Snow Bank Assist—

Late last Saturday night, an officer spotted a vehicle in the driveway to Northland Farm Systems—the officer was in route to another call; however, when she returned, she found the vehicle in the same location. The officer investigated and found the truck had become stuck from the new snowfall. As the officer approached the truck, a male exited the driver’s seat and was using the side of the vehicle for balance. Other clues led the officer to believe the male was intoxicated, including his statement that he had too many & to just take him to jail. Roadside field sobriety tests confirmed the officer’s suspicions and the male was placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving—he later provided a breath test which showed his breath alcohol content at .21 or more that 2 ½ times the legal limit to drive. Christopher R. Tripp, age 41 of Claremont, was charged with two counts of DWI—both gross misdemeanors.

Cops in the Community—

On Wednesday during the lunch hour, Captain Eric Rethemeier and Detective Christian Berg paid a visit to the Kiwanis Club Board Meeting at Spare Time Entertainment. Captain Rethemeier gave the group a high level overview of the police department while Detective Berg spoke about organized retail theft and his passion for investigating these types of cases.

Also on Wednesday, Detective Sergeant Andy Dre nth, also the command er of the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) and a couple of drug task force agents traveled down to Albert Lea to speak with a Rotary Club about drug investigations. The City of Albert Lea is a jurisdictional member of the SCDIU along with all of the cities within Steele, Waseca, Freeborn and Faribault Counties.

Staff Wellness—

In 2014, President Barack Obama commissioned a task force to review 21st Century policing. In 2015, the commission released its final report which included 6 Pillars of Professional Policing: building trust & legitimacy, police development & oversight, technology & social media, community policing & crime reduction, officer training and officer safety & wellness. In response to Pillar Six, the Owatonna Police Department and Steele County Sheriff’s Office partnered to create space in the law enforcement center for a fitness center. Today, we officially christened our new fitness center as open for business. Togeth er with a newly remodeled employee breakroom that we opened a few months ago, we hope these new opportunities for our staff will go toward creating options for choosing a healthier lifestyle. A special thanks go out to our city staff from the Government Building Division who provided the in-kind construction work! The photos below are of the fitness center & breakroom.

In Honor of a Fallen Officer—

Our Team—

Administrations
Chief Keith Hiller
Captain Eric Rethemeier
Captain Jeff Mundale

Sergeants
Robbe Kniefel
Jason Petterson
Andy DeVinny
Andy Drerdth
Josh Sorensen
Tracy DuChene
Jason Matejcek

Corporals
Tom Munns

Detectives
Joel Hunt
Matt Oeltjenbruns
Brady Vaith
Christian Berg

Patrol Officers
Mike Earl
Zack Schumaker
Adam Hennen
Ben Johnson
Jesse Ackerson
Andrew Van Ostalde
Melissa Michael
Travis Artordt
Jason Christensen
Steven Bowman
Alan Callahan
Derrik Quinlan
Michaela Smith
Dylan Ordordt
Alexands Vogel
Casey Martin
Valerie Satne
Luke Selvik
Travis Johnson

Community Service Officers
Colton Ryg
Dave Schreeder
Leah Hedberg
Nathan Heeren
Matt Borash (Also Reserve)
Brian Shaw (Also Reserve)

Support Staff
Kimberly Dub
Pam Roberts
Wendy Gasner

Chaplains
Brent Carlson
Nancy Deetz
Loren Olson

Reserve Officers
Michael Leyva
Michael Brein
Kyle Clausen
Bill Traetow
Lance Ulrich
Thomas Bendorf
RJ Kniefel
Ben Borash
Mercedes Reyes

Records Staff
Kate Schroeder
Barb Rupprecht
Renee Babcock
Rebecca Melchert

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