Drug Arrest

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle for having an obstructed windshield. When the officer made contact with the female driver and female passenger, he detected an odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle; he was told they were coming from a house where they had just smoked marijuana and that there was a marijuana pipe in the vehicle. The officer searched the vehicle and located a large quantity of ecstasy and psilocybin mushrooms, both schedule I drugs. Schedule I drugs are deemed to have a high potential for abuse and are not recognized for medical use. Officers arrested Alejandra L. Fabian-Perez, age 19 and Kirsten E. Albino, age 19. Fabian-Perez was charged in District Court with 2nd and 3rd Degree Controlled Substance Sale Crimes. Albino was charged with Aiding and Abetting 2nd and 3rd Degree Controlled Substance Sale Crimes.

Department Training

On Wednesday, May 11th, the department conducted the first session of our annual firearms qualifications. Our department's instructors, Captain Jeff Mundale, Sergeant Jason Petterson and Officer Andy Drenth certified our officers in the use of the Glock handgun, Remington patrol shotgun and SLR 15 patrol rifle.

In 2010, the firearms instructors conducted three mandatory training events. The firearms courses consisted of cold weather training, the annual qualification and evaluation course, and low light/night training course. Each event is outlined by specific guidelines, training goals and objectives. There were a total of eight range days totaling 198 hours of firearms training that was received by the entire force. Generally, each officer receives about 6.5 – 8 hours of firearms training each year. This does not include the officer's personal time training off-duty.

Motorcycle Awareness

The month of May is considered Motorcycle Awareness Month across the U.S. Motorists should constantly remain vigilant to riders as they are not as easily seen in the side and rear view mirrors. During 2007-2009 in Minnesota, 186 riders were killed and another 4,203 injured in motorcycle crashes. National statistics reveal in 2009, there were 4,462 motorcycle fatalities, down from 5,312 fatalities in 2008. (Source: MN Department of Transportation).

Department News

Congratulations to Officer Josh Sorensen and his wife on the birth of their son. The newest member of the Sorensen family was born on Monday, May 11th at 8:45 p.m. We are happy to report that mom, dad and baby are all at home and doing well.