Driver Flees from Traffic Stop—

Last Friday morning, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle in a downtown parking lot for a moving violation. As the officer met with the driver, he smelled an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle—when questioned, the driver produced a small baggie of marijuana from his pocket. The driver identified himself by providing his name and date of birth. While the officer was searching the vehicle, he came across a driver’s license that had the driver’s photo, but a different name than provided. As the officer went to arrest the driver, the driver fled on foot. The foot pursuit was very short and ended when a Taser was deployed by a pursuing officer. Elton Brown III, age 31 of Owatonna, was arrested and charged with Fleeing a Peace Officer [on Foot], Obstructing the Legal Process and other traffic violations. In an interview, Brown indicated he gave a false name to the police because he thought he may have warrant.

Vehicles and the Heat—

Ah, summer weather, it took a while, but now that it’s here, we love it. We love it with the exception of our pets or kids left in the car, even for a few minutes, while we run into the store for a quick second. Calls like this—yep we’ve had them. Tragic stories from around the country have made many of our community members very aware of these dangers and many don’t hesitate to call. It’s amazing how quickly the inside of a car can heat up in the sun. As the graphic below shows, heat related deaths are preventable. Think twice before leaving any of our loved ones in a vehicle.

Department News—

At Tuesday’s City Council meeting, new Owatonna Police Officers Todd Schwanke and Anna Peterson were sworn in by the Honorable Judge Karen Duncan. The swearing-in ceremony was highlighted by each new officer having their badge pinned on their uniform by someone special of their individual choosing, Todd, his wife and Anna, her fiance. Congratulations to both officers.

Wear the Badge—

The Minnesota Chief of Police Association has released a new feature on a Minnesota Police Officer. Crystal Jones is a police officer and school resource officer for the Roseville Police Department. Officer Jones talks about how working in the school allows her to engage with younger people and work to change how law enforcement is viewed. Officer Jones chose to wear the badge to give back to her community and educate people on how to interact with people in positive ways. To view Officer Jones’ video, click here.

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