Cops in the Community—

On December 5th, a group of Owatonna officers including Captain Jeff Mundale, Sergeant Jason Petterson, Officers Steven Bowman, Travis Johnson & Nathan Heeren, Community Service Officers Ben Borash & Brooke Baker and Reserve Officers R.J. Kniefel, Bill Traetow & Lance Ulrich represented the OPD as part of Shop with a Cop. Shop with a Cop is a great community outreach initiative that provides an opportunity for kids and cops to establish a connection that can go toward beginning a positive foundation between them and the police. Our partners and sponsors in this program were the Salvation Army and Target. Collectively, the Salvation Army and Target donated $170 per child—$100 for clothing and $70 for gifts.

Repeat Violator Jailed—

On December 5th, an Owatonna officer on patrol saw a vehicle operated by a male known to have a revoked driver's license. The vehicle was stopped and the driver exited the vehicle. The officer confirmed the driver was revoked and called the driver's purported insurance company to verify his claimed coverage—that claim was disproven and the vehicle was uninsured. The driver was placed under arrest as a habitual violator—nine insurance violations in 10-years, three driving after revocations in the past 12-months and two other cases pending from last month. A search of the vehicle uncovered a plastic bag with a white powder and at the jail during the booking process, another plastic bag fell from the driver that contained presumptive positive methamphetamine. Zane Roberts, age 27 of Austin, has been charged with 5th Degree [Possession] of a Controlled Substance and Driving after Revocation. During an interview, Roberts indicated he would fail a drug test if he were to take one. Subsequently, this case continues pending the analysis of a blood sample obtained by a search warrant to determine whether Roberts was operating under a controlled substance.

Just the Facts

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A Tip Leads An Arrest—

Last Friday afternoon, an anonymous caller notified the OPD of a male with outstanding warrants that would be leaving a residence in the 100 block of W. Front Street. Happy to oblige in getting a wanted person in custody, patrol officers and detectives set up surveillance and observed a male matching the target’s description getting into the backseat of a vehicle. We stopped the vehicle in the Fuel & Food parking lot and found a male lying down in the backseat—he was identified as the target by an officer familiar with him. During a search, officers located a bandana that contained a glass pipe with presumptive positive methamphetamine. When the bandana wrapped glass pipe was uncovered, our officers placed the 100 block of W. Front Street. Happy to oblige in getting a wanted person in custody, patrol officers and detectives set up surveillance and observed a male matching the target’s description getting into the backseat of a vehicle. We stopped the vehicle in the Fuel & Food parking lot and found a male lying down in the backseat—he was identified as the target by an officer familiar with him. During a search, officers located a bandana that contained a glass pipe with presumptive positive methamphetamine. When the bandana wrapped glass pipe was uncovered, our officers placed it on the hood of the squad car as the search continued. At that time, the suspect head-butted the squad's hood near the area of the bandana clad pipe, causing a dent and an estimated $640 dollars in damage to public, tax payer property. In addition to his warrant for receiving stolen property, Coty Laroque, age 26 of Owatonna, has been charged with 5th Degree [Possession] of a Controlled Substance and 3rd Degree Damage to Property [Public Safety Motor Vehicle.]