He’s Back—

In the November 8th edition of Just the Facts we featured Kutiey Thuok as being charged in a couple of recent incidents involved car prowling. Well, after Mr. Thuok was released from custody, he found himself in hot water again. On November 15th, a citizen called from a residence in the 400 block of South Cedar Avenue reporting a burglary in progress. An arriving officer met with the victim who reported she awoke at approximately 1:15 in the morning to use the restroom. She heard a television on in the residence and thought someone else was also awake in the residence. She investigated and found an unknown black male standing in the kitchen and called the police. Other arriving officers were told the suspect was still sitting in the residence on a couch and they discovered the suspect to be Thuok. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Steele County Jail. Additional investigation revealed that Thuok had money, an ID and a credit card in his possession that belonged to the residents. The officers also found a pill bottle had been tampered with and multiple kitchen doors had been opened. Thuok, age 18, was formally charged in District Court with 1st Degree Burglary—a felony.

Southeast Minnesota Traffic Deaths — 590 Killed During Past Decade

Region includes: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona counties. From 2003–2007, 342 people lost their lives in traffic crashes on southeastern Minnesota roads, compared to 248 deaths from 2008–2012 (a 27 percent decline)


» During the past decade, 48.5 percent of the 480 motor vehicle occupants killed were unbelted, which is in line with the state’s unbelted death rate of 47.8 percent.

» Drunk driving crashes resulted in 142 deaths in the past decade, representing 24 percent of the region’s total deaths, lower than the state’s rate of 29.4 percent.

In a continuing effort to advance traffic safety in southeastern Minnesota, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is awarding new federal grants totaling $678,000 for area partners to support overtime Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) traffic safety enforcement and educational efforts through September 2014.

* Reprinted from the MN Chiefs of Police Association

Department News—

The Owatonna Police Department is proud to announce two new members to our CSO corps. Travis Johnson will be joining the department as another CSO assigned to the school district. Johnson, an Owatonna native, will be partnering with Andrew Hobbs at the Owatonna High School. Johnson has previous CSO experience working as a community service officer with the Winthrop Harbor Police Department in Illinois. Chad Schlueter has also joined our department, filling a position vacated by a recent resignation. Chad’s CSO duties will be more traditional and you’ll see him in the community responding to animal control calls, conducting parking control and ordinance enforcement amongst others. Chad is a native of the Waterville area and served in the United States Army/Army Reserve a military police officer.

Travis Johnson
Chad Schlueter