What? I was Driving?—

Early Sunday morning, an officer spotted a vehicle commit a moving violation on St. Paul Rd. near 23rd St. NE. The officer observed the vehicle was being driven by a female with long, black hair. As the officer attempted to stop the car, it made a right turn onto 23rd St and slowly pulled over. When the officer approached the vehicle, he found the vehicle driverless with a male in the front seat and a female with long black hair putting on her seatbelt in the backseat. The officer directed the female back to the driver’s seat and in speaking with her detected signs of impairment. The officer had the driver exit the vehicle and conduct roadside field sobriety tests; she failed and was subsequently arrested. At the jail, the driver provided an evidential breath test which revealed she had a breath alcohol content of .15 or nearly twice the legal limit to drive. Laura D. Dominguez, age 25 of Owatonna, was charged with two counts of 3rd Degree DWI—gross misdemeanors. In an interview, Dominguez admitted to driving and that she got in the back seat because her passenger told her to.

Show me the Money—

We continue to see our community members become victimized by phone scams and we offer this example in hope the word gets spread about these type of victimizations. This week a community member took a call from a scammer purporting to be from a computer repair company. The victim was told the company had set up her computer and she was entitled to a $2500 refund and requested her banking information, which was provided. Shortly thereafter, she received a second call and was told a mistake had taken place and $5000 had been refunded to her. The scammer requested the victim to purchase (5) $500 Walmart gift cards to pay back the $2500 overage and provide him with the gift card & PIN numbers. The unsuspecting victim did so and the scam was done and she was out the $2500. No reputable business should cold call you and ask for your banking account numbers over the phone—that’s a clue. No reputable business will ever call you and ask for payment via a gift card—that’s a BIG clue. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is and if in doubt, call someone you trust or your local police department before you provide information or complete a transaction.

To Honor the Fallen—

The Moonlighters Exchange Club of Owatonna has announced they have selected Officer Benjamin Johnson as their 2018 Police Officer of the Year. Ben has been a member of the Owatonna Police Department since 2012, serving as a patrol officer during that time. In addition to his patrol duties, Ben is a certified evidence technician, firearms instructor/armor and a field training officer. Ben will formally be recognized as this year’s recipient at a recognition banquet hosted by the Exchange Club at the VFW Club on May 10, 2018. The recognition banquet is open to the public; tickets are $15 and are available the Owatonna Police Department where you can also find out more information about our Police Department and get to know us. We look forward to seeing you there!