Crisis De-escalated—

On April 23rd, officers responded to a residence to assist a mental health professional who was speaking with a male in a mental health crisis on the telephone. An officer spoke at length with the agitated male through his front door trying to calm the situation. Later, another mental health professional responded to the scene and the male allowed the professional and an officer into his residence. Shortly thereafter, the professional signed a hold order for the male to be taken into protective custody. The male became more distressed, grabbed a home-made spear and threatened the professional and officer. The professional hastily left the scene as the male came at the officer with the spear. The officer quickly deployed a Taser and the male was effectively taken into protective custody. This is a great example of an officer using de-escalation tactics to safely take an emotionally disturbed person in a crisis into protective custody and avoiding injury to any of the involved.

Wear the Badge—

The Minnesota Chief’s of Police Association recently released their final podcast in their Wear the Badge series. In this episode, our association Executive Director Andy Skoogman examines the future, the next generation of law enforcement officers in the State of Minnesota. The podcast will feature four of the seven 2020 Wear the Badge Scholarship recipients describing what is drawing them to the profession. To hear the podcast episode, click on the Wear the Badge podcast logo.

Traffic Stop Garners More than Expected—

On April 24th, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle on South Cedar Avenue for speeding, traveling 48 in a 30 mile per hour zone. An assisting officer recognized a back-seat passenger from previous contacts and knew he was wanted for an outstanding warrant. Shayne Bowers, age 30 of Faribault was arrested. In a search of Bowers incident to the arrest, officers uncovered approximately ½ gram of methamphetamine. Bowers also advised he had ingested 10 ecstasy pills just prior to the car being pulled over—as a result, he was provided with emergency medical care. On April 28th, Bowers was released from the hospital and jailed on his outstanding warrant. He has also been charged with 5th Degree of a Controlled Substance for the methamphetamine found on him at the time of the traffic stop.