Just the Facts

Friday, June 10 to Thursday, June 16

- Busiest Day of Week: Wed — 116 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 10:00 AM — 44 events
- Total # of Events: 614
- Average Events/Day: 87.71
- Average Events/Hour: 3.65
- Average Traffic Stops: .71 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 1

Drunk Hit & Run Driver—

Last Saturday evening Owatonna officers assisted the State Patrol with a hit and run investigation. A suspect vehicle rear ended a car eastbound on Hwy 14, went through the median and across the westbound Hwy 14 lanes of traffic and through some back yards on El Dorado St. An Owatonna officer in the area found the running vehicle and stopped it. The driver denied the crash despite his bumper hanging loose and his airbag deployed. The driver displayed signs of impairment and was arrested for DWI—he later refused DWI testing. Scott W. Tichy, age 50, was charged with 3rd Degree DWI-Failure to Test, 4th Degree DWI and Leaving the Scene of Crash.

Pitchfork Wielding Suspect Taken into Custody—

On Tuesday afternoon, Owatonna officers received a call of a male Owatonna resident who called the Rice/Steele 911 Center threatening police officers if they came to his residence—the male threatened that if the cops came it was going to be deadly and they should come deep. The threats appeared to be in response to an Order for Protection violation that took place in Faribault in which the male was a suspect and was to be arrested. Our officers responded to the suspect’s residence at 1054 South Grove Avenue where they set up surveillance and tried to make telephone contact with the suspect. Through a third party, contact was made with the suspect and he exited the home. The suspect yelled expletives at the officers and retreated back inside. A third party was able to get the suspect to exit the home again where he continued his expletive laden uncooperativeness. As an officer cautiously approached the suspect, he grabbed a pitchfork and waved it at the officer as though he was going to charge at the officer; the suspect then drew backward and threw the pitchfork in a spearing motion toward the officer. The suspect ran back into home and later surrendered with resistance after officers attempted to forcibly enter the residence. Jacob, J. Fuller, age 41, was arrested and charged with 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, 4th Degree Assault on a Police Officer and Obstructing the Legal Process. Thankfully, no officers were injured during this call.

Department News—

Congratulations to two of our newest officer, Michaela Smith and Dylan Ordorff. This past week, Michaela and Dylan successfully completed field training and for the first time in four months will be occupying a squad car by themselves and without a field trainer constantly watching over their shoulders. Also, our very newest officer, Katie Friesen will begin her career as a licensed officer with the Owatonna Police Department on June 27th. Beginning on the 27th, Katie will be embarking on the same 16-week intensive field training program that Michaela and Dylan just completed.

Click it or Ticket—

While most Minnesotans understand that seat belts and child restraints save lives, thousands of drivers were cited for not buckling up during the Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign from May 23 – June 5. Law enforcement handed out 7,233 seat belt and 213 child restraint citations statewide—locally, the Owatonna Police Department issued 35 seatbelt citations and 2 child restraint citations.

Taking three seconds to buckle up will increase the likelihood of surviving a crash and reducing serious injuries. Unbelted motorists are often ejected from the vehicle, and airbags are not a replacement for seat belts in preventing injuries.

- In 2015, 77 percent of vehicle occupants who died after being ejected or partially ejected were not wearing a seat belt.
- In 2015 in Minnesota, airbags deployed a reported 18,152 times when the occupant was also buckled up. Fifty-six percent of these cases resulted in no apparent injury.
- In comparison, only 34 percent of the 808 cases where airbags deployed and occupants were not wearing seat belts resulted in no apparent injury.

Katie Friesen

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