Cops & the Community

On Tuesday, February 16th, OPD Detective Joel Hunt met with local Cub Scout Pack 351 where he provided the scouts with a tour of the Law Enforcement Center including the Pearl Street 911 Center. The scouts were shown how to roll fingerprints as well as different methods to locate latent prints, and how they can assist with crime prevention. This presentation helped the scouts complete their Bear Achievement 7 titled ‘Law Enforcement is a Big Job.’

Back on the Radar—On Thursday, February 11th at 5:05 p.m., officers were called to an armed robbery at 250 21st Street NW. The original story reported to officers was that as the victim was picking up his mail, he was confronted by a white male. The victim recognized the male as someone “he has seen a few times around town”. This male visitor was then joined by two men, described as having Somali features. They directed the resident to go to his apartment. Once there, the three men tried to take his money. The resident tried to fight off one of the suspects and a gun was then pointed at his face. The suspects got away with $150 cash. On Friday morning, detectives interviewed one suspect who they knew was involved in the incident. This interview then led to the identity of the second suspect, then finally the third suspect – one known quite too well by the Owatonna PD. Detectives discovered that the victim in this case was going to buy $150.00 of marijuana from the white male suspect – but instead the suspects came armed with a BB gun to steal the victim’s money. By mid-day on Friday, detectives arrested two suspects in this case—19 year old Sunday Pout, and a 16 year old male. The third suspect in this case was identified as 23 year old Duol Luk Ret. By Friday afternoon, detectives located and arrested Ret outside his home. The adults in this case were charged with 1st degree aggravated robbery and 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon and remain in custody at the Steele County Detention Center. The juvenile, whose name cannot be released, is charged by juvenile petition with aiding & abetting crimes of aggravated robbery and 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon. The juvenile was transported to a juvenile detention center.

Be Vigilant—From February 01—18, OPD has seen a jump in property crimes consisting of four (4) motor vehicle thefts, nine (9) property damage incidents and six (6) burglaries. The motor vehicle thefts have occurred in the Brady Blvd. area and one in the industrial park. Pick-up trucks have been the primary vehicle of interest—three of four vehicles have been recovered as abandoned in other jurisdictions. Damage to property consists of suspects breaking car windows during night hours, primarily in the SW police district of Mosher Ave and the downtown area. The damage to property appears to be vandalism related and not intended to be acts of theft. Last, the OPD is investigating six burglaries of which four incidents have been cleared by arrest involving the same suspects. Two pending burglary incidents remain under investigation and both have similarities of attempted entries using a pry tool and in close proximity to the downtown area. Citizens are encouraged to be vigilant and report suspicious activity by calling 911. Anyone with info about these crimes are encouraged to contact the Owatonna PD at 444-3800.

Burglars Busted – On Tuesday, February 16th, at 00:53 minutes, officers responded to a burglary in-progress call at an apartment complex at 431 State Ave. A witness gave a description of two individuals inside the laundry room breaking into the coin operated dispensers. The suspects left the scene before officers arrived. As officers were conducting the on-scene investigation, they observed possible suspects inside the Holiday Gas Station on W. Bridge Street. One suspect, Jordan Lindeman, fled on foot. Officers gave chase into the Mound Street neighborhood and apprehended him shortly thereafter. Another officer responded to the area and located the second suspect, Tracy Stanley, who was standing outside the gas station. Stanley had a burglary tool in his possession and was wearing shoes that had a matching tread pattern to shoe prints found at the scene of the burglary. Lindeman had 45 quarters in his possession that he admitted to stealing from the coin operated laundry machines. Lindeman and Stanley were transported and held at the Steele County Detention Center. Charges are pending by formal complaint.