Animal Cruelty—OPD occasionally responds to calls of animals locked inside vehicles during hot-humid summer months, like we experienced this week. Minnesota has animal cruelty laws that prohibit any act tending to cause substantial bodily harm to a pet. That is very likely to occur in a matter of minutes according to a guide provided by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – ASPCA. The best advice is to keep your pets at home, don’t leave them unattended in any vehicle.

Police Officer Assault—On Monday night, officers responded to a physical domestic at Cedar Green Townhomes, 315 22nd Street S.E. As officers arrived, they met a female victim outside who directed officers to the suspect inside. Four children were on the floor, two were still sleeping through the altercation. The assailant was identified as Krystal Laroque who told the officers to leave. The officers recognized that Laroque was agitated and threatened to “kick all of you [officers]”. Officers learned that Laroque attacked the female tenant with punches, scratches and pulled her hair causing chunks to fall out. The victim had redness and scratches to her face, neck and arms. Laroque was taken into custody but with some resistance. Laroque was kicking and using her legs as leverage to prevent the officers from getting her in the transport car. During the transport, Laroque began gagging and vomited inside the transport car. Once at the jail, Laroque pulled away from the jailer and intentionally targeted the OPD officer with spit, vomit and blood. Laroque was formally charged with 4th Degree Assault to a Peace Officer—a felony for transferring bodily fluids onto the officer, Obstructing Legal Process/Arrest, and Domestic Assault—a misdemeanor.

SPEED KILLS - July Speed Enforcement is Underway—Between July 7 and July 23, extra speed enforcement is happening across the state and major highway corridors to keep motorist safe and an effort to reduce the number of roadway fatalities. According to traffic crash statistics collected by the Department of Public Safety, speed is preventable and one of the top four contributing factors in Minnesota road fatalities.

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