Owatonna Police Officer of the Year—Josh Sorensen

I’ve always wanted Josh Sorensen Day! Those words echoed by Josh last Thursday became a reality when Owatonna Mayor Thomas Kunz read a proclamation designating Thursday, May 9th as Josh Sorensen Day in honor of Josh being named by the Moonlighters Exchange Club as the Owatonna Police Officer of the Year! At the annual banquet held at the VFW Club and surrounded by family, friends, community members and co-workers, Josh was named the 5th annual police officer of the year. Josh, a patrol sergeant and 15-year veteran of the force, follows our previous winners, Officers Zack Schumaker, Adam Hennen, Joel Hunt and Ben Johnson. Congratulations Josh!!

Property Recovered—

On May 10th a community member reported a burglary to his residence and several items missing, including a PlayStation 4 and other electronic goods. Later, the victim was told by a friend that some of his stolen property was being sold on Facebook. The victim arranged to buy his stolen property from the Facebook seller and they met at an apartment complex. The victim and a friend met two males and when they turned on the PlayStation to test it, it loaded with the victim’s account. The victim and a friend confronted the sellers, but they fled on foot. Both of the suspects that fled were known by the victim’s friend and one was the person who had been offering the stolen items on Facebook. On May 13th, one of the suspects was spotted in Central Park and officers recognized the suspect and went to his residence. Outside the residence, officers spotted a large box with a shipping label addressed to one of the business’ employees—the box was a shipping box containing items reported stolen. A search warrant was drafted for the suspect’s residence where other stolen property was recovered. Patrick Powell, age 22 of Owatonna, was arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Property—a felony. In an interview, Powell implicated himself in the burglary.

Cops in the Community—

On Wednesday evening, Officers Alex Vogel and Josh Lee were guest ice cream scoopers at McKinley School’s Ice Cream Social/STEAM Fair/Book Fair.