Owatonna Officers Stand-off with a Fugitive—

On Wednesday evening, our officers were called to a home in the 200 block of E. Rose St. for a disturbance. The first responding officer noted a male in the backyard and approached him; the officer immediately identified the male as a fugitive we’ve been seeking of late. The officer directed the male to stop and a foot pursuit ensured. The officer pursued the suspect to the Pirkl Gas complex on Mineral Springs Rd and contained him within a perimeter. At this time, the suspect sat down, pulled a knife and held it to his throat. Officers negotiated with the suspect for some time before the suspect stood up and began walking in the direction of an officer. A less-lethal Taser was deployed and after a struggle with the suspect, he was disarmed of the knife and taken into custody. Christopher Rivas, age 24 of Waseca, was arrested for three outstanding warrants and additional charges will be referred to the Steele County Attorney for this incident.

Thank You—

A few weeks ago a new business in Owatonna, Presto Packaging and Foam, reached out to the Owatonna Police Department’s Drone Unit regarding making a donation. The unit had previously looked to create a custom case for the drone’s batteries and charging equipment, but the cost at that time precluded it from happening. Ryan Ayers, Presto’s Solutions Specialist, worked with our officers to create the custom foam inserts in the case pictured to the left. The batteries that are used to power the drone are the heaviest of its accessories weighing two pounds each and we have eight batteries. The new case allows us to organize and move the pieces we need to charge without having to haul all the drone equipment into the building. Thank you Ryan and Presto Packaging and Foam!

Domestic Violence Arrest—

Last Saturday, our officers met with a victim at the Law Enforcement Center to field an assault report. The victim reported being punched and having her cell phone & vehicle damaged by an ex-boyfriend. It was reported an argument took place in a vehicle, leading the suspect to smash a cell phone and break the rear view mirror of the vehicle. In an interview with the suspect, he denied assaulting the victim, but admitted to the property damage, stating he, lost [his] cool. On Wednesday, a warrant was issued for the suspect and he was apprehended without incident. Dylan Adams, age 29 of Owatonna, has been charged with two counts of Domestic Assault/Subsequent Violations and 3rd Degree Damage to Property. The domestic assault charges are enhanced to gross misdemeanors due to a previous qualified domestic violence conviction.

Statewide Tornado Drill—

The Statewide tornado drill is scheduled for Thursday, April 16 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. The sirens in Steele County will be activated for this drill. Outdoor warning sirens and NOAA Weather Radios will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families. For more information on what to do during a tornado event, click here.