakota teen towards college

By James MacPherson
Associated Press

ALEXANDER, N.D. (AP) — It took little more than a day for 18-year-old Evan Jensen to smell opportunity in North Dakota's booming oil patch.

The recent high school graduate got a whiff of himself and his 21-year-old brother, Justin. The two had been sleeping in a pickup while looking for work in the oil fields of North Dakota.

"We smelled," he said. "Bad." Thousands of workers have

descended on the region to seek their fortune in the oil fields, and housing construction and growth of brick-and-mortar businesses haven't kept up. The closest shower to Jensen was at a truck stop some 60 miles away.

That's when the idea for a mobile shower hit him harder than the reek of his own B.O. The money he's made from it could help him get to college.

"There are a lot of necessities that aren't available out here," Jensen said. "Like a place to take a shower and brush your teeth."

An armada of food trucks and other roving enterprises was already catering to oilfield workers. The teen believed others also would value a hot shower nearly as much as a hot meal.

He pitched the idea to his parents back at their farm near Lake Preston in eastern South Dakota. His father and other relatives helped him convert a 53-foot semitrailer into a five-stall shower center with an office and laundry facilities.

A 6,000-gallon semi tanker alongside the trailer provides fresh water and collects the greywater.

The mobile venture, called Better Showers, rolled into an RV campground in the heart of the oil patch in June. A shower costs \$10, with a half-price discount for residents of the RV park where the business is located. Towels and washcloths are \$1 extra. The water pressure is strong, the soap is free and there is no time limit.

The business is parked along U.S. Highway 85, the busiest two-lane highway in western North Dakota, where about 100 trucks pass by every 10 minutes. The showers are open from 4 p.m. to

11 p.m., the time when most people are getting off work.

At least two dozen people stop daily, and Jensen said most are repeat customers. They come from around the globe, and he knows most of them only by nicknames, such as "Cowboy" and "Mondo."

"It's been a very educational adventure," said Jensen, whose hometown has fewer than 600 people.

Jensen said he earned several thousand dollars this summer from the showers. He recently advertised the business on Craigslist

at \$95,000 and hopes to use the proceeds to pay for four years of tuition at McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Minn.

The talented musician and writer begins classes this month. McNally Smith President Harry Chalmers said Jensen's entrepreneurial spirit will serve him well in the music industry, another tough business.

"I brainstorm and think of what's in demand here," Jensen said. "I've got a bunch of ideas. All it takes is guts, really."

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Sept. 8

1:07 a.m. — Caller reported dogs barking. Taken care of.

2 a.m. — Caller reported possible animal cruelty. Everything OK.

7:44 a.m. — Burglary: caller reported his vehicle getting broken into last night. Report filed.

11 a.m. — Provided blocks for truck convoy through town.

2:54 p.m. — Caller had lost wallet earlier at 2000 S. Range. Report filed. At 3:33, wallet was found, turned over to owner.

4:16 p.m. — Subject came to station about problem with juvenile. Provided information, no report.

5:29 p.m. — Caller reported bicycle lying in grass alongside Kyle Railroad tracks in the 900 block of E. 10th. Report filed.

7:44 p.m. — Caller reported dog at large caught. Turned over to Colby Animal Clinic.

8:04 p.m. — Caller reported her son was bitten by a dog while riding his bicycle. Report filed, notice to appear issued.

10:20 p.m. — Caller reported two juveniles playing on edge of roadway. Not found.

10:34 p.m. — Caller reported barking dog. Owner not found.

10:42 p.m. — Open door on a vehicle; all OK.

10:47 p.m. — Spoke to subject about open flame on grill.

11:44 p.m. — Caller reported a barking dog. Left message on cell, unable to catch dog.

Sept. 9

2:23 a.m. — Management called about several intoxicated subjects inside business. Subjects left and everything OK.

6:18 a.m. — Driving under the influence report filed for traffic stop. 24/7 towed vehicle.

12:06 p.m. — Spoke to subject about yard sale signs on city property.

2:13 p.m. — Spoke to subject on skateboard in downtown area.

3:50 p.m. — Recovered property: subject came to station with bike found in alley. Report filed.

4 p.m. — Driving while suspended report filed on traffic stop.

5:17 p.m. — Criminal damage: caller advised his vehicle was broken into. Report filed.

6:33 p.m. — Provided directions to motorist.

8:57 p.m. — Provided directions to motorist at Dillons.

Sept. 10

2:34 a.m. — Noise complaint. Spoke with subjects.

3:13 a.m. — Caller reported locking keys in vehicle. Provided information. Another officer flagged over for the same reason.

9:09 a.m. — Caller reported vehicle parked three or four feet away from curb on Brookside Drive. Notice to appear issued; vehicle moved.

9:36 a.m. — Stalled pickup parked off roadway in the 1200 block of S. Franklin. Not a traffic hazard; owner not found, message left.

9:36 a.m. — Caller reported subject driving all over roadway northbound on Franklin. Spoke to subject on traffic stop.

1:41 p.m. — Spoke to subjects about kids jumping on a table at Fike Park.

2 p.m. — Employee called about incident involving a juvenile there. Report filed.

4:30 p.m. — Burglary report filed.

4:32 p.m. — Caller reported subject upset with her and threatened to shoot her. Report filed for crim-

inal threat.

5:45 p.m. — Domestic problem. Just verbal.

Sept. 11

2:55 p.m. — Caller reported being harassed by e-mails. Information provided.

