Just Rolling Along—

On Monday afternoon, an off-duty Owatonna officer observed a scene nobody would expect to see as he drove down the road—a vehicle being driven down the road with its tire rolling alongside the car. That is exactly what took place on South Cedar Avenue in front of the Hy-Vee store. The off-duty officer called his observations in and when he located it again, the vehicle was found on the boulevard, in drive and running and occupied by a female driver. The officer also observed two bottles of alcohol in the passenger compartment. An on-duty officer arrived and found the driver was showing signs of intoxication. She performed roadside field sobriety tests and was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving—her preliminary breath test indicated she was approximately 3 ½ times over the legal limit to drive. Bethany E. Brogan, age 33, was formally charged with two counts of 2nd Degree DWI—gross misdemeanors, Driving after Revocation and Open Container. When interviewed, Brogan stated she had a little bit to drink—thankfully she didn’t have a lot to drink!

Hit and Run Driver Arrested—

On August 28th in the early evening hours, our officers were called to the area of 18th St. SE and S. Cedar Ave. for the report of a hit and run accident with possible injuries. Witnesses reported a red mini van struck two vehicles in the intersection and then left the scene towards Federated Insurance’s Annexstad building. Officers learned the fleeing vehicle was seen parking in an apartment complex a few blocks from the crash and it was located unoccupied shortly thereafter. Another officer in the area came across three individuals matching the description of the suspect in the fleeing vehicle. One of the three acknowledged the crash and that his brother was injured. Another of the three was identified as the driver and he showed signs of intoxication—he was arrested after failing roadside field sobriety tests. William J. Wiesler, age 27, was formally charged with two counts of 4th Degree DWI, Leaving the Scene of an Accident and No Minnesota Driver’s License. The injured occupant sustained non-incapacitating injuries. When interviewed, one of the occupants of the fleeing vehicle indicated they left the scene because the vehicle didn’t have insurance. Incidentally, the Center for Disease Control released a report in 2014 that shows the full impact of motor vehicle crashes.

Dispute Lands Driver in Jail—

On Tuesday afternoon, our officers were called to the Adams Ave. area for a reported hit and run. Arriving officers met with a 27-year-old male victim who directed them to a Pontiac G6 that was leaving the area; the victim reportedly had just been struck by the vehicle. Officers observed the victim was bleeding from his bicep. The suspect vehicle was stopped—its windshield was smashed and it was occupied by two people and was observed to have a smashed windshield. Our officers learned that a dispute took place between the driver and the victim and the victim allegedly followed the suspect to a location of Adams Ave. to confront the driver. The driver allegedly put his vehicle into reverse, then into drive and accelerated toward the victim, striking the victim and causing him to fly onto the hood and windshield. A witness in the area corroborated the account of what took place. Jason Villanueva, age 19, was arrested and jailed—he was later formally charged with 2nd Degree Assault.