Welfare Check Results in Felony Charge—

Late Monday morning, Owatonna officers were summoned to Dartt’s Park by Owatonna city employees for a welfare check after they were unable to wake a male party parked in a silver SUV. When our officers arrived, they found the vehicle and a male apparently passed out in the front seat. Officers also observed other suspicious items in the front seat, namely a folding knife, ski mask, plastic baggies containing crystal-like substances and a large amount of cash in the male’s lap. The male was startled and awoke; he appeared dazed & confused and was removed from the vehicle. Our canine, Kash, conducted a narcotics sniff of the vehicle and gave a positive alert for the presence of illegal controlled substances in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle uncovered approximately 28 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine, 39 pills identified as Lorazepam (a schedule 4 narcotic), suspected Psilocybin mushrooms, drug paraphernalia pipes and $1,130 in cash. The male party was placed under arrest and jailed. Kerry C. Bittrich, age 25, was formally charged with 1st Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Cops in the Community—

Our officers have been busy in the community this past week beyond their normal duties. On Wednesday, Officers John Petterson and Andrew Van Osdale and our canine Kash made an appearance at the Safe Summer event to do a canine demonstration. At the same event, Reserve Sergeant Clifford Bentley and Reserve Officers Michael Haglund & Emily Habeck conducted a bicycle safety presentation/course. Also on Wednesday, Officer Christian Berg was at Wilson Elementary School for a Workers on Wheels event—the event for 1st graders showcased jobs which require special vehicles for their job functions. The 1st graders had the opportunity to take a squad car tour and see all of the features in a modern police vehicle. Lastly, Reserve Sergeant Kevin Knopik. Reserve Officer Jared Weese appeared at the annual McKinley Ice Cream social to help serve up some sweet treats!

Steele County Safety Camp—

Steele County Kid’s Safety Camp is on June 4th and June 5th, 2015. The camp is held at the Lake Kohmier boat landing and the Steele County Fairgrounds. Camp runs from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day. Along with fun and games, the kids will learn about fishing safety, boat/canoe safety, camping/hiking safety, bike safety, firearms safety, first aid, electrical safety, fire safety, outdoor equipment safety, and much, much more. An ice cream social will be held at 4:00 PM on June 5th at the close of the events. This two-day event is for kids entering the 4th grade in the fall of 2015.

Department News—

Officer Zack Schumaker was formally recognized last evening by the Moonlighters Exchange Club as the Owatonna Police Officer of the Year. Congratulations to Zack on this well-deserved recognition! Zack is seen in the photo to the right accepting his award.