Good Luck Brady—

Today will bring to a close the career of Officer Brady Prince with the Owatonna Police Department. We’re sorry to say that Brady will be taking his considerable talents back to his home town of Brainerd and the Brainerd Police Department. Though Brady has only been with us since 2011, his loss will be impactful as in the short time he was here he had developed into an outstanding police officer and servant to the community. Brady—we wish you and your family the best of luck as you move on in your law enforcement career.

Suspicious Activity Leads to Drug Arrest—

During the early morning hours on Wednesday, two of our officers were on patrol on the west side of Owatonna when they observed a pick-up truck parked in a parking lot of the Lion’s Den. As the officers drove by, they observed a male individual in the driver’s seat duck down. The officers stopped to investigate and upon approaching the vehicle observed a male driver and female passenger; both appeared to be sleeping or pretending to sleep. Officers also observed a glass container on the passenger side dashboard that appeared to contain marijuana. The officers spoke to the couple and were provided a false name by the female. She was later identified as Nicole L. O’Brien, age 33, and was arrested for several outstanding arrest warrants out of Blue Earth County. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle where they found items of drug paraphernalia and controlled substances that tested presumptive positive for cocaine and methamphetamine. Also located in the pick-up were several Minnesota license plates, one of which was reported stolen out of Olmsted County. The driver of the vehicle, Steven J. Holm, age 29, was also placed under arrest and both O’Brien and Holm were transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Steven Holm was formally charged in District Court with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Receiving Stolen Property and Possessing Synthetic Marijuana. Nicole O’Brien was charged by citation with Providing False Information to the Police and Possessing Synthetic Marijuana. Holm’s vehicle, a 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche, is being held and may be subject to forfeiture.

Chain Reaction Crash Put Driver in Jail—

On Wednesday evening, our officers responded to the area of Cedar Avenue and Mill Street for the report of a vehicle that had struck several parked cars. The first officer on scene was directed by a witness to a female standing in the doorway to an apartment on the corner of Cedar and Mill. The officer approached the female, who was bending over attempting to pick up items from her wallet and was having a bit of difficulty doing so. The officer began speaking with the female and noticed she was showing signs of intoxication. As a result of the officer’s observation, the female was asked to perform roadside field sobriety tests which she failed; she was subsequently placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Investigation into the motor vehicle crash revealed the female suspect was westbound in the 200 block of Mill Street when she ran into a silver colored Saturn that was properly parked alongside the road. The impact of the crash forced the Saturn into the rear end of a parked Dodge Dakota. Kerrie S. Machacek, age 54, was formally charged in District Court with two counts of 3rd Degree DWI, Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia—the paraphernalia was discovered in her purse after she was placed under arrest.

Distracted Driving—

“JUST DRIVE”

Distracted driving has almost become a buzz-word recently, but rarely do we take the time to think about what distracted driving really is. Is distracted driving using a cell phone? Is distracted driving turning our heads to talk to people (including children) in the back seat? Is distracted driving thinking about what to eat for dinner on our drive home from work? The answers are yes, yes, and yes again. Distracted driving is anything that takes us away from the mental and physical requirements of safely operating a motor vehicle. What this means for drivers is that we must make driving our number one priority when we are behind the wheel. If we need to make a phone call or take care of our children we must get off the road. It’s really that easy.

--------JUST DRIVE