Offender Grabs Headlines Two Weeks in a Row—

On September 27th, our officers were called to respond to Owatonna Shoe for the report of a burglary. Our officers learned a store employee observed someone in the upstairs office and knew no one was supposed to be there and yelled for help. Employees reached the steps and observed a black male coming down the steps—he attempted to run out of the store, but was stopped and detained until police officers arrived. The suspect indicated he entered the store from a back entry and was looking for a female’s apartment and didn’t realize he was in a shoe store. Tyjuan L. Williams, age 27, was arrested and later charged with Trespassing and Possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana. For those of you who don’t remember, Williams highlighted last week’s edition of Just the Facts for his alleged involvement in a domestic assault and leading our officers on a foot pursuit.

Parents Beware—

As if parenting isn’t a tough enough job, every so often new products enter the market that have the potential to get into the hands of our kids and can have very adverse effects—for example, synthetic marijuana marketed as “Scooby Snacks” or bath salts marketed as “Cloud Nine”. The items are often packaged to appeal to kids and an unaware or out-of-touch parent may not know what their children are ingesting—for example in the photo above, an unaware parent may believe the package may contain fruit snacks when it indeed is synthetic marijuana. A new product that may be entering the market soon and posing a serious health risk is powdered alcohol or molecularly encapsulated alcohol. Marketed as Palcohol, it is a powder substance which turns to alcohol when mixed with water. What can we do as parents to head off this new temptation? Be open and talk with your kids. Talk about these types of products and the dangers and consequences associated with using them.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month—

Domestic violence affects every American. It can happen to anyone in any community regardless of age, status, race, religion or educational background and according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, most cases are never reported to the police. If you have reason to suspect someone you know is a victim of domestic violence—do not ignore it. Should you witness abuse, whether it is someone you know or a complete stranger, call the police immediately. If you know someone who is a perpetrator, let him or her know it is a crime. Explain you strongly disapprove of their behavior and encourage him or her to get help.

Police Citizens Academy—

On Monday evening, the 2nd annual Owatonna Police Department Citizen’s Academy held their initial session. Hosted by Chief Keith Hiller, 19 participants were offered an administrative overview of the department and a tour of the facility. The Citizen’s Academy is an 8-week program that looks at several areas within the police department, including the Patrol Division, the Detective Bureau, specialty assignment (SWAT, Canine, Drugs, Gangs, Field Training and Crime Scene Investigation), and Use of Force training. We also include two sessions with our professional partners—the Steele County Attorney’s Office and the Judicial Branch. The goal of the Citizen’s Academy is to increase the understanding of police work and to develop effective police and community partnerships.