Courthouse Escapee Captured—

Late Tuesday morning our officers were heralded to the Steele County Courthouse for a fugitive who had escaped from custody and fled on foot. Our officers, Steele County Deputies and a Minnesota State Trooper descended on the area and quickly set up a perimeter around the escapee’s last known location. With the assistance of the Faribault Police Department and their canine handler Josh Alexander and canine Chase, it was believed the suspect fled to the area of the 100 block of East School Street; however, an immediate search of that area was unsuccessful in locating the escapee. Search crews re-grouped and a secondary search of a garage at 148 East School was successful and canine Chase made a physical apprehension of the escapee—who was hiding under some items in the garage. The escapee, Adam Flategraff, age 27 of Albert Lea, had been charged with Escape from Custody—a felony and Fleeing a Peace Officer—a misdemeanor. Flategraff had just been sentenced for a criminal vehicular operation charge when he fled from custody. Ironically and as many of our long-time residents will remember, this escapee search took place almost 22-years to the date of Homer Land escaping from custody in Owatonna and holding a couple hostage in their own home.

Domestic Violence Arrest—

On Wednesday evening, our officers were called to 252 East Fremont for an assault involving a knife and a gun may be involved—the suspect was reported still inside the home with another family member. In light of the initial information, traffic was diverted around Fremont for public safety sake and to allow our officers to negotiate with the suspect to come out of the home. A short while later the suspect voluntarily exited the home and was taken into custody. Investigating officers learned a dispute took place inside the home between the suspect and female victim. The suspect allegedly grabbed the female by her hair and punched her. The suspect then allegedly pulled a pocket knife on the victim and another occupant and was waving the knife at them. Franklin Powell, age 45 of Owatonna, has been charged with 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and two counts of Domestic Assault—all felonies. Powell has two previous felony domestic assault convictions in Rice County.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered—

On Monday afternoon our department received information a stolen vehicle from St. Paul may be in the Owatonna area. Early Tuesday morning, one of our night shift officers spotted the reported stolen vehicle occupied by three individuals in the downtown area. Officers stopped the vehicle and detained the three occupants before arresting the driver—the two passengers were released. Zachary Savoie age 28 of St. Paul has been charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, Driving after Revocation and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Just the Facts
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The Minnesota Chief of Police Association recently released another video in their Wear the Badge series, featuring Minnesota State Trooper Karla Bearce is featured. Trooper Bearce, a crash reconstructionist, talks about how early experience with a chief of police in her home town helped shape her career. View the episode, click the Wear the Badge logo to the left.