Shop with a Cop—The purpose of Salvation Army’s Shop with a Cop program is to foster positive relationships between youth and the law enforcement community. On Wednesday evening, 22 kids were partnered up with officers and volunteers from Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, the State Patrol and Steele County Sheriff’s Dept at the Owatonna Walmart. After shopping, they had dinner at Subway then had some time to explore the squad cars and take pictures with the officers.

High Water—Stay Back—High water tends to invite curious ones at any age. If you see any barricade, they are meant to caution people to keep out. It is illegal to move and/or drive around barricades on any public street. In addition, individuals are not to play, drive through, or go near standing or rising water. The water may contain hazards, the ground may be unstable or water may be moving quickly which may create unsafe situations. Click on the link below to get informed about the current state of emergency for Steele County.


Afternoon Drunk Driver—On Tuesday afternoon, an OPD officer took a call of a man urinating outside a downtown business and his vehicle was said to be parked nearby. The man was located by the officer and he was told not to drive based on his level of intoxication. About one hour later, an anonymous tip was received that the known subject drove off in his vehicle. The officer began to look for the driver and while doing so, the officer came upon a hit and run crash near the intersection of 20th NE and 7th Avenue. The victim of the hit and run followed the suspect vehicle to 2225 Condor Place, the same residence where the officer was heading to locate the impaired driver. The suspect, who failed to answer his door, was met with a search warrant about 1 ½ hours later. The suspect, identified as Nicholas Lee Cain, 24 of Owatonna, was arrested for DWI, leaving the scene of a property damage crash, driving after revocation and operating a vehicle without ignition interlock. Cain’s blood - alcohol content is pending further analysis at the state crime laboratory.