

Behind the Steele Star

Sheriff Lon Thiele

Chief Deputy Scott Hanson

Meet our new K9 Willow

K9 Deputy Buck recently welcomed our new K9 Willow, to the ranks of the Steele County Sheriff's Office. Willow is a 2 year-old German Shepherd from Slovakia.

We're hoping the team will be up and running in the fall of 2020 after completing training in Buffalo, Minnesota. She will be trained in tracking, evidence search and narcotics search.



Mask Mandate

The Governor's Executive Order 20-81 requiring citizens to wear face coverings went into effect on July 25th, 2020. This new order has prompted a lot of questions.

When wearing a face covering is required:

- In all public indoor spaces and businesses. This includes waiting outside to enter the public indoor space or business.
- When riding on public transportation such as buses or trains, in a taxi, ride-sharing vehicle, or a vehicle that is being used for a business purpose.
- When present in a business, whether indoor or outdoor, that has elected to require face coverings. Businesses are allowed to require face coverings even in situations where face coverings are not required.

[See the State's website for the full list of requirements, recommendations and frequently asked questions by clicking on this link.](#)



June Highlights

- Busiest day of week: Tuesday
- Busiest hour of day: 9:00 pm
- Total # of events: 1,443
- Average events/day: 48
- Average events/hour: .5
- Average traffic stops/hour: .5
- DWIs for the month: 8
- Permit to carry: 43
- Permit to purchase: 106
- Civil papers served: 113



DVS Driver's Manual Update

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services Division has released an updated class D driver's manual. There are several highlights in the update including the Hands-Free law and what to do and expect if stopped by law enforcement. Even drivers who have been driving for numerous years should brush up on laws and updates. To view the updated manual click the link [here](#).

Ted Foss Move Over law

Emergency responders working on the shoulder of the road have got your back. Do you have theirs?

Minnesota's Ted Foss Move Over Law was named in honor of the State Patrol Trooper who was killed while on the shoulder of I-90 in Winona in 2000. The law states:



- When traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must keep over one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights activated — ambulance, fire, law enforcement, maintenance, construction vehicles and tow trucks.
- Reduce speed if unable to safely move over a lane.

Failing to take these actions endangers personnel who provide critical and life-saving services. Fines can exceed \$100.

DWI Enforcement

Extra law enforcement patrols will be out on Minnesota roads enforcing impaired driving laws from August 14th through September 7th. Some of the consequences of impaired driving include:

- Loss of license for up to a year
- Thousands of dollars in costs and possible jail time.
- Possible use of ignition interlock to regain driving privileges.

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

192	183
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Pedestrians

20	23
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Motorcyclists

28	22
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Bicyclists

4	4
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Did you know?

Projecting Load

Did you know there are requirements if you have a load that sticks out of the rear of your vehicle more than four feet? If your load extends four feet or more past the bed or body of the vehicle, a red light or a red, yellow or orange flag/cloth of no less than 16 inches must be displayed. Minnesota Statute 169.52 covers projecting loads.

Teen Driving Laws

Many parents and guardians are unaware of the laws when it comes to teen drivers. Below are a few helpful tips to start conversations with your young drivers:

- Nighttime driving between 12am-5am is prohibited unless the teen is accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older, driving to or from work or for work purposes, or from a school event for which transportation was not provided.
- New drivers are also only allowed one passenger under 20 years old unless accompanied by a parent or guardian for the first six months of licensure. For the second six months they are only allowed three passengers under the age of twenty.
- It is illegal for anyone under 18 years old to use a cell phone whether hand-held or hands-free, except to call 911.

Minnesota Statute 171.055 covers teenage driving laws.

Driver's License Updates

Did you know about the law that requires you to update information on your driver's license? An individual who makes an address change, name change by marriage or other updates must apply for an updated license within 30 days of the change. Minnesota Statute 171.11 addresses these instances.

License Plate Tab Renewal 10-day "Grace Period"

Minnesota Statute 168.09 subdivision 4 requires that a vehicle display current tabs ten days after the previous expiration. For example, if you tabs expire July of 2020, you have until August 10th, 2020 to display new tabs. The State allows a ten-day 'grace period' to properly display current registration.

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.](#)



If you have information pertaining to the current whereabouts of any individuals pictured below, please call 507-451-8232. Do NOT confront these individuals.

STEELE COUNTY'S MOST WANTED

LEAH JONES

THEFT



JASON HORNER

DRUGS 3RD DEGREE



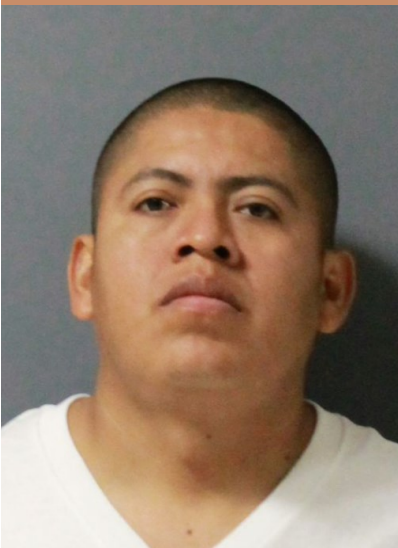
OMAR MORENO JR

1ST DEGREE DAMAGE TO PROPERTY



LUIS ACOSTA

2ND DEGREE CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT



TREREIAS HARRIS

DOMESTIC ASSAULT



DESTINEY WILLAGE-SOLANO

AID & ABET THEFT

