**Finding a Needle in a Haystack—**

On Wednesday, June 7th, Owatonna Officer Christian Berg was on patrol on Interstate 35. At the time, he was following a silver Honda Accord bearing a California registration. Ofc. Berg ran a registration check on the California license plate to check for up-to-date registration on the vehicle. Ofc. Berg’s inquiry lead to a notification that the vehicle was wanted in connection with a felony assault in California and the occupants were considered armed. Ofc. Berg continued to follow the vehicle as he waited for a back-up officer. Ofc. Berg was joined by a Steele County Deputy as the vehicle exited at the Medford exit and the duo stopped the suspect vehicle in the Medford McDonald’s parking lot. The occupants of the vehicle, Amanda R. Vera, age 28 and Craig J. Dunne, age 28, were wanted by the Downey, California Police Department in conjunction with a stabbing incident that occurred in the California city’s jurisdiction on June 17th, 2012; both Vera and Dunne were arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Dunne had injuries to his left arm that were consistent with being involved in a knife incident. On Monday, July 2nd, Owatonna detectives further assisted the Downey authorities by executing a search warrant on the silver Honda Accord. Many items of property were seized from the motor vehicle that may assist Downey authorities with their case. In addition, a firearm was located in the vehicle which may lead to local charges.

**Forgotten Handgun Believed Stolen—**

On the 4th of July, a Mankato resident was visiting the Owatonna Fleet Farm store. The Mankato resident had been issued a permit to carry a concealed firearm and was doing so on this date. The Mankato subject went to use the restroom and set his .38 Charter Arms revolver on top of a baby changing station while he used the restroom. When the Mankato resident left the restroom, he forgot to pick up his weapon and left the store. The Mankato resident was en route back to his residence in California and the occupants were considered armed. Ofc. Berg continued to follow the vehicle as he waited for a back-up officer. Ofc. Berg was joined by a Steele County Deputy as the vehicle exited at the Medford exit and the duo stopped the suspect vehicle in the Medford McDonald’s parking lot. The occupants of the vehicle, Amanda R. Vera, age 28 and Craig J. Dunne, age 28, were wanted by the Downey, California Police Department in conjunction with a stabbing incident that occurred in the California city’s jurisdiction on June 17th, 2012; both Vera and Dunne were arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Dunne had injuries to his left arm that were consistent with being involved in a knife incident. On Monday, July 2nd, Owatonna detectives further assisted the Downey authorities by executing a search warrant on the silver Honda Accord. Many items of property were seized from the motor vehicle that may assist Downey authorities with their case. In addition, a firearm was located in the vehicle which may lead to local charges.

**Speeders Beware—**

If you’ve been stopped by an Owatonna officer for speeding and received a ticket—or were lucky enough to receive a warning—you probably also received a brochure with some Minnesota speed facts. The brochure also tells of the tragic story of Marie Gilbertson, a 70-year old grandmother, who was driving home in July of 2010 when she was struck and killed by a driver who had been drinking and ran a stop sign travelling at 85 miles per hour. The Owatonna Police Department takes speeding very seriously and is one of our targeted traffic offenses, along with stop sign/semaphore violations, seatbelt related violations, distracted driving, and DWI. Let’s all work together so that none of us are the driver or the victim of an illegal or unsafe speed induced fatal crash—a crash where everyone loses.

“A person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who negligently stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child”.

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**Just the Facts**

**Volume 3, Issue 27**

**July 6, 2012**

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**Weekly Highlights**

**Friday, June 29 to Thursday, July 5**

- Busiest Day of Week: Friday—129 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 11:00 PM—72 events
- Total # of Events: 801
- Average Events/Day: 114.43
- Average Events/Hour: 4.77
- Average Traffic Stops: .92
- DWI for the week: 3

**Thank You—**

Our construction crew has moved out and we are setting into our newly remodeled Patrol Division. The construction portion of the project was primarily funded by in-kind city services and we extend a big “Thank You” out to our fellow city workers, who without, would have made this project impossible. Those involved in making this project happen include: the city administrator and finance director, the facility and grounds superintendent, city carpenters, city electrician, city plumber and the street department employees who assisted with the demolition.

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