SCDIU Remains Active In Owatonna—

On Tuesday afternoon, the South Central Drug Investigations Unit (SCDIU) culminated an active investigation by executing a search warrant at 2030 Sunlight Avenue. Using an informant, SCDIU agents learned the informant could purchase 4-grams of methamphetamines and a 12 gauge shotgun from a male suspect; the informant was told by the suspect the shotgun may be stolen from a recent burglary. On October 29, SCDIU agents and the informant arranged to make the drug and shotgun purchase from the suspect for $550. SCDIU agents conducting surveillance, observed the transaction take place at 2030 Sunlight Avenue. Once the transaction was complete, the informant handed over a plastic gun case that contained a shotgun. Inside of the gun case, the agents recovered a baggie that contained 4 grams of methamphetamines. During the execution of the search warrant, SCDIU agents arrested Jonathan T. Raschke, age 32. Raschke was formally charged in District Court with 2nd Degree Sale of a Controlled Substance.

Car Prowler Arrested—

On Wednesday evening, we began getting reports from citizens in the northeast area of town that vehicles were being broken into. That same evening, two of our officers were working a plain clothes detail in town and began patrolling the area where the thefts were occurring. At 12:38 AM, they were on Cherry Street when they observed a vehicle parked in a driveway with the dome light on. The plain clothes officers approached the vehicle and found a leg sticking out of the driver’s side door. They ordered the suspect out of the car and detained him for further investigation. Upon speaking with the vehicle owner, the officers learned the suspect did not have permission to be in the vehicle. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Law Enforcement Center; upon searching the suspect, he was found to have pockets filled with coins and loose prescription pills. During a statement, the suspect admitted that he had been going through parked, unlocked vehicles. Specifically, the suspect admitted that on five separate nights over the past two weeks, he entered approximately 15 parked, unlocked cars each night and stole various items from the vehicles. Kutiey W. Thuok, age 18, was formally charged in District Court with Theft, Motor Vehicle Tampering and Unlawful Possession of Legend Drugs—all misdemeanors. Incidentally, Thuok was previously arrested by our officers for Motor Vehicle Tampering on Monday evening.

Traditional Squad vs. Ford Utility—

The OPD has done some analysis relating to the change of police cruisers. The department changed from the Ford Crown Victoria to a Ford Utility (SUV). The officers are pleased with the safety, interior space, all-wheel drive, and performance. From a financial and conservation position, the Ford Crown Victoria average 10.05 MPG and the new Ford Utility averages 12.5 MPG. At initial glance it might not seem like much; however, over the lifetime of one vehicle it saves 1,950 gallons of fuel and $6,123.00!