I Just Wanna Cheeseburger—

Early Saturday morning, a McDonald’s employee called to report a drunk driver in their drive-thru. As our officers arrived, they observed the suspect vehicle trying to exit that parking lot, then stopping, then starting to move, jerking forward & stopping, then exiting out of the parking lot. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was showing signs of intoxication. He performed road-side field sobriety tests and was placed under arrest for probable cause drunk driving. In a search incident to the arrest, a 9mm handgun was uncovered in the suspect’s pocket. The suspect was taken to the jail where further testing showed he had a breath alcohol content of .16, or twice the legal limit to drive. Alexander Kaufman, age 22 of Owatonna, was charged with DWI & Carrying a Weapon without a Permit—both gross misdemeanors. He also faces misdemeanor charges of Carrying a Pistol Under the Influence of Alcohol. During an interview, Alexander seemed to admit he’d be over the [the legal limit] and all he wanted was [&#%&@$#] McDonalds.

Police Citizen’s Academy—

We are closing in on the start of the academy and we are still looking for a few good folks interested in learning more about law enforcement. We will be hosting a Citizen’s Police Academy, beginning October 29, 2018 and running through December 17, 2018. Academy participants will meet Monday evenings for eight consecutive weeks from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The academy is designed to give residents and business owners a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with members of the Owatonna Police Department and its day to day operations. Applications for this year’s class will be accepted through October 22, 2018. For more information or to apply, please contact Pam Roberts at 507-774-7200 or click here.

Scam Alert—

Telephone scams continue to be a problem and no one is immune. Just this week, this writer received several telephone calls at home I suspect were scams that were ended when I simply hung up. However, a community member was victimized recently when they fell victim and were bilked out of $9000. In this case, our victim received a call from someone purporting to be an attorney and indicated that a grandson had been involved in a crash and needed $4500 for bail money—cash was sent as requested. The next day, the victim received a second call asking for another $4500 because the bail was increased—more cash was sent. The following day, a third call was received along for another $5000—luckily, or unluckily, the victim didn’t have the funds and nothing was sent. The victim later learned the grandson was never in custody. If you get these types of calls, confirm it’s legitimate before sending any money either by calling the person or a family member of the person purported to be in custody—or call us, we can contact the agency reported to be holding the family member. If you have elderly family members, they seem to be targeted more often—click here to visit a FBI website and educate them on common scams.