Same Circus, Different Clowns—

This past week a watchful neighbor called to report a porch pirate incident that took place in the 700 block of Hemlock Avenue. The witness reported a vehicle stopped and an occupant from the vehicle took a FedEx package from a home. The victim also provided a license plate from the suspect vehicle of which our officers located at the registered owner’s home. Officers met with the vehicle owner who initially denied any involvement. The officers pressed on and the female suspect admitted to her involvement, stating that she was with her juvenile son who told her to pull over—he took a package from the house and she allowed him to do it. The man and her 16-year-old juvenile son were both charged with citation for theft. A few days later, we received a similar call in the same area of town involving a similar vehicle. Our officers located the vehicle and it was the same as used in the earlier incident, this time operated by a 34-year-old male that lives at the same household as the mother and child involved in the earlier incident. Felony mail theft charges have been requested against the male subject.

Domestic Violence Arrest—

Last Saturday afternoon we received a call of a disturbance in the area of Cedar Avenue and Prospect Street. At that location, officers found a male victim reporting he’d been assaulted by his girlfriend. The victim reported an argument took place on the way back from a fishing trip. Back in Owatonna as the victim was getting out of the car, the girlfriend allegedly started hitting the victim. As he got out of the car, the girlfriend knocked him to the ground and kept hitting him, knocking his glasses off. As the male walked from retrieving his glasses, he observed the female drive a car up over a curb and toward him—he jumped out of the way to avoid being hit and the female left the scene. A witness corroborated the vehicle incident, indicating the female drove at the victim at least two times. Tire tracks left in the grass and sidewalk also supported the incident. Alicia Crawford, age 19 of Owatonna, was arrested and jailed. Crawford has been charged with 2nd Degree Assault—a felony and two counts of Domestic Assault—both misdemeanors.

Department News—

A couple of weeks ago we featured Officer Matt Oeltjenbruns as he ended his assignment to the Detective Bureau and as a school resource officer. This week, we feature Officer Travis Ardolf who will be assigned as a general duty officer for the department, serving as a patrol officer during that time. Travis is a six-year veteran with the department, primarily serving as a school resource officer. This week, current Detective Steve Bowman will be assigned to the Owatonna Middle School where he will primarily serve as a school resource officer. Congratulations to both of these officers!

RECENTLY FALLEN HERO

Police Officer Breann Leeth was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call at an apartment complex. Officer Leeth was transported to the hospital where she succumbed to her wounds. A suspect is in custody. Officer Leeth is the 14th law enforcement officer to be shot and killed this year and the second officer fatality from the state of Indiana in 2020.

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