

Behind the Steele Star

Sheriff Lon Thiele

Chief Deputy Scott Hanson

Tanker truck pursuit

Steele County Sheriff's Office became involved in a pursuit that started in Elko New Market after a tanker truck had struck multiple vehicles on I-35 in the metro area. Several other law enforcement agencies had attempted to stop the vehicle but were unsuccessful. Upon the pursuit entering into Steele County, the Sheriff's Office, Owatonna Police Department and State Patrol became involved. Numerous tire deflating devices were deployed, slowing deflating the tires. The pursuit only reached speeds of 30 miles per hour. The vehicle eventually crashed because of becoming hung up on the center median cable just north of the Hope exit. The driver was taken into custody without incident. It was determined the truck had been stolen.



(Photo to left as vehicle crashed into median cable barrier)

Jail Soft Re-opening

As of June 29th, the Steele County Detention Center lobby will be open by appointment only. All visiting must be scheduled in advance by calling the Detention Center Records at 507-446-7000. Visiting hours are limited to 8:00am–10:00am and 2:00pm–4:00pm Monday through Friday. Only 1 visitor will be allowed at a time. No minors will be allowed in the building until further notice. Online visiting is still available. Fingerprinting will also resume from 12:00pm-1:00pm and 3:00pm-4:00pm on Thursdays. Appointments must be scheduled in advance.



May Highlights

- Busiest day of week: Friday
- Busiest hour of day: 5 pm
- Total # of events: 1,635
- Average events/day: 53
- Average events/hour: .4
- Average traffic stops/hour: .32
- DWIs for the month: 6
- Permit to carry: 38
- Permit to purchase: 11
- Civil papers served: 72



Speed Enforcement Campaign

With reduced traffic the last several months, it would seem the risk on Minnesota roads would be reduced. Unfortunately, many drivers have chosen to use the open roads as a license to speed.

To help put the brakes on speed-related deaths and educate motorists, officers, deputies and troopers will work overtime shifts June 22 through July 19. Law enforcement agencies across the state will participate in the campaign coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS).

Citations can cost \$100 or more plus court fees. Insurance costs increase, and speed related crashes could result in criminal or civil penalties. Slow down, lets all do our part to keep Minnesota roads safe.

Scams

Every day you hear about a new scam. One way to keep yourself safe from scams is through education. The Federal Trade Commission provides a great list of scams on their website, just click [here](#). You can even sign up for e-mail updates.

Small children on ATVs

Riding on ATVs and UTVs can be dangerous, especially when small children are involved. That was the case recently when a small child was seriously injured while riding in a UTV.

Here are some safety tips taken from Saferidenews.com:

- Don't drive off-road vehicles on paved roads.
- All drivers and passengers should wear a helmet, as well as other protective gear like eye protection, gloves, and clothing that covers the body.
- The number of occupants shouldn't exceed the number of seats; for ATVs, this means no passengers.
- Drivers should take a hands-on safety training course.
- Children under 16 should not drive a UTV or adult ATV.

Further precautions specifically for UTVs:

- Always fasten the safety belt.
- Keep all body parts inside the vehicle.
- Never carry passengers in the cargo area.
- Be sure all passengers are large enough so that both feet rest on the floorboard while their back is against the seatback.
(Editor's note: That means no kids of CR or booster age!)

To review Minnesota laws regarding ATV/UTV use see the [MN DNR website](#).

According to the latest preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, 364 people lost their lives in 2019 crashes.

2020 Goal is to reduce traffic-related deaths to 300 or fewer...

YTD FATAL COUNT UPDATE

2020 YTD compared to 2019

147	147
Pedestrians	
18	17
Motorcyclists	
18	13
Bicyclists	
3	2

Sheriff's Association mailer

The Minnesota Sheriff's Association sends out letters every year to introduce friends, supporters and members to the Association. It serves as an annual fundraiser. The Sheriff's Association **does not** do any solicitation via telephone. If you have questions about the mailer or the Minnesota Sheriff's Association you can contact Jean Lusch at 651-451-7216 or jlusch@mnsheriffs.org.

DVS Mail-in letter

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety– Department of Motor Vehicles is experiencing some delays in processing some vehicle registration renewals. If you submitted your renewal by mail in recent weeks you should review this [news release](#) for important information.

Children in hot cars

53 children died in hot cars in 2018 - the deadliest year on record in the last 20 years. Parents and caregivers should educate themselves on ways to avoid this tragic outcome. Free training is available through the National Safety Council at NSC.org.

NEVER leave a child in the vehicle! Below are some safety reminders from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Always check the back seat and make sure all children are out of the car before locking it and walking away.
- Avoid distractions while driving, especially cell phone use.
- Be extra alert when there is a change in your routine, like when someone else is driving your child or you take a different route to work or child care.
- Have your child care provider call if your child is more than 10 minutes late.
- Put your cell phone, bag, or purse in the back seat, so you check the back seat when you arrive at your destination.
- If someone else is driving your child, always check to make sure she has arrived safely.
- Keep your car locked when it is parked to prevent a curious child from entering when no one is around. Many hot car deaths have occurred when a child mistakenly locks himself inside.
- Make sure children do not have easy access to your car keys. Store them out of a child's reach.
- Teach children that cars are not safe places to play. Cars, especially car trunks, should not be used for games like hide-and-seek.
- Keep rear fold-down seats closed to prevent a child from crawling into the trunk from inside the car.



Submit your questions and concerns

Do you have a question you've been wanting answered? Or a concern you want to address? Send them in, they might even become a topic in a future newsletter.

[E-mail them here.](#)



STEELE COUNTY'S MOST WANTED

LEAH JONES

THEFT



JASON HORNER

DRUGS 3RD DEGREE



OMAR MORENO JR

1ST DEGREE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY



LUIS ACOSTA

2ND DEGREE CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT



TREREIAS HARRIS

DOMESTIC ASSAULT



DESTINEY WILLAGE-SOLANO

AID & ABET THEFT

