DRUGGED & DRIVING

Driving while intoxicated (DWI) doesn't just mean driving drunk through alcohol impairment. Officers need to be alert and be able to detect other types of driver impairment for subjects using controlled substances, such as methamphetamines and prescription meds. On Friday, July 25th, officers were called to the Budget Host Inn for a suspicious vehicle/driving complaint. Officer's located a white Dodge truck that was reportedly driving through the lot and over an embankment. During the officers investigation, the driver was fidgety and avoided eye contact. The officer also noticed the driver's pupils were dilated and suspected the driver was impaired, even though no alcohol was detected. The driver submitted to standardized field sobriety tests. The officer concluded that the driver failed the roadside tests by witnessing a number of clues, such as poor balance, inability to hold a steady stance and failing to walk a straight line. The officer also looked at the driver's eyes and administered an eye test. The officer noticed driver impairment by an involuntary jerking of the driver's eyes, called horizontal gaze nystagmus. The driver was arrested and prior to a search of the driver’s person, he admitted to having meth in his pocket, admitted to smoking an “eight ball” and said he was “zinging”. The driver, Christopher James Braun, age 21, was arrested and booked into the Steele County Jail for DWIcontrolled substance and 5th degree possession of a methamphetamine. Formal charges will occur once lab results are returned from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Forensic Laboratory.

COPS & KIDS

Officer Mike Earl and CSO Chris Lee were invited to visit a home daycare this week to speak to the kids about safety, meet local officers and best of all, give the kids a chance to tour a police car. The kids pictured below are locked up in the back of a police car. Pictures are courtesy of the daycare.

HIDE & SEEK - SUSPECT APPREHENDED

Just before midnight on Monday, July 28th, officers were called to the 500 block of Hazel Lane N.E. for a domestic assault incident. The emergency call was initiated by a third party who received a cell phone call from her daughter and reported she was hit in the head by her boyfriend. As officers were approaching the area, the victim was observed running down the street then into the officers custody. The 22 year old female victim was holding her head, crying hysterically and complaining of head, neck and back pain. Gold Cross Ambulance was called to treat and transport the victim to the Owatonna Hospital. The victim reported to investigating officers that her boyfriend, David Meadows, age 34, had punched her in the head and choked her, causing her to black out and go unconscious. Once the victim regained consciousness, she was able to flee the home and call for help. The investigating officers circled the home and initiated efforts to speak to the suspect with the intent to arrest him. The suspect failed to answer phone calls and acknowledge the officers presence while outside his home. A supervising officer observed the assailant in a bedroom. The suspect then made further attempts to hide by crawling under a bed and conceal himself with bedding. The supervising officer directed officers on the investigation to make application for a search warrant while other officers maintained a perimeter on the home to prevent the suspect from escaping. The application for a search warrant was presented to a Judge. The search warrant was granted which authorized officers to make entry into the residence and search for the suspect. Officers successfully executed the search warrant at 01:43 a.m. and took the suspect into custody without further trouble. David Euwin Meadows, of Owatonna was held in custody and charged by formal complaint with two counts of Domestic Assault in the Fifth degree, both misdemeanors and Domestic Assault by Strangulation, a felony.

NIGHT TO UNIT - TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH

The application process has closed. The police department is scheduled to attend 40 block parties this year. If you are looking for a block party in your neighborhood, please contact Pam Robert at 774-7200.