3:09 p.m. — Subject came to station about lost handicap plaque. Report filed.

9:32 p.m. — Provided welfare check for Oakley Police Department. Everything OK.

Last Wednesday

1:42 a.m. — Open door at business. Employee inside.

7:23 a.m. — Hit and run collision at Oasis.

8:04 a.m. — Caller reported semi illegally parked on his property. Would be moved shortly.

8:14 a.m. — Removed debris from roadway at Fourth and Franklin.

10:08 a.m. — Caller reported vicious dog at large. Report filed. Notice to appear issued.

12:47 p.m. — Subject came to station in reference to someone using her credit card. Report filed.

12:52 p.m. — Provided traffic control in the 200 block of N. Range for stalled vehicle.

1:12 p.m. — Caller reported individuals going door to door.

2:44 p.m. — Caller reported criminal damage. Report filed for miscellaneous information.

9:15 p.m. — Protective custody report filed on welfare check.

Thursday

12:54 a.m. — Deputy requested a city unit to assist in searching a house.

7:49 a.m. — Collision at Garfield and Plum. No stop sign at that intersection.

11:14 a.m. — Caller reported subjects and vehicle parked. Lo-

cated vehicle, subjects checked OK.

Noon — Caller reported receiving harassing e-mails. Report filed.

2:23 p.m. — Collision in Walmart parking lot. Report filed.

2:23 p.m. — City Hall received call about dogs. No one at residence, report filed.

6:31 p.m. — Caller reported jewelry being taken. Report filed.

10:03 p.m. — Caller reported possible attempted suicide. Everything OK.

Friday

2 a.m. — Driving under the influence report filed for traffic stop.

2:08 a.m. — Driving under the influence report filed for incident.

10:10 a.m. — Subject advised of dog on chain caught under trailer at 485 Walker. Unable to get close to dog, tried to contact owner.

1:53 p.m. — Caller reported two dogs at large. Unable to catch.

2:07 p.m. — Caller advised of losing wallet when traveling through Colby. Report filed.

3:58 p.m. — Provided information on phone scam.

5:54 p.m. — Caller reported vehicle parked all summer. Spoke with owner; vehicle will be properly tagged or removed.

7:26 p.m. — Report filed regarding phone harassment.

8:08 p.m. — Caller reported juveniles with knife. Unable to locate subjects.

**THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Sept. 8**

11 a.m. — Provided blocks/es-corts for Truck Convoy.

10:34 a.m. — Released Jarrod Ferguson.

10:38 a.m. — Took inmate from Law Enforcement Center to

Larned State Hospital.

11:23 a.m. — Vandalism/theft: caller advised of possible theft in Brewster. Report filed.

9:20 p.m. — Building checks at Rexford School.

9:27 p.m. — Open door on wood-working shop at Rexford school. All OK; key holder contacted.

10:10 p.m. — Deputy with Kit Carson County Sheriff's Office, Burlington, Colo., called in a third-party report of drugs and paraphernalia left in trash in women's restroom at westbound I-70 rest area west of Colby. Unable to locate.

11:26 p.m. — Driving while revoked report filed on traffic stop at U.S. 24 and County Rd. 11.

Sept. 9

1:48 a.m. — Caller reported loud music. Subject spoken to, music turned down.

6:56 a.m. — Booked Troy Fulton Couse.

7:12 a.m. — Released Couse.

9:28 a.m. — Caller reported damage to property. Report filed.

4:10 p.m. — Caller reported subjects shooting a gun from their vehicle. Spoke with individuals.

4:39 p.m. — Booked Ferman Gibson.

5:15 p.m. — Released Gibson.

7:40 p.m. — Caller reported subjects shooting a gun from their vehicle.

8:32 p.m. — Jose Javier Valdez-Castell arrested on two warrants.

8:50 p.m. — Booked Valdez-Castell.

Sept. 10

12:57 p.m. — Alcohol violation report filed on injury accident at 11:43 p.m. Aug. 24.

2:20 p.m. — Caller reported possible prowler or break in. All OK, unable to locate.

2:49 p.m. — Shiloh Rae Crandall arrested by Salina Police Department on warrant.

Sept. 11

10:13 a.m. — Laura Hickert arrested on warrant.

12:22 p.m. — Booked Karlee Shenise Wilson.

9:08 p.m. — Alan Schoenberger arrested on warrant.

Last Wednesday

11:50 a.m. — Brought prisoner from Salina to Thomas County.

12:26 p.m. — Civil forfeiture report filed.

Thursday

12:52 a.m. — Booked Lyznea L. Hetrick.

12:54 a.m. — Caller requested an officer to check residence in reference to incident. House secured.

7:58 a.m. — Subject brought tag to the office found on U.S. 24 about four miles east of Colby. Report filed.

9:43 a.m. — Released Lynzea L. Hetrick.

9:45 a.m. — Took subject to Larned State Hospital.

12:53 p.m. — Insufficient funds checks report filed on Michael S. Juenemann.

3:47 p.m. — Jacob Yamauchi arrested on warrant.

3:47 p.m. — Adam Peterson arrested on warrant.

Friday

12:35 a.m. — Booked Amber Smith.

1:11 a.m. — Booked Michael Henderson.

2:30 a.m. — Driving under the influence report filed on traffic stop in the 700 block of W. Third.

8:40 a.m. — Helped Highway Patrol with noninjury accident at I-70 mile 56 eastbound.

5:59 p.m. — Civil forfeiture report filed.

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