OHS Burglarized, Two Suspects Arrested—

During the early morning hours of April 28th, Owatonna police officers were called to the Owatonna Senior High School to respond to an alarm; as officers were en route to the school, they were notified by the dispatch center of multiple alarm trips coming from within the school. Arriving officers established a perimeter around the school and as they were doing so, an officer found an open window near the bleachers on the west side of the football field. As the officer was investigating the open window, he observed two male suspects walking toward the open window and then observed a blue shirt being thrown out of the window. Officers announced their presence and directed the suspects to stop and raise their hands—both suspects complied and were then taken into custody. Timothy D. White, age 21, and John A. Manthei, age 21, were arrested and transported to the Steele County Jail. A statement from one of the suspects revealed they were both former students at the school. They were walking by the school and decided they were going to get into the school and relive some old memories. While they were in the school, the pair helped themselves to Husky treasures on the west side of the football field. As the officer was investigating the open window, he observed two male suspects walking toward the open window and then observed a blue shirt being thrown out of the window. Officers announced their presence and directed the suspects to stop and raise their hands—both suspects complied and were then taken into custody. Timothy D. White, age 21, and John A. Manthei, age 21, were arrested and transported to the Steele County Jail. A statement from one of the suspects revealed they were both former students at the school. They were walking by the school and decided they were going to get into the school and relive some old memories. While they were in the school, the pair helped themselves to Husky tee shirts as a memento. Both suspects were charged in District Court with 2nd Degree Burglary—a felony, Theft and Trespassing on School Property—both misdemeanors.

Crash, DWI Arrest—

On April 27th at 7:22 P.M., Owatonna officers were called to the area of the 2200 block of 3rd Avenue N.E. for the report of a motor vehicle crash where a pickup truck had struck an unoccupied minivan that was parked along side the street. As officers were responding, they were notified by the dispatch center that a white male was walking away from the scene of the crash. As officers arrived on scene, they were told that a male individual who caused the crash was seen fleeing into the Manthey Park woods. Officers searched the area and were able to locate a male in front of 270 19th St. N.E. matching the description of the suspect who fled the scene. Officers noticed the suspect was showing signs of intoxication and was asked to perform roadside field sobriety tests; however, he failed to cooperate with the officers. While speaking with the suspect at the scene, he indicated to officers that he had just hit something with his pickup, had a lot to drink and left the scene because he had been drinking. Christopher A. Balfe, age 51, was arrested for suspicion of drunk driving. He was transported to the Steele County Jail for additional DWI processing. He later took a breath test which indicated a breath alcohol of content of .21, or more than 2 ½ times the legal limit. Balfe was later charged in District Court with two counts of DWI, Violating a Restricted Driver’s License—gross misdemeanors and Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Crash.

Police Reserves in the Community—

Under the guidance of Sergeants Robbe Kniefel and Andy DeVinnny, our police reserve unit has been busy with training exercises to get them prepared to be used in the community. On Wednesday, a group of six reserves were assigned to participate in the Senior and Caregiver Expo that was held at the Four Season’s Centre. The reserves participated in the event by conducting vehicle safety inspections—checking for headlights/tailights/turn signals burned out, unsafe tires, etc. You’ll also see them in the coming weeks assisting with traffic control in the From the Heart run, the Color Dash 5k and the Memorial Day Parade. In the picture to the side, the reserve group is seen inspecting a vehicle.

Who Answers your 911 Call—

The Pearl Street 911 Center answers all requests for law enforcement assistance via 9-1-1 and the local police number. The center serves nine law enforcement agencies, ten fire and rescue departments, and five ambulance services within Rice and Steele County. The chart below shows a comparison of the number of calls fielded for each of the law enforcement agencies serviced by the center.