Scam Alert—

This past week one of our community members fell victim to telephone scam resulting in a financial loss of $1000. The scammer placed a call purporting to be an FBI & IRS worker investigating a counterfeit case. The caller requested $3000 to take care of the issue and requested our victim to go to Walmart and place money on a One Vanilla MasterCard. Our unsuspecting victim purchased two $500 MasterCards and provided the credit card numbers to the scammer. With that, the scam was done and our victim has been defrauded of $1000. The IRS or the FBI, or any government agency will not call you demanding payment via a pre-paid card. If you received such a call, this is your first clue to a potential scam and to hang up on the caller. Similarly, another community member took a call this week from a youth purporting to be a grandson and in jail. The grandson was requesting money to get him out of jail. Luckily in this case, the community member was wise to the scam and confronted the caller as such—the scammer hung up and there was no financial loss. If you get these types of calls, you’re best bet is not to get flustered and make a rash decision that will likely defraud you of your money; simply, hang-up on the caller and report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

Domestic Violence Leads to Arrests—

Last Friday evening, our officers were called to an address in the 700 block of S. Cedar for the report of a domestic assault. Investigating officers learned that the victim was in the suspect’s apartment when an argument ensued over a breakup. As the female victim began to leave, the suspect took a fighting stance. The suspect told the victim he wasn’t going to hit her and told her to get out—the suspect then allegedly hit the victim in the head with a closed fist. The victim also reported a history of domestic violence that included threats with knives and a hammer, choking to unconsciousness and threats to kill the victim. Officers observed injuries to the victims face as a result of the assault. Anthony E. Wadley, age 25 of Owatonna was arrested and jailed. He has been charged with two counts of Domestic Assault—both felonies.

Also on Friday, our officers responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 1100 block of E. School St. Dispatch personnel heard yelling and screaming on the phone and when they called back a female was asking for help—as officers arrived, they could hear yelling coming from the apartment complex. Officers learned a dispute took place following a birthday party. The dispute led to the victim being grabbed around the neck. When the victim went to call 911, the suspect slapped her cell phone out of her hand. Officers arrested Shawn McDowell, age 39 of Owatonna. He has been charged with two counts of Domestic Assault and Interfering with a 911 Call.

Child Abuse Prevention—

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 Minnesota Prairie County Alliance in Steele County, the Owatonna Police Department or call 1-800-CHILDREN to speak with someone at Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota.

In Honor of a Fallen Officer

Special Agent Melissa Morrow
Federal Bureau of Investigation
End of Watch: March 22, 2018

Special Agent Melissa Morrow accounted for her Bureau on March 22, 2018, suffering from injury in the course and necessary effects of the Port Authority. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Special Agent Morrow was the second officer killed by a U.S. Federal Agency in 2001.