Chief Hiller attended the BLACK LIVES, ALL LIVES and DEMOCRACY sponsored by the Steele County Historical Society and presented by Andre Koen of the AM Horizons Training Group.

Mr. Koen enlightened the audience on moral positioning, the human soul, values, the constitution, diversity, inclusion and affirmative actions. The message of overcoming barriers to my humanity and the importance of changing the conversation is important to our community. A special thank you to Mr. Koen for visiting our community!

Just the Facts

Friday, Jan 13 to Thursday, Jan 19

- Busiest Day of Week: Friday—160 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 12:00 AM—59 events
- Total # of Events: 752
- Average Events/Day: 107.43
- Average Events/Hour: 4.48
- Average Traffic Stops: .73 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 1

Black Lives, All Lives and Democracy

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Police Officer Thank You—In last week’s Owatonna Peoples Press Letter to the Editor column, a citizen took the time to express her Thanks to Officer Zack Schumaker for stopping to help her shovel snow at the end of her driveway. In an interview we had with Officer Schumaker, he said “I couldn’t just drive by – she looked like she needed some help”. Officer Schumaker was named the Exchange Club Owatonna Officer of The Year in 2015. These are one of many kind gestures our police officers are caught doing in the community.

Just a Little Too Fast—Just before 2 o’clock this morning, a citizen reported that a vehicle crashed into their neighbor’s home on the 1600 block of Mosher Ave. Two occupants were seen walking away from the scene. The homeowner was not home and no one was injured. Investigators noticed significant damage to the house foundation and broken water lines inside the home. The occupants were located and the driver, Brandon Wencl—21 of Owatonna, was arrested for a felony amount of marijuana and leaving the scene of a property damage accident. Wencl admitted to the officer that he was driving too fast and had been drinking at a bar before the crash.

Not a Good Night for a Walk—On Tuesday, January 17th, Owatonna Officers responded to a citizen concern of a vehicle off road on 28th Street NW, near Terry’s Repair. The reporter heard a man and woman yelling at each other, then observed the female involved back a car into the ditch. Both occupants left the vehicle and evaded an officer arriving to investigate. Additional officers arrived and began to track the suspects through the snow which led them to Colonial Manor trailer park. An officer found the couple crossing through properties then detained both on Clark Drive. The male was identified and released from the scene. The woman was not so lucky. She was under investigation for suspicion of DWI. Jennifer Jane Stoffers was brought to jail for an outstanding warrant and may face additional charges for open bottle, driving after revocation, and DWI.

Do You Need a Ride?

Just after 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, an OPD officer patrolling Cash Wise recognized a wanted subject he arrested a few years ago for a 3rd Degree DWI. The offender, Christopher Jay Labs of New Richland, was sentenced to 30 days in jail but failed to report to serve his time, so in September a judge issued an arrest warrant. Labs who has been free since, found his way to the Steele County Jail.

Jennifer Stoffers

Christopher Labs

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