Final Investigation Division Update-

During this past week, our investigators officially took occupancy of the newly proclaimed “Detective Bureau”. This project began back in February with the demolition of the former KRFO radio studios and the creation of extra office space and a situation/training room. The project was mainly funded by city in-kind services and a big thank-you goes out to the city carpenters, electrician, plumber and other city officials who helped make this project possible.

Fresh Face-

The Owatonna Police Department welcomes Christian Berg to the department as our newest officer. Christian, an Owatonna native, comes to us from the Willmar Police Department and prior to that the Waseca Police Department. Christian will be working his way through the field training program for the next sixteen weeks and we anticipate him taking on regular duties on or around October 1st. Welcome Christian.

Prescription Drug Arrest-

This past week our officers arrested another individual for being in possession of illegal prescription medications. On June 25th, an officer stopped a motorist for failing to signal turns and crossing over the center line. When speaking to the driver, the officer observed the motorist was slurring his speech. The officer investigated further and found the driver was not impaired, but was in possession of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride, a schedule II controlled substance and a small amount of Marijuana. The driver, Richard J. Freeman, age 59, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. He was formally charged in District Court with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana and other lesser traffic offenses. As we continue to see these types of 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.

Domestic Dispute Leads to Violence/Arrest-

On June 29th, Owatonna officers were dispatched to the Owatonna Hospital for a domestic disturbance. Officers arrived and found a male individual being detained by hospital security. Investigation revealed the male subject’s significant other had recently given birth to their child and the child was still in the hospital. The mother returned home while the baby remained in the hospital and an argument ensued between the father and mother over the lack of attention dad had been receiving since the child’s birth. The argument led to dad threatening and punching mom; the arguing continued at the hospital where dad was witnessed pushing mom. Officers arrested Marcus M. Butler, age 27, for domestic assault and 5th degree assault. Mr. Butler was formally charged in District Court with Felony Terroristic Threats and Gross Misdemeanor Domestic Assault.