**Suits vs. Sneakers**

And the winner of the basketball game — Homestead Hospice House! It was 30 local celebrities and 100 guests that raised more than $2,200. Chief Hiller was one of the celebrities playing for the sneakers team. The event was fun and benefited an amazing place. “Homestead Hospice House” is a residential hospice located in Owatonna that provides personalized care in a welcoming home environment 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.

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**OPD Welcomes New Police Officer**—Police Officer Casey Martin, Badge #144, started with OPD on Monday, March 20th. Officer Martin grew up in Janesville, WI. He attended Minnesota State University, Mankato and acquired a bachelor’s degree in Law Enforcement. After graduation, he worked as a police officer with the Cedar Rapids, IA Police Department, but left to pursue his goal of working in Minnesota. Before joining the Owatonna PD, Martin worked as a security officer at the Mall of America with his partner, Maverick—a K9 bomb detection dog. Martin lives in Owatonna and is excited to begin his service for the citizens of Owatonna.

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**Shooting Solved**—In the March 10th edition of Just the Facts, we covered an incident of a downtown shooting that occurred behind the Dog Pound Bar on March 3rd. OPD Investigators interviewed the victim in the case as the responsible party in the purported shooting and then presented the case to the Steele County Attorney’s Office. On March 21st, a formal complaint was issued against Christopher Ray Thissen, 33 of Waseca, for Reckless Discharge of Firearm Within a Municipality—a felony and Falsely Reporting Crime—a misdemeanor.

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**CAUTION, Motorcycles are Out**—On Sunday, March 19th at 6:35 p.m. a personal injury - motorcycle crash occurred at the intersection of 7th Ave. and 22nd Street N.E. A passenger vehicle, driver by Sean Bergeman of Owatonna, was traveling west on 22nd Street N.E. Bergeman stopped at the sign, but did not see a motorcycle having the right of way on 7th Ave. The motorcycle operator, Eric Davis of Owatonna, collided into the side of Bergeman’s vehicle. He was transported to the Owatonna Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Bergeman was cited for failing to yield right-of-way and Davis did not have a motorcycle endorsement and was cited for no Minnesota driver’s license. Traffic safety professionals urge driver’s and motorcycle operators to use caution as warm weather brings out more riders. The first motorcycle fatality occurred this year in Sanborn, MN, Redwood County, on March 5th.

- **Tips for riders**
  Wear full, brightly-colored protective gear, including a DOT-approved helmet, travel at safe speeds, and sign up for a training course this season.

- **Reminders for drivers**
  Motorists should watch carefully for motorcycles in traffic, always look twice before turning or changing lanes, and give riders room to ride.