He's Watching for More Than the Love of the Game—

During the early afternoon hours last Sunday, our officers were called to the West Hills Gym for the theft of a cell phone. The responding officer learned that a 14-year old victim had his cell phone stolen while he was playing basketball. The victim reported a black male suspect sitting on a bench while they were playing basketball. He observed the suspect place a jacket over his property that was sitting on the bench and then leave the gym. The victim checked his property and found his cell phone missing. He exited the gym only to find the suspect running from the building. The victim gave the officers a great description of the suspect, but they were unable to locate him. A short while later, the same officer was in Subway when he saw a person matching the description of the suspect walking toward Starbucks. The officer recognized the suspect as Faisal Abdullahi, age 23, and that Abdullahi had an active arrest warrant. The officer confronted Abdullahi and placed him under arrest for the warrant. When searching Abdullahi, he found a cell phone matching the one stolen from the West Hills Gym and was later positively identified by the victim. Abdullahi was transported to the Steele County Jail and later formally charged with two counts of theft—both gross misdemeanors.

Snowmobiles in the City—

Sustainable snow in Minnesota means snowmobiling enthusiasts will be out in force. Snowmobiling in Owatonna is regulated by city ordinance that includes the following highlights—

» Riding on city streets is only allowed for the purposes of going to and from the city limits by the most direct route.

» Riding on private property is allowed only with express written permission from the property owner.

» Riding on school grounds, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas and golf courses is prohibited without written permission.

» Riding is not allowed in the downtown designated area.

» Speeds cannot exceed 15 miles per hour and all riders must come to a stop at each intersection before proceeding though.

» Snowmobiles cannot be ridden within the city limits between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM.

The complete ordinance can be seen by clicking on the snowmobile to the right.

How the Grinchettes Stole Christmas—

On Saturday morning, our officers were called to Sunset Drive for the report of mail theft. The responding officer learned that a 30-year old male victim observed a female walking away from his front door carrying a package and getting into a gold colored SUV. The victim and his wife were expecting a package and confirmed with FedEx that that package had been delivered at their front door. The victim was able to get a license plate number from the SUV and officers were able to track it to the 2600 block of 3rd Avenue N.E. where they found it parked in a driveway. The officers made contact with a female resident who was uncooperative. A detective was called in to assist with obtaining a search warrant when a second female in the residence had a change of heart—she allowed officers in the residence and consented to a search. Inside the apartment, officers recovered numerous items that were alleged to be stolen from throughout the city. The two female suspects, sisters, indicated that they drove around Owatonna and took packages that they found had been left on unsuspecting victims’ doorsteps. The officers recovered a number of items that can be identified to an owner; however, several items cannot be identified as of yet. Anyone missing items that were scheduled for home delivery and have not been received are encouraged to contact Kim Dub at 507-774-7205. Formal charges are pending on the two sisters.

DWI Confessions—

Those who drink and drive should be prepared to endure the life-altering consequences of a DWI. That’s the message three Minnesotans are sharing in DWI Confessions—a new series of online videos being released by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety. The first video features the confession of a young man as he talks about the hours and days following his arrest, which included jail time, extensive fees and loss of driving privileges. To view the video, click on the picture to the left.

The videos are being released at a time when law enforcement agencies from around the state are adding extra DWI patrols in an effort to prevent drunk driving tragedies during the holiday season. Extra DWI enforcement will continue through the end of the year.

*Reprinted in part from the MN Chiefs of Police Association*