Corporal Detective Mark Edel Retirement—

On December 1st we will be saying goodbye to a good friend as Detective Corporal Mark Edel will be signing off duty for the last time and entering retirement. As the senior member of the department, Mark began his career with the Owatonna Police Department on July 6, 1987. Mark served as a patrol officer for the first two-thirds of his career. He moved into investigations as a trainee in 2005 and was promoted to the rank of Corporal detective in 2006. Mark worked as a school resource officer from 2006 until 2009 and has been working general investigations since. In addition to his investigative duties, Mark also served the community as a bike patrol officer and as a gang intelligence officer. We wish Mark all the best in the next chapter of his life—we will especially miss his common sense approach to police work and the light-heartedness he brought every day to the Detective Bureau. Good Luck Mark, we’ll miss ya!

Department News (Lots)—

We’d like to recognize officers Adam Dupic and Jason Christensen. Both of these officers have been navigating through their various stages of field training these past few months and we’re happy to say they are ready and willing to set sail on their own. Adam began working solo patrol shifts this past weekend and Jason will be following suit next Wednesday—congratulations to both.

To replace the retiring Mark Edel, the Owatonna Police Department has hired Steve Bowman. A recent transplant to the frozen northland of Minnesota, Steve brings considerable law enforcement experience from the sunshine state where he previously served the residents of Palm Beach County, Florida for over 20 years, most recently as a patrol sergeant. Congratulations Steve and we hope you have a long, rewarding career with the Owatonna Police Department.

To replace Mark Edel as a general investigator, beginning December 1st, Detective Joel Hunt will be re-assigned from the Owatonna Junior High School (OJHS) resource officer position to general investigator. To fill the void at OJHS, Officer Brianne Lesnau has been appointed to the Detective Bureau and will be assigned to work primarily as the school resource officer at OJHS. Congratulations to both of these officers.

It’s a Wrap—

The final session for the 2nd Class of the Owatonna Police Department Citizen’s Academy met on Monday night. To begin the night, the class received a presentation from the other City of Owatonna department heads about their respective operations. The department heads were followed-up by our canine team of Officer John Petterson and Kash who recently received their narcotics detection certification. The class was given a demonstration of some of their abilities in controlled substance detection and canine apprehension techniques. To finish the night and the year off, the participants went through a brief graduation ceremony. If you’re interested in attending next year’s academy, stay tuned to Just the Facts in the coming months for more details.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Weekly Highlights are not available at the time of this publication.

Officer Assaulted—

Late Sunday morning, Owatonna officers were called to the area of the 600 block of S. Cedar Ave. for the report of a domestic. When our officers arrived they located the male half of the domestic—he reported the female left the area on foot and may be headed toward E. Rose St. The female was located and was visibly upset, screaming and swearing at the officer. She approached the officer with her hands in her pockets and refused to comply with the officer’s directives. The officer used a control tactic to try and calm the female, however, before he could react, she spit in the officer’s face. She was restrained and placed under arrest. Melissa M. Roseland, age 28 was arrested and formally charged with 4th Degree Assault of a Police Officer—a felony.

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