Operating Over the Legal Limit Can Affect Your Ability to Drive—

Michael Sorensen

Last Saturday evening, an Owatonna officer observed a vehicle approach a stop sign at a high rate of speed and travel through the intersection without coming to a complete stop—the officer later observed the vehicle cross over the center line. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle and had to activate his siren before getting the vehicle to stop. As the officer began to approach the vehicle on foot, he observed the reverse lights on the suspect vehicle come on and the vehicle to begin backing. The officer yelled for the driver to stop, but not before backing into the front end of his squad car. While speaking with the driver, the officer noted several signs of intoxication. The driver performed roadside field sobriety tests which he failed. Michael A. Sorensen, age 43, was placed under arrest on suspicion of drunk driving and brought to the Steele County Jail for further DWI testing. Once at the jail, Sorensen took a breath test which revealed a breath alcohol content of .24 or three times the legal limit to drive. Sorenson was formally charged with (2) counts of 2nd Degree DWI—gross misdemeanors, No Proof of Insurance and Failure to Stop for a Stop Sign. Sorensen’s vehicle, a 2001 Ford Expedition, was seized and is subject to forfeiture. The officer in this case was not injured, but the city’s squad car received an estimated $2400 damage from the crash.

Officer Zack Schumaker Day—

At Tuesday night’s Owatonna City Council Meeting, Mayor Thomas Kuntz read a proclamation announcing Thursday, May 28th as Zackary Schumaker Day in honor of Zack being named by the Moonlighters Exchange Club as the Owatonna Police Officer of the Year! As a member of the department, Zack has worked his way up the ranks so to speak. He was hired in 2011 as a community service officer, later in 2011 as a part-time police officer and a full-time officer in 2012. Zack has been active in the Owatonna community with the Police Explorer Program, Shop with a Cop, Steele County Safety Camp and donates his time as a fishing guide for the live auction winner of a package offered by the police department to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Evening for Kids’ Sake—all the while performing his police officer duties at a high level and putting an emphasis on DWI enforcement. Congratulations Zack on this wonderful honor. In this photo, Zack is pictured during a Shop with a Cop event.

Late Night Burglars Arrested—

Michael Hokanson

Late Monday night, our officers were called to the Pit Stop Laundry on Mound Street for a suspicious person call. When we arrived, we found an adult male and a juvenile male outside the building. Officers found the pair carrying folding knives and learned they had used the knives to attempt to gain access into vending machines in the laundromat—both admitted they intended to steal from the business. Both parties were arrested; however, the juvenile was later released to a parent. Michael T. Hokanson, age 20, was formally charged with 2nd Degree Burglary and Possession of Burglary Tools—felonies. Formal charges are expected on the juvenile.