SCDIU Operation Yields Arrests—

On May 30th, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) conducted a controlled purchase of cocaine and oxycodone hydrochloride—Schedule I and Schedule II controlled substances. In this investigation, an undercover agent with the SCDIU arranged to buy an 8-ball or 1/8 of an ounce of cocaine and some oxycodone pills from a target male who goes by the monikers of Dollar and Memphis. The undercover agent later met with the target male and another unidentified male inside a vehicle at a location in the City of Owatonna where he purchased two (2) 8-balls of cocaine for $500 and three (3) hydrocodone pills for an additional $80. Later on May 30th, Owatonna officers sought to arrest Dollar/Memphis who was known to law enforcement as Shawn M. Williams, age 29. At approximately 10:05 PM, officers observed a pink Mercury Navigator driving near the intersection of 18th St. SE and Truman Avenue; this vehicle was commonly known by our officers to be driven by Shawn Williams. Officers conducted a high risk traffic stop with the vehicle and found Williams to be the driver. Williams was taken into custody without incident. SCDIU agents were also able to positively identify the second male subject who was present and directly involved when the drug sale took place as Kevin Jackson, age 47. On Friday, May 31st at approximately 10:00 PM, Jackson was located at his residence and taken into custody without incident. Shawn Williams was formally charged in District Court with one count of 2nd Degree Sale of a Controlled Substance—a felony. Court records indicate the Williams was formerly convicted of 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Kevin Jackson was formally charged with one count of 2nd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Court records also show that Jackson was previously convicted of a felony level controlled substance crime for the sale of cocaine in Hennepin County. The pink Mercury Navigator has been seized and subject to forfeiture due to it being used in sale of the controlled substances.

Department News—

During the past week, our firearms instructors have been busy with our annual firearms qualification training courses. Each of our licensed officers are required annually to successfully qualify with their individual handgun, and the department model shotgun and patrol rifle. We hold these qualification courses at the 20 Rifle & Pistol Club which is located north of Owatonna. Sergeants Jason Pettersson and Josh Sorensen and Officers Brandon Fandel and Laddie Bata are our department’s firearms instructors. The photo above shows Captain Eric Rethemeier qualifying from the 100 yard mark with a .223 patrol rifle.

This past week, Chief Keith Hiller conducted final interviews with eight potential candidates to fill three vacant police officer positions. Conditional job offers were extended to three of the candidates and our detectives are in the midst of conducting a comprehensive background check on each before a final job offer is extended to the candidates.

Save The Date!!

With summer upon us, we’re beginning to start the planning for this year’s Night to Unite event. Night to Unite will take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, and will celebrate neighborhood and community partnerships. If you or someone in your neighborhood is interested in participating in Night to Unite, Pam Roberts can be reached at 507-774-7200 for more information.

The Owatonna Police Department would like to welcome Kris Forster as the newest member of the records staff at the Law Enforcement Center. The records staff members are a shared resource between the Sheriff’s Office and the OPD. Welcome Kris!!