Plunging for Special Olympics—

This last Saturday, Lake Kohlmier was the place to be for Special Olympic supporters with a passion for jumping into frigid water. For the 4th year, a Polar Plunge has been held at Lake Kohlmier and this year Administrative Technician Pam Roberts, Captain Jeff Mundale & Officer Andrew Van Osdale represented the Owatonna Police Department. Plunges are a part of a year round program through which law enforcement personnel across the state raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Minnesota—collectively, our trio raised $387 that will go toward supporting the more than 8100 Minnesota athletes. A special thanks goes to Pam who continues to be a volunteer coordinator for the event.

Credit Card Fraud—

On January 9th, a community member reported his credit card lost and three fraudulent transactions taking place at various Owatonna Kwik Trip stores. A detective viewed surveillance video of three transactions and observed the same individual at all three Kwik Trips stores—he also obtained a license plate number from the vehicle driven by the suspect. With that information in hand, he was able to view the driver’s license photo of the registered owner of the suspect vehicle and made a match. On January 26th, the suspect was interviewed at a probation meeting and admitted to the fraud. The suspect stated he found the card under a table at a restaurant he worked at and used it to commit the fraud. Ben Drabek, age 22, of Owatonna was arrested and jailed. Drabek faces felony charges of Financial Transaction Card Fraud.

Cops in the Community—

On Tuesday morning, Sergeant Rob Kniefel made a visit to St. Mary’s School and Ms. Wobschall’s 4th grade class to talk about police investigations. Sgt. Kniefel talked with the kids about investigative techniques from the initial report, to determining whether a crime took place, to evidence collection, to gathering statements, to court presentation...on a 4th grade level.

More Fraud—

On January 8th, an officer responded to Cash Wise to field a complaint that a community member’s checking account was being used on-line to purchase groceries from Cash Wise. The investigating officer determined that (11) fraudulent transactions took place where groceries were delivered to an address on North Grove Avenue—the transactions used 3 separate usernames and totaled $1250. On January 29th, a detective was contacted that another fraudulent order was scheduled for this address. The detective, now undercover and disguised as a Cash Wise delivery person, made the delivery to the Grove Avenue address and placed the suspect under arrest. It turns out the suspect was a Cash Wise employee and was stealing account numbers from customers and using the account information for her own devious acts. The suspect told the detective, these people won’t miss a few hundred dollars. Brandi M. Grant, age 36, of Owatonna was arrested and has been formally charged with Identify Theft—a felony.

In Honor of a Fallen Officer—

Police Officer Glenn Doss, JR. Detroit (MI) Police Department End of Watch: January 28, 2018. Police Officer Glenn Doss, Jr. answered a question was he answered four days earlier during a domestic violence call. Officer Griffen the 911 dispatcher heard the screaming and the first officer futility from the seat of Michigan.