**Just the Facts**

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**Walmart Stabbing—**

On Saturday, January 25th, our officers were called to Walmart for a stabbing. A responding officer found that a 37-year-old Owatonna resident had been the victim of a stabbing that occurred in the frozen food section of the store. The victim was found with stab wounds to his upper abdomen and right forearm. Other responding officers were notified the suspect had left the store and witnesses provided a description and license plate number of the vehicle the suspect fled in. Very shortly thereafter, an Owatonna sergeant spotted the suspect vehicle near the canning company and a high risk traffic stop took place. Inside the vehicle, the suspect was located in the passenger seat. During a search of the vehicle, evidence was located including a knife that appeared to contain blood evidence. The driver of the vehicle reported he was threatened with the knife after the stabbing took place. Mahad Omar, age 20 of Owatonna, was arrested at the traffic stop and has been jailed—he has been charged with 1st Degree Assault and 2nd Degree Assault. The victim was transported by Mayo ground ambulance and then by air ambulance to an advanced care facility. This case remains under investigation.

**Department News—**

Sergeant Robbe Kniefel’s retirement brings about some changes in our department and specifically to our supervisor ranks. We are proud to announce that Detective Zack Schumaker has been selected for promotion to the rank of sergeant. Zack has been with the Owatonna Police Department since December of 2011, hired as a community service officer. In 2012, Zack was hired as a licensed police officer and served in that capacity until May of 2019 when he was assigned as an investigator. Zack’s promotion to sergeant will be effective February 5th. During Zack’s tenure with the department he has served as an explorer advisor, evidence technician, field training officer and South Central Drug Investigation Unit tactical officer. Lastly, in 2015, Zack was selected as Moonlighters Exchange Club Police Officer of the Year. Please help us in congratulating Zack with his promotion!

**Social Media Solicitation—**

On January 24th, a detective assigned to the Minnesota Sexual Exploitation Task Force initiated an investigation of an adult male soliciting a child. The detective, posing undercover as a 15-year-old female, was contacted via the Kik social media platform. The suspect, acknowledging he was communicating with a child, exchanged sexually explicit dialog, a photograph of male genitalia and made plans to meet the undercover detective at a Food Court in Rochester. The detective gathered information revealing the suspect was a uniformed security guard at the Apache Mall in Rochester. On January 27th our detective and a detective from the Rochester Police Department went to the Apache Mall where they located the suspect and placed him under arrest. At the time of the arrest, the suspect provided his phone number which matched the number he had been communicating with to the undercover detective. Jesse Seyer, age 31 of Byron, has been charged with Soliciting a Child Through Electronic Communications to Engage in Sexual Conduct, Engaging in Electronic Communications Describing Sexual Conduct with a Child and Distributing via Electronic Communication Material that Relates/Described Sexual Conduct to a Child—all felonies.