Duo Charged with Burglary—

On December 1, 2012, our officers were called to Sampson Dairy for the report of a loud banging noise coming from within the building. When officers arrived on scene, they found an individual walking through the parking lot; this party was detained as officers continued with their investigation. A second individual was seen walking along the railroad tracks to the north of Sampson Dairy; this party was also detained as the doors had been damaged to the point that entry could be made into the building. They also found a blue cooler lying to the north of the building. Inside the building, they found a cooler had been damaged, piles of frozen food throughout the building and latent footprints inside of the cooler—the footprints matching the tread pattern of one of the individuals being detained. As they continued their investigation, officers found a third individual inside the building who was arrested for burglary—he later admitted to being in the building with the suspect being detailed with the matching footprints. Lennie A. St. Martin, age 33, and Jonathan S. Lantry, age 25, were arrested on the scene and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. They were both charged with 3rd Degree Burglary—a felony and 4th Degree Criminal Damage to Property—a misdemeanor. The third individual who was detained was not implicated in the case and was released at the scene.

Shoplifter Collared—

On December 3rd, loss prevention employees from Wal-Mart observed a female subject taking locking devices that are used to prevent theft off of high dollar merchandise without the assistance of store personnel. Loss prevention continued to monitor the individual as she walked past the point of sale with a full shopping cart and activated a security alarm. Loss prevention stopped the suspect and contacted the Owatonna Police Department. The responding officer placed the suspect under arrest and lead her outside to his squad car. As he did, the suspect walked past the security alarm and once again set them off—a search of her purse revealed a number of items, including electronics and colognes. Surveillance video of the suspect obtained from Wal-Mart also showed that prior to her arrest, she took a shopping cart full of unpaid merchandise to her vehicle before returning to the store and committing additional thefts. The suspect’s vehicle was seized and brought to the Law Enforcement Center where it was searched after obtaining a search warrant and additional stolen property was recovered. Jessica L. Gonzalez, age 22, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. She was formally charged in District Court with one count of felony theft. Ms. Gonzalez’s vehicle, a 1998 Chevrolet Astro Van, is being held and is subject to forfeiture for being used during the commission of a designated offense—felony theft.

In Memory—

On Wednesday, a contingent of officers from the Owatonna Police Department, including Captain Jeff Mundale, Sergeant Deanne von Wald, Detective Joel Hunt and Officers Brandon Fandel, Kyle Parr, Brady Vaith, Joe Swenson, Brady Fox, Christian Berg, Zack Schumaker and Adam Hennen attended the funeral for fallen Cold Spring Police Officer Tom Decker. The Owatonna Police Department asks that you keep Officer Decker’s family in your thoughts and prayers—a memorial fund has been set to help Officer Decker’s family.

If you would like to contribute, you can respond to information below—

1st National Bank of Cold Spring, P.O. Box 416 Cold Spring, MN 56320
State Bank of Cold Spring, P.O. Box 415, Cold Spring, MN 56320
Central Minnesota Credit Union, 202 Red River Ave. S., Cold Spring, MN 56320
Wells Fargo, all locations

Just the Facts
December 7, 2012
Volume 3, Issue 49

Weekly Highlights

Friday, Nov. 30 to Thursday, Dec. 6

• Busiest Day of Week: Friday—139 events
• Busiest Hour of Day: 5:00 PM—62 events
• Total # of Events: 716
• Average Events/Day: 102.29
• Average Events/Hour: 4.26
• Average Traffic Stops: .98 per hour
• DWIs for the week: 2

Department News—

On December 5th, we welcomed Ben Johnson as our newest police officer. Ben is a Minnesota native, graduating in 1998 from the Leroy-Ostrander School District. Ben worked with HVAC systems after high school before returning to school to pursue his Law Enforcement Degree. Ben graduated from the Inver Hills Community College in 2012 with an Associates of Science Degree in law enforcement and from the Hennepin Technical College with a Law Enforcement Skills Certificate. Please help us welcome Ben to the City of Owatonna.

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