Just the Facts

May 3, 2019 Vol 10, Issue 18

Explorers Compete at State Competition—

Recently, 11 Owatonna Police Explorers attended the State Explorers’ Competition in Rochester that took place on April 26th through the 28th. The Explorers competed against 500 other Explorers making up about 200 teams from police agencies across the state in a variety of police patrol and investigative type responses. We are proud to recognize our Explorers for placing 4th in the Domestic Response category. In an individual category of tactical skills and marksmanship, one Explorer placed 3rd out of an estimated 380 students and another placed 5th in the women’s 5K run. The Explorers program is led by Officers Melissa Michael and Derrik Quinlan and is designed to offer students between the grades of 8-12 the opportunity to learn and explore a career in law enforcement. The Owatonna Police Department currently employs 4 police officers that came through the Owatonna Explorers program years ago and countless others that work as police officers in other communities. The photo to the right shows the explorers in action!

Scam Alert—

Phone scams are all too prevalent in today’s society—it seems a week doesn’t go by when this writer has a message on his home phone from an unknown caller warning me that my computer has been infected and I need to call immediately to have a technician solve my problem, or rather, try and scam me out of some money. We’ve written often in Just the Facts as a means to help educate our community members to be extremely cautious when responding to a phone call from anyone asking for financial information or payment for any services with gift cards. This past week two community members fell victim to these types of calls, and unfortunately, at a significant financial loss that in all likelihood will never be recovered. Scam themes seem to vary and often seem legitimate as a scammer may have some of your personal information; however, when the caller begins to suggest a financial transaction using gift cards, the red flags should be waving. No legitimate business or government agency should call you asking for payment by gift cards—if this happens, take pause and research the request, or better yet, call us and let us investigate before making a devastating financial decision.

More Charges after Warrant Arrest—

Yesterday evening our officers received a tip from a caller of a wanted person at a residence in Owatonna. The tip proved successful as the wanted person was taken into custody; however, the suspect was also in violation of a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) prohibiting him from being at the address he was located. Tavean Mcrelly, age 24 of Owatonna, was arrested for an outstanding felony warrant for Domestic Assault by Strangulation. He now also faces an additional gross misdemeanor charge by violating a court order.

Department News—

This week we welcome a new employee into our Community Service Officer ranks, Michael Brein. Michael is an Owatonna High School graduate and currently attending Minnesota State-Mankato in the law enforcement program. Michael has also been a volunteer reserve for the past two years. Please help us in welcoming Michael to the Owatonna Police Department!