Just the Facts

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He’s Making a Swim for it—

On April 17th, an officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation near the railroad trestle on Hoffman Drive. The officer met with the driver and recognized him from previous professional contacts—the officer also knew the person to be wanted on a felony warrant. In speaking with the driver, he misidentified himself to the officer as Caleb. The officer directed the driver out of the vehicle to place him under arrest. As he did so, the driver twisted away from him and ran across Hoffman Drive to the Straight River. Once at the river, the driver jumped in and struggled to keep his head above water in the swift current. The driver managed to cross the river near the railroad trestle where he was apprehended by a Steele County Deputy. Christopher Vruno, age 32 of Faribault, survived his swim and was placed under arrest for the warrant. Once at the Steele County Detention Center, Vruno was found to be concealing presumptive positive methamphetamine in his sock. In addition to the warrant, Vruno faces additional charges, including, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, Driving after Revocation, Obstructing the Legal Process and Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot.

This One Makes a Run for it—

Approximately one hour after Christopher Vruno tried to make a swim for it, two Owatonna officers were patrolling on Oak Avenue near School Street when they observed a male that was familiar to them from past professional contacts—they also know this male to be a known fugitive from the Department of Corrections. As the officers were slowing down, the male began to run toward their squad—as he neared the passenger side, the male kept on going, yelling, hahaha, later suckers. A foot pursuit took place and the male was eventually caught and tackled to the ground. Michael Lehertz, age 31 of Owatonna, was jailed on his outstanding warrant (Fleeing a Police Officer & 2nd Degree Controlled Substance) and issued a citation for Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot.

Fallen Minnesota Officer—

It is with a heavy heart that we recognize Minnesota Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn who has died in the line of duty. Officer Wynn’s funeral will be Friday at 10:30 AM at the Pine Center Civic Center. We offer our deepest sympathies to Officer Wynn’s wife, two children and his immediate & professional family members.

Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn Jr.
Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
End of Watch: April 19, 2019
Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn Jr. drowned after he and other deputies responded to a report of a possible body in the lake. Officer Wynn is the first officer fatality from the state of Minnesota in 2019.

Our Team

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Chief Keith Hiller
Captain Eric Rethemeyer
Captain Jeff Mundale

Sergeants
Robbie Kniefel
Jason Peterson
Andy Devlin
Andy Drent
Josh Sorensen
Tracy DuChene
Jason Matejcek

Detectives
Matt Oeltjenbruns
Brady Vaith
Christian Berg
Ben Johnson

Patrol Officers
Joel Hunt
Sean Cooper
Zack Schumaker
Andrew Van Osdale
Melissa Michael
Travis Ardolf
Jason Christiansen
Steven Bowman
Alan Callahan
Derek Quinnin
Alexandra Vogel
Casey Martin
Valerie Satre
Luke Selvik
Travis Johnson
Nathan Heeren
Matthew Borash
Brooke Baker
Alexandra Jorsen
Benjamin Metzalf
Joshua Lee
Todd Schwankie

Community Service Officers
Brian Shaw
Ben Borash
Colin Troeger
Colin Regenscheid

Support Staff
Kimberly Dub
Pam Roberts
Wendy Gasner

Chaplains
Brent Carlson
Nancy Deetz
Loren Olson

Reserve Officers
Michael Leyva
Michael Brein
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