Prescription Fraud Leads to Charges—

Last Wednesday afternoon, our officers were called to Farmers Insurance for the report of a theft—it was reported a male party had entered the business, taken money and fled. A sergeant arrived in the area and spotted a male matching the description of the suspect near East Park Square. The sergeant began a dialog about what had taken place back at the business when the male took off running. After a short foot pursuit, the suspect was apprehended. Throughout the investigation, it was learned the male walked into the business inquiring about a claim. As an employee was checking a computer screen, the suspect took cash and checks that were on the employee’s desk. Before the suspect got out of the business, another employee intercepted him and took the money back. At a later show-up, the male that fled from the sergeant was identified as the suspect who attempted to take the money. Faisal Abdullahi, age 28 of Owatonna, was arrested and jailed. Abdullahi has been charged with Attempted Theft and Fleeing a Police Officer [on foot].

The Choice is Yours—

The holidays are filled with joy, happiness and time together with family and friends. Too often the joy turns to sorrow when a family is notified of a loved one’s tragic death on Minnesota roads due to someone driving impaired. To help keep families together this holiday season, the Owatonna Police Department will be focusing with law enforcement statewide in an extra DWI enforcement campaign running on weekends starting Nov. 21 through Dec. 29. The decision to get behind the wheel after drinking is costing too many people their lives. The choice to drive drunk has contributed to 28 deaths on Minnesota roads from the day before Thanksgiving through Dec. 30 in the last five years (2012-2017).

Blackout Wednesday (the day before Thanksgiving) is traditionally associated with a night of binge drinking. Many college students are returning home for a night of celebrating with friends and with no work on Thursday, many adults get together after a short work-week. The Owatonna Police Department calls Blackout Wednesday one of the most dangerous nights on the road in the state. Last year, 133 drivers were arrested for DWI during a 12 hour period on Blackout Wednesday (6 p.m. Wednesday – 6 a.m. Thanksgiving). For a typical 48 period (Wednesday-Thursday), roughly a 100 people are arrested in Minnesota for DWI.

Did you know that 75% of child car seats are not installed properly? Get yours checked, it may save your child’s life. On Tuesday, December 4th from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Gold Cross Ambulance, (1005 South Cedar Avenue in Owatonna), certified child passenger safety technicians will check for recalls and ensure all child safety seats are installed by manufacturer specifications. Each seat check take about 30-40 minutes—please bring child, safety seat & owner’s manual for safety seat and vehicle. Appointments are not required but appreciated. To schedule a car seat check appointment, please call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650.

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, police records and administration will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd & Friday, November 23rd. Regular & emergency police services will continue during the holiday.