Vehicle Pursuit—Fugitive Wanted—

Late Tuesday afternoon, our department received an anonymous tip that an unlicensed driver with an outstanding warrant was going to be leaving a residence in the 500 block of South Cedar Avenue. As officers were staging in the area, a Steele County deputy observed the vehicle believed to be carrying the fugitive. The vehicle failed to stop for the deputy and a pursuit was initiated. Our officers assisted in the pursuit which led to the area of Morehouse Park and then Kaplan Woods where direct contact was lost with the vehicle. Our officers believed the fleeing vehicle entered Kaplan’s Woods and began searching area. The vehicle was located a short time later exiting Kaplan’s Woods and began fleeing northbound on Mosher Avenue—at that time, an Owatonna sergeant called off the pursuit. A few minutes later, officers observed skid marks on the north end of Mosher Avenue near West School Street and a fence leading into Owatonna Public Utility compound had been run over. The fleeing vehicle appeared to have lost control, drove through the compound, over the railroad tracks on the east side of Morehouse Park and became disabled inside the park. Witnesses report seeing the driver flee the vehicle on foot and west out of the park. At this point the driver of the vehicle is still being sought. Corey D. Johnson, age 27, is being sought as the person with the outstanding warrant that lead to this pursuit. Anyone with information related to the whereabouts of Corey Johnson is encouraged to call an Owatonna sergeant at 507-451-8232.

Department Reserve News—

Reserve Coordinator Sergeants Robbe Kniefel and Andy DeVinny have announced the promotion of two reserve officers. Colton Ryg and Kyle Martin were promoted on July 15, 2014 to the rank of Reserve Sergeant. Both officers have been with the reserve unit since the program began in March of 2013 and have donated many, many hours of service to the community. Congratulations to both of these young men!!

Cops in the Community—

On Thursday afternoon at the fair, a long standing tradition in the Owatonna Police Department continued as Chief Keith Hiller, Officer Christian Berg and Community Service Officers Chad Schlueuter and Tommy Adams were contestants in the watermelon seed spitting contest against the Steele County Sheriff’s Office at the Steele County Fair. This year the Sherriff’s Office came with their game faces on and the intention of re-claiming the championship—their off-season preparation paid off big time and Chief Deputy Scott Hanson let loose with a mighty heave that left our officers wondering whether some performance enhancers were incorporated in their training regimen (just kidding of course). We tip our hat to the winning team and we will come back with a vengeance next year!! We thank our officers for being good sports in this fun event!!