Residential Burglars Arrested—

Last Friday morning at approximately 10:33, Owatonna officers were called to a home in the 1000 block of Clover Lane for a burglary in progress. Responding officers were notified that two suspects had fled the scene and were last seen running toward Hayes Avenue. An officer was in that area and observed two males matching the description of the suspects on Hayes; both suspects were taken into custody without incident. Investigation revealed that the homeowner heard someone knocking on her door. She didn’t answer and a short time later heard noises coming from within the garage. The home owner opened the door to the garage and witnessed and startled two male suspects. The suspects ran out of the garage—as they got farther away from the home, the home owner heard one of them say that he had dropped his keys. The home owner observed keys on the garage floor. The homeowner locked the garage door and called 911. Later, officers were able to identify a key fob recovered with the keys by the home owner to a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Clover Lane—the vehicle was registered to one of the suspects. Sunday P. Puot, age 18 and Cody L. Luchi, age 18, were arrested and taken to jail. They were later formally charged with 1st Degree Burglary. In an interview with Puot, he admitted that they went into the garage to steal gas.

SCDIU Pays a Visit to an Owatonna Residence—

On February 6th, a methamphetamine investigation culminated when agents and tactical officers from the South Central Drug Investigation Unit executed a search warrant at 126 Lewis Drive in Owatonna. This investigation began back in November of 2014 when agents, with the use of a cooperating individual, set up a series of drug transactions in which the target, or suspect, sold approximately 13.55 grams of methamphetamine and packaging. Robert J. Schirmer, age 49, was arrested during the execution of the search warrant—Schirmer faces formal charges of 1st Degree Sales of a Controlled Substance.

Leadership Owatonna—

The 2014-2015 edition of Leadership Owatonna paid a visit to the OPD on Tuesday morning as part of the Public Safety Day. The group heard presentations from Chief Keith Hiller, Captain Eric Rethemeier, Sergeant Jason Peterson, Sergeant Josh Sorensen, Detective Joel Hunt and Canine Officer John Peterson & his partner Kash on topics including: SWAT, Canine, the SCDIU, Use of Force, Domestic Violence Investigations and the Patrol Division.

Weapons and Drugs Arrest—

On Sunday evening, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle for a suspected driver’s license violation and speeding. The officer stopped the vehicle as it was pulling into an address on Sunlight Avenue. The driver identified himself to the officer and indicated he didn’t have a driver’s license or insurance. When the officer checked the driver’s driving record, he found he was revoked and had an outstanding arrest warrant—he was placed under arrest. While making the arrest, the officer observed drug paraphernalia in the vehicle. A comprehensive search of the vehicle uncovered additional drug paraphernalia, presumptive positive marijuana and methamphetamine and a loaded 9mm handgun. Nathan T. Holland, age 30, was booked into the Steele County Jail and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Illegal Possession of a Firearm—both felonies and Possession of Marijuana in a Motor Vehicle, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Speeding.