Drug “Running”

The OPD assisted the Rice County Narcotics Team with locating Tavares Aries Powell, age 31. The Intel indicated he was staying at his girlfriend’s apartment, but after a short search, he was not found. When asked about the location of her car, she coincidentally reported it was repossessed just 10 minutes prior to the police arriving. Officers Vaith, Cooper, Seifert, and Drenth canvassed the area. Just a short time later, Officer Vaith located the suspect vehicle and a short police pursuit followed. Mr. Powell’s car found a snow bank and was stuck. Mr. Powell bailed from the car and ran down the middle of the street, slipped on the ice, and surrendered to Officer Vaith as back-up arrived on scene. Mr. Powell is currently in the Steele County Detention Facility. Mr. Powell was criminally charged with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle and Fleeing a Peace Officer on foot, Driving after Suspension Speed, and stop sign violations.

Local Business—100% Compliant

Since 1999, the Owatonna Police Department has been conducting tobacco compliance checks. On Wednesday, December 24, 2010, Corporal Edel and plain clothes operatives tested twenty nine (29) local businesses for compliance. The local compliance checks act as a deterrent in concert with Minnesota state law making it unlawful for local businesses to sell tobacco products to underage people. What is most noteworthy is the self-compliance and operational efficiencies put in place by our local businesses to ensure tobacco products do not end up in the hands of juveniles. The 100% compliance speaks volumes—way to go! A special thank you to our two underage operatives!

DWI Enforcement Efforts

OPD has made 155 DWI arrests so far in 2010. In December alone, there have been 11 arrests so far. Our monthly high for the year was in July when there were 20 arrests. Let’s hope that New Year’s celebrations involve using a sober driver to keep the last few days of 2010 safe!