Just the Facts
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Child Solicitation Arrest—
The Owatonna Police Department is a member of the State of Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigators Taskforce. As a member agency, our agency will conduct pro-active operations to deter sexual exploitation of children. This past week, our Detective Bureau ran an operation to identify adults targeting juveniles for sexual purposes via covert online chats. As part of the investigation, a detective, purporting to be a 15-year old female, was contacted by a 49-year old male. As the chat progressed, sexual references were made and a sexually explicit self-video was sent by the suspect to the detective and a plan was made for the suspect to meet the undercover detective at Fleet Farm in Owatonna. At the prescribed meet time, the suspect was observed driving into the Fleet Farm parking lot and text was received by the suspect to the undercover detective that he was at the location. A team of waiting detectives swooped in and placed the suspect under arrest. In an interview, the suspect admitted that he was at the location to meet a 15-year old girl and that he was just trying to hook up. Michael Riecke, age 49 of Waseca, has been charged with Engaging in Electronic Communication Relating or Describing Sexual Conduct with a Child & Soliciting a Child Through Electronic Communications to Engage in Sexual Conduct—both felonies.

Credit Card Fraud—
On September 16th, an Owatonna patrol officer started an investigation of a credit card stolen and fraudulently used in Owatonna. A victim had used his credit card in an ATM, but left, leaving the credit card in the machine. Shortly thereafter, fraudulent charged began showing up, in excess of $900. Surveillance video showed a female store employee locating the card and eventually taking it. Additional surveillance video identified a male fraudulently using the card and he was identified as the store employee’s boyfriend. On September 30th, the investigation culminated when officers executed a search warrant in the 2700 block of 3rd Avenue NE. During the execution, the suspect was located and arrested. In an interview, he admitted to using the stolen credit card and had been given it by his girlfriend. Vincent Garr, age 36 of Owatonna, has been charged with Financial Transaction Card Fraud, a felony.

Cops in the Community—
A special thanks to Michelle Redman and Big Brothers Big Sister of Southern Minnesota for letting us be part of their #HorizonConfidANCE challenge campaign. To view the video of officers Valerie Satre, Joshua Lee, Brian Shaw, Nathan Heeren and Jeff Mundale dancing, click here.

Coffee With a Cop—
Please join Owatonna Police Department officials on Wednesday, October 16th from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Owatonna Target store for Coffee with a Cop hosted by Starbucks. There is no agenda. Come and visit with your local police officers to discuss community issues and learn more about each other. Starbucks will be offering complimentary coffee, water, juice and tea.