Shooting in Owatonna—

On August 29, 2019, at approximately 11:20 PM, the Owatonna Police Department was called to the area of 24th Avenue NW and Hoffman Drive for the report of gunshots fired. Owatonna officers responded to the area and located a vehicle parked alongside the road on 24th Avenue occupied by a female and a male. The male individual reported he had been shot in the upper torso. The male victim was transported to the Owatonna Hospital by Mayo Ambulance Service and later air-lifted to Rochester. The 39-year-old male victim was being treated for non-life threatening injuries. The female was not injured. Subsequent to the shooting, Owatonna detectives were able to develop probable cause that the shooting victim was in possession of a handgun at the time of the shooting and it was recovered at the scene; the victim was ineligible to possess a firearm due to a prior criminal conviction/adjudication of a crime of violence.

Early Sunday morning, a female victim reported a black male held a gun to her head and accused her of setting him up in the earlier shooting—the female identified the black male as the victim in the 24th Avenue shooting who detectives learned had walked away from a hospital in Rochester. Later Sunday in an operation in Waseca, the shooting victim was taken into custody and jailed. James Williams, age 39 of Owatonna, has been charged with Illegally Possessing a Firearm, 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Threats of Violence. The investigation into the William’s shooting remains under investigation.

It’s Hammer Time—

On August 29th, Owatonna officers were called to the 300 block of 14th St. NW for the report of a disturbance—it was reported a person was being chased by a male suspect with a hammer. During an interview with the victim, he indicated he was at the suspect’s residence and showed him a video. The suspect asked the victim if he thought the video was funny and the victim thought it was and was laughing. The suspect grabbed a hammer and approached him as if he were going to hit him with it. In an interview with the suspect, he admitted to viewing the video and getting very upset. The suspect admitted he carries the hammer for protection and after seeing the video was going to bash in the victim’s head and accused the victim of setting him up in the earlier shooting—the female identified the black male as the victim in the 24th Avenue shooting who detectives learned had walked away from a hospital in Rochester. In an interview with the victim, he indicated he was at the suspect’s residence and showed him a video. The suspect asked the victim if he thought the video was funny and the victim thought it was and was laughing. The suspect grabbed a hammer and approached him as if he were going to hit him with it. In an interview with the suspect, he admitted to viewing the video and getting very upset. The suspect admitted he carries the hammer for protection and after seeing the video was going to bash in the victim’s head and accused him of setting him up in the earlier shooting—the female identified the black male as the victim in the 24th Avenue shooting who detectives learned had walked away from a hospital in Rochester. Later Sunday in an operation in Waseca, the shooting victim was taken into custody and jailed. James Williams, age 39 of Owatonna, has been charged with Illegally Possessing a Firearm, 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Threats of Violence. The investigation into the William’s shooting remains under investigation.

Citizen Alerts-Stay Informed-Op in—

Everbridge is our public safety and community alert notification system that serves the citizens of Steele and Rice counties. We encourage all citizens who live or work in Owatonna to sign up for Everbridge Notifications can be through a mobile device (voice or text message). To enroll, please click on the banner below.

Trooper
Nicholas Hopkins
Alabama (AL) State Police
End of Watch: August 23, 2019
Trooper Nicholas Hopkins was shot and killed while serving a search warrant at a home. Trooper Hopkins is the 33rd law enforcement officer to be shot and killed this year and the 100th officer killed from the state of Alabama in 2019.

Trooper
Moises Sanchez
Texas Highway Patrol
End of Watch: August 24, 2019
Trooper Moises Sanchez succumbed to complications of gunshot wounds he sustained on April 9, 2019. Trooper Sanchez is the 31st law enforcement officer to be shot and killed this year and the 99th officer killed from the state of Texas in 2019.