From Our Not So Smart Offender Files—

On January 13th, Owatonna officers were called to the Microtel Hotel in regards to a theft. Our responding officers arrived to find an 18-year old male victim sitting in the lobby yelling at an employee—officers also observed it appeared the 18-year old victim to be intoxicated. The victim reported he came to Owatonna from Shakopee to hang with some friends and found several of his items missing. Officers searched for the victim’s property, but were unable to locate missing items. What they were able to locate was three outstanding arrest warrants for our victim’s arrest. Once placed under arrest, officers recovered two baggies from his front pocket which contained the schedule IV drug Xanax, which by the way our victim indicated he did not have a prescription for. Cedric J. Elusmond was formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony and Minor Consumption. As we continue to see prescription drug cases in Steele County, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the “Take it to the Box” program and keep unused medication out of the wrong hands. You can take your unused medications to the box located in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street.

Juvenile Investigations—

On Sunday morning our officers were called to a home in Owatonna—parents were calling to report finding marijuana and a scale in their child’s bedroom. The investigating officer found what was described by the parents and recovered approximately 13 grams of marijuana, baggies and a scale. When interviewed, the youth indicated he was bagging the marijuana up for a friend and the friend was going to sell it. The youth was detained at a juvenile detention center and formally charged with a 3rd degree controlled substance crime.

On January 15th, Owatonna officers were called to the 900 block of Minnesota Ave. for the report of a stolen vehicle. The investigating officer learned a van had been left overnight in a driveway with the keys in it—the owner discovered the van missing the following morning. The officer observed two sets of footprints in the snow around the area of the missing van. Officers had contact with an adult male who was suspected of prowling the cars the night the van was stolen. Officers were able to trace the prowler suspect to a rural residence in Waseca County. A Waseca police officer checked the address and discovered the stolen van leaving the residence—the driver and passenger were arrested. During an interview, the 14-year old juvenile passenger admitted to stealing the van the night before. The juvenile was charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, Tampering with a Motor Vehicle and Driving without a Driver’s License.

Department News—

Emily Ammentorp has successfully navigated the field training process and this past week began working solo patrol duties. Emily joins Officers Adam Dupic and Jason Christiansen who also recently graduated from the field training program. The field training program is an intensive process where newly hired officers travel through four-phases or approximately 600 hours of instruction and observation to demonstrate they have knowledge, skills and abilities to work as a solo police officer. At this time we currently have three other officers in various stages of the field training process.

Related to field training, Officers Zack Schumaker and Ben Johnson have been assigned to the field training unit; each of these officers will be attending a week-long course in the near future—congratulations to these two officers.