The Boys are Back in Town—

This week we welcome back two of our officers who’ve spent the last 10-weeks in training. Officer Casey Martin and his canine partner Vegas hit the streets Wednesday evening marking the return of a canine program that’s been absent since 2017 when former officer John Petterson and his canine partner Kashi left the department. Casey and Vegas spent the last 10-weeks training at Performance Kennels in Buffalo, MN. The training regimen included tracking, building searches, area searches, article searches (for dropped items), apprehension/bite work and basic obedience. In addition, Vegas is certified by the National Police Canine Association in narcotics detection, including: methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy and heroin. Congratulations to both and we look forward to having a canine team back in Owatonna!

Welcome Zac—

In addition to welcoming back Casey and Vegas, we are excited to bring in a new officer, Zac Plein. Zac comes to us from the east where he is a former deputy with the Dodge County Sheriff’s Office and police officer with the Kasson Police Department, bringing almost 2 ½ years of prior law enforcement experience. Zac will be working with the firearms and use of force units before embarking into the 16-week field training and evaluation period. Welcome to Owatonna Zac!!

Bomb Threat Investigation—

For the second time in a week, our officers responded to a bomb threat at an Owatonna business. On November 7th, just prior to 5:00 PM, a bomb threat was received by Target in Owatonna. Target management evacuated the store and our officers assisted Target staff with a search of the building—at approximately 5:30 PM the all clear was given. Anyone with information related to this bomb threat or the threat to Daikin Applied is encouraged to call the Owatonna Police Department Detective Bureau at 507-774-7207.

Child Exploitation Investigations Continue in the Area—

This week an agent with the US Department of Homeland Security turned over a child exploitation investigation to our detectives. This is another case involving the social media site KIK and an adult attempting to engage in sexual contact with a child. In this case, the suspect reached out to the DHS agent who was posing undercover as a 15-year old female and solicited the undercover agent for sex in Owatonna. The suspect also exchanged a sexually explicit video of himself to the undercover agent. Around noon on Tuesday, Owatonna detectives staked out the meeting location; when the suspect arrived he was quickly taken into custody. In an interview, the suspect admitted that he planned to meet in Owatonna to have sex with a child. Zachariah Montgomery, age 34 of Rochester, has been charged with Attempted 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct, Engaging in Electronic Communications Relating/Describing Sexual Conduct with a Child and Distributing Electronic Communication Describing Sexual Conduct to a Child—these alleged crimes are all felonies.