

# Behind the Steele Star

Sheriff Lon Thiele

Chief Deputy Scott Hanson

## We're back with a new look!

With the new year we're trying out a new look. You'll find interesting articles, office updates, monthly highlights and more. Plus we're bringing back Steele County's Most Wanted.

We also have a **TIP LINE** for all Steele County Law Enforcement agencies. That number is: **1-866-878-7964**.

All the information supplied will be investigated to the best of our ability. Please know that the more details you supply us with the better we can follow through on the situation. Leaving your name and number is optional but would be appreciated and kept totally confidential.



## January Highlights

- Busiest day of week: Friday
- Busiest hour of day: 9 pm
- Total # of events: 1,319
- Average events/day: 47
- Average events/hour: .5
- Average traffic stops/hour: .28
- DWIs for the month: 5
- Permit to carry: 19
- Permit to purchase: 14
- Civil papers served: 99



## January office training

The Steele County Sheriff's Office prides itself with training in all areas. This is an example of one. January marks the start of a new year and annual training for Steele County deputies. In January deputies were trained in the areas of Taser, Less Lethal shotgun, Less Lethal 40 mm and the use of ballistic shields. The Sheriff's Office recently purchased three 40 mm less lethal guns and two ballistic shields for use in the

field. In February and March deputies will be trained in De-escalation and Intervention Strategies for Persons in Mental Health Crisis.

## Highway 14 expansion project

Brush and tree removal has started in Steele County for the Highway 14 expansion project. Work is scheduled to start in Spring of 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in 2022. Traffic will start using the new route in 2021. For more details on the project see the Minnesota Department of Transportation website at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDOT/bulletins/2775382>.

## Beware of Scams

Scammers will try anything to get your information. We are seeing an increase in cash card scams, Publisher's Clearinghouse scams, and people claiming to be from the government. If you have been the victim of a financial scam, report it to the Federal Government by submitting a complaint online at <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>.

## County K-9 update

The community support of our K-9 program has been amazing! We have almost met our goal. We are still \$9,500.00 short of the funds needed to purchase our K9 and all necessary equipment. Once we reach the funds necessary we will continue the process to obtain and train our K9 team to join the ranks of the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

## Ice Thickness a Concern

We've had some warm days recently and with warmer weather comes ice safety awareness. Ice thickness can vary greatly in a short distance. New, clear ice is stronger than older ice. Temperatures, snow and currents greatly affect ice thickness. Be cautious when making your way out onto the ice. The Minnesota DNR has numerous tips for ice safety and has produced this chart for reference.



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

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 7 | 9 |
|---|---|

### Pedestrians

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
|---|---|

### Motorcyclists

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 0 |
|---|---|

### Bicyclists

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 0 |
|---|---|





# STEELE COUNTY'S MOST WANTED

BLAKE MACPHERSON

ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY



JOHN EPEL

PREDATORY OFFENDER



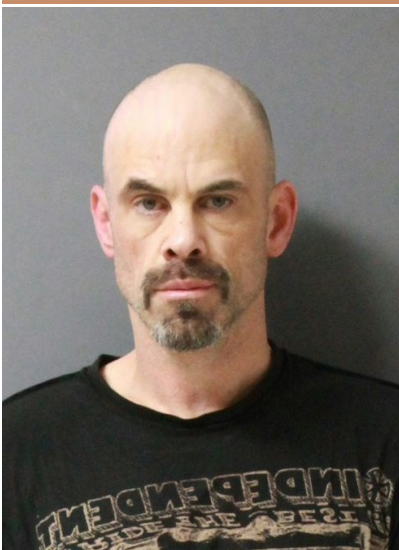
DAMIAN HORTOP ROCHA

1ST DEGREE BURGLARY



JASON OLSON

1ST DEG DRUGS



JASON HORNER

3RD DEGREE DRUGS



DALE WALTERS

POSSESS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

