Crime Prevention

What Thieves Do With Stolen Property?—

Many stolen items can be sold/traded to other thieves or to someone who is looking for a deal or in exchange for drugs. Other times they can be sold for cash at pawnshops and are hard for law enforcement to track. Some thieves look for purses to steal, and then they immediately make large purchases on the credit cards and alter the victim’s ID so they, or an accomplice, can forge the checks. This can cause an incredible amount of worry, hassle, and inconvenience for a victim. The thief doesn’t care about you, your feelings, or the hardship the theft will put you through. His or her point of view is, “Why should I pay for something when I can steal it?”

As we move into this holiday season, we are still experiencing thefts from vehicles. Save you or your neighbor from being victimized by calling 9-1-1 and staying on the line if you see or hear something that seems unusual or suspicious in your neighborhood. Try to get a description of the suspects and their vehicle, and do not confront suspects. Don’t think you are bothering the police by calling them to report suspicious activity. It’s our job to detect and apprehend criminals, and we need your help to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Police In-service Training—

During the past week, the department held two six-hour department-wide in-service training sessions at the Law Enforcement Center to keep us brushed up on our skills. Tim Thomas, the death investigator for the Steele County Corner’s Office, presented a block of training on medicolegal death investigations. Members of the Steele County Attorney’s Office, County Attorney Dan McIntosh and Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Dunn-Foster and Scott Schreiner, provided training on legal updates, including: warrantless searches, courtroom testimony, child protection guidelines and traffic & forfeiture regulations. Lastly, Scott Adkisson who is the CEO of Diversion Solutions discussed Steele County’s participation in the pilot program for the Driving Diversion Program.

Introducing our Newest Officer—

The newest career as an Owatonna Police officer began on Monday, November 21st as Micaiah Becker officially joined the Owatonna Police Department. Micaiah comes to us from Mankato where he was working as a supervisor with Home Depot. Micaiah was born in Oklahoma, lived in Wisconsin and eventually moved to Wells, MN where he attended United South Central High School. He attended Minnesota State University-Mankato where he graduated with a degree in Law Enforcement and the Hibbing Community College for his law enforcement skills program. Micaiah is married and has a one year old daughter. We welcome Micaiah and hope he has a long, rewarding career with the Owatonna Police Department.

Motor Vehicle Crash Leads to DWI—

On November 19th at approximately 7:00 a.m., an Owatonna police officer on patrol found a vehicle off the roadway on Bixby Road near East School Street. The officer investigated the unoccupied vehicle further, finding it had been in a crash and was pinned up against a tree. He also observed signs that the driver may have been injured as there were blood splatters around the interior of the vehicle. Lastly, the operator of the vehicle appeared to have lost his left boot as a tan Timberland boot was found inside the vehicle on the driver side floorboard. A short while later and a few blocks away, another Owatonna officer was flagged down by a male individual who was staggering down the roadway. The officer noticed the male was displaying signs of intoxication and had blood on his lips and facial scratches. The male denied he was the driver of the crashed vehicle and suffered his injuries during fight at he party he was just coming from. The officer was skeptical of the male’s story, especially considering he was walking without a boot on his right foot and the boot he was wearing was a tan colored Timberland. The male, identified as Roland C. Rodriguez, age 23, was placed under arrest for DWI and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Rodriguez was formally charged in District Court with 3rd Degree DWI. Rodriguez provided a breath test with a breath alcohol content of .21 or approximately 2 1/2 times the legal limit of .08.

A Dangerous “High”—

The Albert Lea Tribune recently reported a new trend that the staff at a middle school had heard some students talking about recently. The trend consisted of a “game” where students would suffocate themselves or others to cut off the blood supply to the brain, which can produce a sort of high. The article indicated that the students believed the game was a safe way to get high without the realization it could result in catastrophic consequences such as brain damage, stroke or even death. A copy of the story in the Albert Lea Tribune can be found at the following address: www.albertleatribune.com/2011/11/18/school-warns-students-against-choking/