Failed Heist From Target—

During the early morning hours on Sunday, Owatonna officers were called to Target regarding a forced entry burglary. The responding officers learned that Target security had observed through security footage an unknown suspect force entry through the main door of the business and later exit the building though another door—the suspect fled on foot and possibly left the area in a vehicle. Once inside, officers found that an ATM been broken into and approximately $7300 may be missing from the machine. Officers checked the area and found that a vehicle matching the description of the possible getaway car had been seen and registered to a guest at the Microtel hotel. With that information, an alert was sent out the neighboring law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the vehicle. A short time later, the Clear Lake police department in Iowa notified us that they had located the vehicle and two occupants, a male and female, at a gas station. When Iowa officers made contact with the occupants, the female was found to have $4651 in cash in her purse and the male was found to have $1120 in his left sock, $1720 in his right sock and $1380 in his pocket—all in $20 bills. The suspects were detained in Iowa until a warrant was drafted for their arrest. Montez D. Daye, age 26, was charged by a complaint warrant with Aid and Abet 2nd Degree Burglary. Cristal Villanueva, age 26, faces similar charges. Both suspects remain in custody in Iowa awaiting extradition back to Minnesota. This investigation continues.

Traffic Stop Leads to Weapons Charges—

On March 23rd, the Owatonna police department received information that the driver of a specific vehicle was involved in illegal activity. Later that morning, the vehicle was spotted by an officer making an illegal U-turn near the intersection of 26th Street NW and the Frontage Rd. The vehicle was stopped and as it was doing so, the officer observed the driver making surreptitious movement toward the middle and front seat passenger areas of the vehicle. While approaching the vehicle, the driver exited the vehicle with his hands up and walked toward the rear of the vehicle. Our drug detecting canine Kash was summoned to the vehicle and alerted for the presence of controlled substances within the vehicle. A search of the vehicle uncovered some drug paraphernalia and a loaded .380 pistol that was hidden under the driver’s side dash. Nahom Tesfalidet, age 34, was arrested and jailed. Tesfalidet was later charged with gross misdemeanor charges relating to being a felon in possession of a firearm/pistol. He also faces additional misdemeanor traffic and drug paraphernalia charges.

Child Abuse Prevention Month—

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month in 1983. Since then, April has been a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. Children who are abused may show physical and behavioral signs. You may be a child’s only lifeline to safety. Child abuse is everyone’s business. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call child protection services in Steele County, the Owatonna Police Department or call 1-800-CHILDREN to speak with someone at Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. Child abuse is any maltreatment of a child that results in harm or injury.

Child abuse includes:

Physical abuse – an injury to a child that is not an accident; for example, hurting a child by hitting, burning, biting, or shaking.

Sexual abuse – any sexual contact with a child, including exhibitionism, photographs or films, or prostitution.

Physical neglect or endangerment – failure to give the child food, clothing, medical care, shelter, or supervision. A parent may endanger a child by not using a child safety seat when traveling in a vehicle.

Emotional abuse and neglect – an abusive parent may scare a child by threatening to leave him or her, or may be severely critical. A neglectful parent may not spend any time with the child or may never show the child any affection. A neglectful parent may not provide enough food or medical attention.

Just the Facts

March 27, 2015

Volume 6, Issue 12

Weekly Highlights

Friday, March 20 to Thursday, March 26

- Busiest Day of Week: Friday—103 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 6:00 PM—31 events
- Total # of Events: 506
- Average Events/Day: 72.28
- Average Events/Hour: 3.01
- Average Traffic Stops: .82 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 3

Department News—

In the Thursday edition of the People’s Press, a letter to the editor was submitted to thank Officer Cody for helping a senior citizen who was having car problems. We’d like to formally identify the officer as Community Service Officer Cody Mosher. In the letter, the citizen stated, “His thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated”. We’d like to thank Cody for a job well done; sometimes what we think is a trivial task makes the biggest impact in a person’s life or the community as a whole.