Paint “Huffer” Arrested for Domestic Assault—

On Tuesday evening, our officers were called to the Super 8 Motel for the report of an in-progress domestic disturbance. As the officers arrived, they were met by an 18-year-old female victim who was exiting her room. The officers noted she was crying and holding her cheek. The officers also noted the room she was exiting had a strong odor of paint. When they entered the room they found towels and a sock saturated with gold paint and reminiscence of gold paint alongside the bathroom sink. When interviewed, the victim reported she arrived at the room to find her fiancé and a friend huffing paint. She didn’t want them doing so and asked them to leave. Her fiancé came at her and grabbed her by the throat and slammed her against a wall. The suspect also slapped her across the face just prior to the police arriving. When interviewed, the suspect alleged only an argument took place but did admit to huffing the spray paint. Officers arrested Robert Hernandez, age 22, and transported him to jail. Hernandez was later formally charged with Domestic Assault by Strangulation—a felony, Domestic Assault and Abuse of Toxic Substances—both misdemeanors. In addition to being under the influence of the toxic substance, Hernandez was found to have a breath alcohol concentration of .36 or over 4 times the legal limit to drive. Incidentally, after Hernandez was released from custody, he was arrested less than 24-hours later for abusing toxic substances and fleeing from police officers on foot.

Broken Windshield Leads to Drug Arrest—

On Tuesday, a patrol officer stopped a vehicle that had a broken windshield and was obstructing the driver’s view. Upon meeting with the driver and checking the driver’s license status, he was found to be revoked. The officer returned to deliver a citation and observed what appeared to be some marijuana on the dash board. The officer examined the substance and it had an odor of marijuana. The officer conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle and found a freezer bag of suspected marijuana that over 42 grams. The driver was placed under arrest; he later gave a statement indicating that the marijuana had been given to him by a friend and he intended to sell it later to pay the friend back. Cody J. Halverson, age 19, was formally charged in District Court with a 5th Degree Controlled Substance Crime—a felony.

Citizen’s Academy—

Wednesday marked the 5th session of the 2013 Citizen’s Academy with the focus of the night being investigations and the Detective Bureau. Captain Eric Rethemeier started the evening off with an overview of the Detective Bureau. From there, he went into the department’s program for investigating domestic abuse cases and gave a case study of significant domestic abuse case that was investigated in 2009. Detective Sergeant Hassing presented next and talked about case review and assignments; Sgt. Hassing also presented on our Predatory Offender Monitoring Program. Detective Joel Hunt was up next and presented on the duties of our school resource officers. Detective Terrence Flynn followed and presented on our program for conducting alcohol and tobacco compliance checks with local alcohol and tobacco retailers. Detective Tom Munns followed with a case study of a major stabbing incident he investigated in 2010. The evening was brought to a close by Evidence Specialist Kim Dub who gave the group a tour of our Property and Evidence Room and explained our processes for handling evidence.