**Just the Facts**  
**August 11, 2017**  
**Volume 8, Issue 32**

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Friday, August 4 to Thursday, August 10**

- **Busiest Day of Week:** Wednesday — 136 events
- **Busiest Hour of Day:** 10:00 PM — 82 events
- **Total # of Events:** 720
- **Average Events/Day:** 102.86
- **Average Events/Hour:** 4.29
- **Average Traffic Stops:** .39 per hour
- **DWIs for the week:** 2

---

### CITIZEN’S ACADEMY

This year, the Citizen’s Police Academy will meet on Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center beginning on Monday, September 25, 2017 through November 13, 2017. The academy is designed to give residents and business owners a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with members of the Owatonna Police Department and its day to day operations. Applications for this year’s class will be accepted through September 21, 2017. For more information, contact Captain Eric Rethemeier at 507-774-7203, Captain Jeff Mundale at 507-774-7202 or click [here](#) to apply.

---

### Driving While Intoxicated—

Just after midnight on Sunday morning, an officer made a traffic stop on a vehicle for illegal lane use. Mark Erschens, 52, of Sioux Falls, SD, was traveling south on Hoffman Drive approaching the W. Rose Street / Glendale intersection. Erschens was in the left turn only lane but continued straight and thus put him into the opposing traffic lane. During the traffic stop, the officer noticed he had slurred speech, bloodshot and watery eyes, and an odor of alcohol coming from his breath. Erschens failed field sobriety tests and was arrested. A breath test measured his blood alcohol concentration of 0.13. He has a previous felony level DWI conviction in South Dakota & was charged in Steele County with a Gross Misdemeanor 3rd Degree DWI.

![Mark Erschens](image)

---

### Criminal Sexual Conduct—

On Sunday night, an officer was dispatched to the Owatonna ER to investigate a sexual assault involving a 12-year old female victim. During this interview, a second female victim, age 13 was also identified. Both victims were sexually assaulted at the same time by a 26-year old Owatonna man. With the aid of social media, the suspect’s full name became known as Justin Huisman, which also confirmed the address where the assaults took place. On Tuesday, a search warrant was executed where the suspect resides but he was not there. On Wednesday, OPD detectives and deputies from the Steele County Sheriff’s Office found the suspect at a residence in Medford and arrested him without further incident. Huisman did not give detectives a statement. Justin Huisman was formally charged on Friday with First Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and Third Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.

![Justin Huisman](image)

---

### Distracted Driving Crash—

On Tuesday afternoon, a crash investigation involving a 17-year old driver who turned in front of a car on 3rd Avenue determined the young driver was going too fast and accessing a social media account from her mobile device. Minnesota laws does not allow a provisional driver to use a mobile device when the vehicle is in motion. It is illegal for any driver, to access a cellular device to compose, read, or send an electronic message, when the vehicle is in motion or part of traffic. This is a good reminder for any driver to recognize the dangers of distracted driving and why this remains a leading factors in crashes. The driver in this case was issued a citation for using a wireless device while driving and according to provisional driver’s license laws, the driver will lose driving privileges for 12 months for a conviction of a crash-related moving violation.

![Crash Scene](image)

---

Click [here](#) to subscribe to this newsletter electronically