First Degree Possession Charges—

Back on December 26th, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) obtained a search warrant for a person, his residence and his vehicle. An agent with the unit made contact with the target and arranged to meet him at the law enforcement center. The target diverted the meeting to a different location and was found near the Firestone building on N. Oak Avenue. At that time, the search warrant for the target was executed and in his pants pocket, a large amount of currency bound together by a rubber band was found. In his front breast pocket, several bags of apparent methamphetamine was uncovered—the substance was later tested presumptive positive as meth and weighing 147.83 grams. Briar Mork, age 32 of Owatonna, was arrested and jailed. Mork has been charged with 1st Degree Possession of Methamphetamine—he remains in custody.

Marijuana Legalization—

The legalization of marijuana in Minnesota is bound to be a topic of discussion again this upcoming legislative session. The legalization of marijuana has occurred in 2012 in both the states of Colorado and Washington. In October of 2018, the Governors Highway Safety Association published an article entitled Traffic Safety Impacts of Marijuana Legalization. As part of the publication, the author(s) make reference that marijuana refers to any form of cannabis while THC refers to [marijuana’s] to its active component delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol. The article summarizes the following:

- Marijuana use increased according to data from Colorado and Washington
- THC presence increased in drivers on the road and in arrested crash-involved drivers according to data from Washington. THC-positive drivers may not necessarily be impaired.

- There are no firm conclusions on whether crash rates changed in either state.
- Fatal crashes involving marijuana increased in both Colorado and Washington.
- Surveys in Colorado and Washington show that many regular marijuana users believe that marijuana doesn’t affect their driving. Most regular users will drive “high” frequently.

*Source—Governors Highway Safety Association

Crash Investigation, Driver Arrested for DWI—

Last Saturday evening, our officers responded to a motor vehicle crash at the intersection of Hoffman Drive and 24th Ave. NW. Our responding officers arrived and found a vehicle on Hoffman Drive with its headlights off and two subjects standing outside the vehicle—they directed officers inside the vehicle and advised the driver was stuck. Inside the car, officers observed a male in the passenger seat—officers were told he was the driver but slid over to the passenger seat. When they met with the driver, officers observed signs of intoxication. The driver was transported to the Owatonna Hospital for minor injuries. At the hospital, a search warrant was obtained and a blood sample was obtained. Once cleared from the hospital, the driver, Martin Olson, age 43 of Owatonna, was arrested and jailed. In an interview Olson admitted to drinking vodka drinks and was heading home. Olson has been charged with two counts of Criminal vehicular Operation and 3rd Degree DWI.