**Deer Management Hunt**

In a cooperative effort with the Owatonna Park & Recreation Department and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Owatonna Police Department conducted a deer management hunt in the city on Wednesday, January 18th. Six Owatonna officers were strategically placed in Hammond Park, Kaplan’s Woods and the North Straight River Park in an attempt to harvest the 15 deer authorized by the DNR to cull from the deer herd living in the City of Owatonna. As authorized by the DNR for this management hunt, bait piles were placed in the parks beginning in late December in locations thought to provide the best opportunity for culling deer while keeping the public safe; all locations provided safe shooting lanes with backstops. Also, in an attempt to keep the public safe, all of the parks involved were closed and signage was placed at the entrances to the parks warning citizens of the management hunt taking place. Lastly, an Owatonna sergeant was assigned as a safety officer; his responsibility was to patrol the management hunt locations and coordinate culled deer pick-ups with Park & Recreation staff. Our officers conducted this management hunt between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. During that time, a total of seven deer were harvested; two from Hammond Park, two from Kaplan’s Woods and three from the North Straight River Park. Our officers reported seeing many other deer during the course of the day; however, they were passed up because of potential safety concerns.

**Domestic Assault Leads to Foot Pursuit**

On January 12th, Owatonna police were dispatched to the area of the 1000 block of South Oak Avenue for a physical domestic. When officers arrived, they found a parked vehicle containing the female victim. The victim reported that her on-again and off-again significant other had called her for a ride. She arrived at 1020 South Oak Avenue to pick him up and the suspect came out to her vehicle and sat in the front seat. The suspect asked to borrow money and an argument ensued over previously borrowed money that had not been paid back. The suspect then punched the victim in the mouth; officers observed the victim’s mouth was bleeding. The suspect exited the vehicle and left the area on foot. Officers responded to 1020 South Oak to attempt to locate the suspect; they were told by a female resident that the suspect was not at the residence. While the officers were speaking with the female party at the front door, another officer was positioned at the back door. That officer observed the suspect near the back of the residence. The suspect observed the officer and turned from the officer as if to run inside of the house; however, began running west through the backyard away from the officer. As luck would have it, there was newly fallen snow on the ground and officers were able to track the suspect’s footprints to near a residence on Grandview St. As officers checked around the residence, they observed a large arborvitae bush located at the corner of the house and the suspect hiding underneath. When questioned, the suspect denied the assault and didn’t know why he ran from the police. The suspect was placed under arrest without incident. Stetson P. Fox, age 25, was transported to the Steele County Detention Center and charged by citation with 5th Degree Assault, Domestic Assault and Fleeing a Peace Officer on Foot.

**TAX SEASON DOs & DON'Ts**

When using the United States Mail to send in your returns, always drop them in a secured mailbox/drop or at the Post Office. You have personal information on these forms that someone could use to claim your identity such as:
- Social Security Numbers
- Routing numbers for your bank accounts
- Income information that someone could use to open credit accounts without your knowledge (ID theft)
- Home Address

When using the Internet:
- Use all precautions you normally use for opening charge accounts with online businesses
- Turn off our computers when not in use
- When surfing the internet, hackers can get into your computer and gather personal information
- Check on fire walls and home computer security measures for your personal computer
- There is software that encrypts or scrambles the purchase information you send over the internet

**Commendation Awarded**

Owatonna Police Department Detective Andy Drenth has been awarded a class “D” commendation from Chief Hiller for his role in the apprehension of Medford McDonald’s shooting suspect Jason Krieg. The class “D” commendation is awarded to members of the department for outstanding performance on a single event or for situations that demonstrate the application of a member’s job skill under difficult circumstances. During his particular investigation, Officer Drenth was instrumental in gathering intelligence in leading to the whereabouts of Mr. Krieg and then single-handedly apprehending him after a short foot chase. Officer Drenth is to be commended for his professionalism and dedication to protecting the citizens of Owatonna.

---

**Domestic Assault Leads to Foot Pursuit**

On January 12th, Owatonna police were dispatched to the area of the 1000 block of South Oak Avenue for a physical domestic. When officers arrived, they found a parked vehicle containing the female victim. The victim reported that her on-again and off-again significant other had called her for a ride. She arrived at 1020 South Oak Avenue to pick him up and the suspect came out to her vehicle and sat in the front seat. The suspect asked to borrow money and an argument ensued over previously borrowed money that had not been paid back. The suspect then punched the victim in the mouth; officers observed the victim’s mouth was bleeding. The suspect exited the vehicle and left the area on foot. Officers responded to 1020 South Oak to attempt to locate the suspect; they were told by a female resident that the suspect was not at the residence. While the officers were speaking with the female party at the front door, another officer was positioned at the back door. That officer observed the suspect near the back of the residence. The suspect observed the officer and turned from the officer as if to run inside of the house; however, began running west through the backyard away from the officer. As luck would have it, there was newly fallen snow on the ground and officers were able to track the suspect’s footprints to near a residence on Grandview St. As officers checked around the residence, they observed a large arborvitae bush located at the corner of the house and the suspect hiding underneath. When questioned, the suspect denied the assault and didn’t know why he ran from the police. The suspect was placed under arrest without incident. Stetson P. Fox, age 25, was transported to the Steele County Detention Center and charged by citation with 5th Degree Assault, Domestic Assault and Fleeing a Peace Officer on Foot.