I Think It’s Meth Officer

Just before 2 a.m., on Thursday morning, an officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation near the intersection of State Avenue and Hoffman Drive. While speaking with the driver, who was identified as Michelle Nin, the officer noticed Nin was showing signs of nervousness. Nin told the officer that she didn’t have a driver’s license and was only a permit driver. The officer saw a rock like material in the center console and asked Nin about it. Nin threw it on the floor board. Nin was invited to exit her vehicle so the officer could retrieve the suspected controlled substance. While doing so, the officer located a glass pipe in the same place where the drugs were at. A female officer came to assist and met with Nin. Nin told the officer she had more drugs in her pants pocket and said “I think it’s meth”. The officer arrested Nin and continued to search her. The officer found more drugs in her other pocket, then a folded up paper towel fell to the ground with more drugs inside. She was brought to the jail and during a more detailed search by jail staff, marijuana was found concealed in her genital region. The drugs were field tested presumptive positive as methamphetamine. The total amount of meth in Nin’s possession was 1.3 grams. Nin, age 20 of Owatonna, was charged with a 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a gross misdemeanor.

Cops in the Community—

On Tuesday, February 4th, Sergeant Robbe Kniefel was the guest speaker in Scott Pierce’s Personal Law Class at the Owatonna High School. Sergeant Kniefel has done this talk for several years and spoke of his career as a whole and then gave an overview of the current criminal justice system from the view point of a seasoned, soon to be retired police officer. On Wednesday, February 5th, Sergeant Kniefel also met with St. Mary’s school 4th graders to talk about solving crimes. Patrol Captain Jeff Mundale was invited to speak at the Lions Club on Tuesday about the Owatonna Police Department’s body-worn camera program and then again at the Early Edition Rotary Club on Wednesday, February 5th. The OPD body-worn camera program was approved and adopted by the Owatonna City Council through a resolution on November 19, 2019 and full program implementation began on December 17, 2019.

Threatening Calls Lead to Felony Charges—

On January 25th, our officers were called to investigate a threat complaint. The reporting person received threatening phone calls after ending a relationship. In one phone call that was recorded, the suspect threatened to kill the victim four times and that the victim needed to watch their back. The victim tried blocking the suspect from making further calls and when the victim did so, the suspect sent a text message asking if the victim was trying to block his calls. The following day, the suspect was located at his residence and was placed under arrest. Alexander Willcox, age 23 of Owatonna, has been charged with Terroristic Threats—a felony.