Bloomington Man Arrested for Motor Vehicle Theft—

Early Sunday afternoon, Owatonna officers were called to Fleet Farm for the report of vehicle theft in progress—it was reported an employee’s vehicle had just been taken and was heading north on the interstate. Investigation revealed an employee had his keys stolen out of his vehicle the day prior. The employee notified Fleet Farm loss prevention who were going to keep a watchful eye on the vehicle while the employee was working. On Sunday, loss prevention notified the owner of a suspicious person walking around the employee’s vehicle and then drove away in it. Troopers from the Minnesota State Patrol managed to stop the vehicle in Rice County and the driver was arrested. As it turns out, the driver had just been released from the Steele County Detention Center earlier in the day. When interviewed, he said that the vehicle belonged to a friend in jail and had borrowed it to him. Winn J. Johnson, age 54, was re-united with the jail and formally charged Motor Vehicle Theft—a felony and Driving after Revocation.

Routine Traffic Stop Goes Awry—

On Wednesday evening, an officer stopped a vehicle for not displaying license plates. In meeting with the driver, he indicated the vehicle belonged to his parents and they were sovereign citizens. The officers learned the vehicle was last registered in Minnesota in 2008. The officer intended to tow the vehicle for the registration violation when the female owner approached the traffic stop on foot. She told the officer he was no longer needed and preceded to tell her son who was still seated in the car to “scootch over” so they could leave. The female reached into the vehicle and the officer controlled the female’s arm to prevent her from opening the door. The officer commanded the female to step away from the vehicle several times and she refused so—she was placed under arrest. The female resisted arrest; however, she was finally secured in a squad car. During the confrontation, the female alleged she was a sovereign citizen, does not exist in our world and that the officer had no jurisdiction over her. Julie L. Reyher, age 52, was formally charged with Motor Vehicle Registration-Intent to Escape Tax—a gross misdemeanor and Obstructing the Legal Process.

Department News—

This past week marked the end of the field training process for Officer Travis Ardolf. Beginning last Friday afternoon, Travis began the next phase of his year long training when he began his solo patrol duties. Travis was hired back in February and at that time, embarked on an extensive sixteen week, four-phase training and evaluation period in our field training unit. If you see Travis out and about, please congratulate him upon this accomplishment. We look forward to Travis being a great servant to the community.

During the past couple of weeks, our firearms instructors have been busy with our annual firearms qualification training course. Each of our licensed officers are required annually to successfully qualify with their individual handgun, and the department model shotgun and patrol rifle. It was also a time for our officers to familiarize themselves with the new aiming optics recently installed on our patrol rifles. We hold these qualification courses at the 20 Rifle & Pistol Club which is located north of Owatonna.