Local SCDIU Activity—

Between the dates of April 2nd and June 5th, South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) agents have been investigating a female who was alleged to be selling methamphetamine out of her home. During this time frame, confidential informants conducted four controlled meth buys with the suspect and purchased a total of 14.3 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine; in total, agents used $1000 in documented buy funds to purchase the meth. On June 10th, Shavon L. Hodges, age 27, was arrested by SCDIU agents. Hodges was formally charged with 1st Degree Sale of a Controlled Substance.

Click it or Ticket—

Minnesota law enforcement across the state witnessed a significant drop in seat belt violations during the most recent Click it or Ticket campaign. Statewide, law enforcement cited 32 percent fewer motorists for seatbelt violations and 37 percent fewer child seat violations in 2015 compared to the previous year. More than 300 law enforcement agencies participated, including the Owatonna Police Department. Between May 18-31st, officers statewide cited 7,393 motorists for lack of seatbelt use—locally, we did not see the same results as Owatonna officers issued 45 seatbelt citations; a considerable increase over the previous year’s citations (13) written during the same enforcement wave. Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Under Minnesota law, officers can stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers. Seat belts must be worn correctly—low and snug across the hips, and shoulder straps should never be tucked under the arm or behind the back.

Department News—

During the past week, our department and our public safety partners, the Owatonna Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance and Rice/Steele 911 held a joint training exercise at Washington Elementary School. The training exercises concentrated on the 3 Echo concept—a 3-phase public safety response to a bombing or active shooter event that focuses on Entering, Evaluating, and Evacuating (3 Echo). The idea behind the concept is to get emergency responders into the scene sooner in an attempt to save as many lives as possible in the occasion of one of these tragic incidents occurring in our community. We especially like to recognize and thank the Owatonna School District and Washington School for opening their doors and allowing us to use their facility. The photos to the right are of some officers going through training scenarios which included light, low-light and low visibility (smoke) settings.

Wrong Place at the Wrong Time—

You know it is not a good day to buy a lottery ticket when you’re walking and decide to take a break outside a school where 15 police officers are training…and you have a warrant. That’s exactly what happened last Friday afternoon while our officers were conducting 3 Echo training at Washington School. A subject known by many of our officers with an active arrest warrant walked past Washington School near the main entrance as our officers were standing in the vestibule debriefing an exercise. A couple officers broke free from training and arrested Abdi Mohamed, age 28, without incident.