Not a Routine Traffic Stop—

Early Monday morning, an officer stopped a vehicle on I-35 near the Clinton Falls exit for speeding in excess of 80 miles per hour. The officer met with the driver and other occupants in the vehicle and during the conversation, the driver really provided no information while the passenger did most of the talking. The officer also noted furtive movements from a rear seat passenger and the front seat passenger had sweat visibly dripping from his face. After spotting a green substance in the vehicle that appeared to be marijuana, a search of the vehicle was conducted and revealed a loaded Glock 9mm. with an extended magazine stashed under the passenger seat. During an interview, the passenger admitted to ownership of the weapon and not knowing he needed a permit for it in Minnesota. Laquan Hillard, age 24 of Monticello, Mississippi was arrested and has been charged with Carrying [a] Weapon without a Permit.

Department News—

Sergeant Jason Petterson recently attended the Statewide Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Conference in Mankato. This conference provides a forum for sharing information on best practices in engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency medical/health services and for identifying new approaches to reducing the number of traffic fatalities and life-changing injuries on Minnesota roads. Jason is designated as our traffic enforcement coordinator to help manage our staff when statewide enforcement campaigns are taking place. Jason is also a presenter in our schools, working with the driving education programs by speaking to the high schoolers preparing to drive as well as their parents.

Daylight Savings—

Clocks are to be set back one hour during Fall Back. This year, Fall Back occurs on Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 AM. Fall Back is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Jesse James Rides Again—

Last Friday morning at approximately 2:15 AM, an Owatonna sergeant spotted a golf cart traveling on State Ave near Brady Blvd. operating without tailights. When the officer went to stop the golf cart, the male driver bailed off and began running toward Chase Park. A search of the area was conducted and the fleeing driver was found hiding under a semi-trailer rear axle—he was placed under arrest. During an interview, the suspect stated he found the golf cart at the Owatonna Country Club with the keys in it. The suspect was attempting to get back to Chaska and was taking the backroads when spotted by our sergeant. The golf cart was later identified by the Country Club staff and valued at $8000. Jesse James Niesen, age 19 of Mora, was arrested and jailed. Niesen has been charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, Fleeing a Police Officer [on Foot] and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.