If You Push on It Hard Enough it Will Break—

On July 8th, our officers were called to the Owatonna Family Dollar store in downtown for the report of shoplifter. Arriving officers found that the female suspect in this case had left the store and was last seen traveling north on N. Cedar Ave. Officers checked the area, but were not immediately able to locate her. As an officer was meeting with the store clerk, a concerned citizen came forth with information about the suspect’s whereabouts. The officer located the suspect at 113 1/2 N. Cedar Avenue outside of an apartment. The officer spoke with her at that location where she admitted to taking items from the Family Dollar Store and showed officers where the ill-gotten goods could be found. The suspect was led to an awaiting squad car as the officer continued with his investigation. As the officer was speaking with a store clerk inside the store, he could hear a banging noise coming from his squad car; he responded and found the female kicking at the car’s back door. The officer warned the female that if she continued to kick the door she would be detained in handcuffs and leg restraints. The officer returned to speak with the store clerk, only to hear the female kicking at the squad car again. He went back outside; however, this time, the female had folded over the side window of the squad car. The female was restrained in handcuffs and in leg restraints but managed to slip her hand out of the cuffs and was attempting to reach her hand out of the broken window; the female then made suicidal comments. Officers opened the squad’s door to remove her from the vehicle when she began banging her head against the squad car cage partition. She was removed from the squad car and proceeded head-butting the sidewalk several times. An ambulance was requested to respond to the scene and she was eventually restrained on a gurney. The suspect, Lisa Tarango, age 31, was transported to the Owatonna Hospital and then to the Steele County Detention Center where she was later released. She was charged by citation with Theft, Obstructing the Legal Process and 4th degree Criminal Damage to Property. The cost to repair the damage to the squad car is estimated at $695.

25 Year Milestone—

On July 6th, Detective Corporal Mark Edel reached a significant milestone in his career as it was his 25th anniversary with the department. Mark was hired as a police officer with the department on July 6, 1987. Mark worked the first part of his career as a patrol officer until he was assigned to the Investigation Division in June 2005. Mark was promoted to the rank of Corporal in April of 2006. During his tenure in the Investigation Division, Mark spent a several years working as the school resource officer at the Owatonna High School. Mark is currently assigned as a general investigator working in the Detective Bureau. Congratulations Mark!

Drowning at Lake Kohlmier—

On May 11th at 5:55 p.m., Owatonna officers, the Owatonna Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance were dispatched to Lake Kohlmier for the report of a subject who was swimming with a friend and was missing in the water. Responding agencies coordinated an on the water search and at 6:45 p.m. located the victim, deceased, under the water near the swim platform. Upon recovery of the victim, the investigation was turned over to the Steele County Sheriff’s Office. In the State of Minnesota, the Sheriff’s Office has jurisdiction over watercraft accidents and drownings.

Retirement News—

After 3 decades of serving the citizens of Owatonna, Officer Willie Goodsell officially retired from the department on July 11, 2012. Willie began his career with the department on June 15, 1981, and was the most tenured officer on the department at the time of his retirement. Willie spent his entire career working as a patrol officer and most recently was assigned as a crime scene technician. Willie will most be remembered for the jovial approach be brought to law enforcement. Willie—we’ll miss you and best of luck in your post-retirement days!