What's In a Name Anyway—

On December 19th, our officers were notified by the Faribault Police Department that they were in contact with a male party who was in possession of a credit card that belonged to an individual who was the last person to legally possess a vehicle before it was stolen in Owatonna. Our officers met with Faribault PD and the male in Medford. The male was providing both agencies with a name that was not coming back in computerized driver’s license files in Minnesota or several other states. The male told our officers that he never had an ID in any state (highly unusual and a likely sign that a person is trying to conceal his/her identity), lives off the land and moves around Minnesota constantly. The officers’ hunches were right and they were finally able to identify the male as Douglas W. Seidel. Seidel was wanted in St. Louis County. Seidel was placed under arrest for the warrant, using the false name and possession of stolen property. Once at the jail, Seidel was found in possession of a plastic baggie that contained a black pill and presumptive positive cocaine. He faces additional charges for 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

New Year’s Law Change—

A new law aiming to reduce the number of people driving without insurance will take effect on January 1, 2016. Minnesotans who are registering, renewing license tabs or transferring ownership of motor vehicles and motorcycles will need to provide insurance information under the new law. Prior to the change, the law required owners to attest that the motor vehicle or motorcycle was covered by an insurance policy during the registration process; the specific policy information was not required. Under the new law, every owner, when applying for motor vehicle or motorcycle registration, renewing their tabs, or transferring ownership, must provide information showing that the motor vehicle or motorcycle is covered by an insurance policy. Owners will need to provide the following information under the new law:

- Name of insurance company
- Policy number
- Expiration date of the policy

Locally in Owatonna since January 1, 2015, our officers have charged 93 offenders without having motor vehicle insurance and an additional 193 offenders for failing to provide proof of insurance. Minnesota statute requires a driver on demand from a police officer to provide proof that the vehicle being driven has insurance coverage.

More Cocaine Charges—

Early Monday morning, our officers were called to the 100 block of Rice Street for a disturbance—a caller was reporting an apparent fight taking place in a car. Arriving officers located the vehicle and the driver standing outside. They also observed the driver lean into the vehicle, put the key in the ignition and start the car. While speaking with the driver, he admitted to driving the car and pulled over when the car engine started knocking. Also while speaking with the driver, he was showing signs of intoxication. The driver performed road-side field sobriety tests which he failed and he was placed under arrest. A search of the vehicle uncovered a plastic baggie under the driver’s seat that contained presumptive positive cocaine. John A. Jones, age 48, was jailed and formally charged with two counts of DWI—both gross misdemeanors and 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

From the team at the Owatonna Police Department

Have a safe and happy holiday season!