Routine Stop Quickly Goes Awry—

On Thursday morning, just after midnight, an Owatonna officer attempted to stop a vehicle near the intersection of South Elm Avenue and McKinley Street for an equipment violation. The officer initiated the stop, but the operator failed to stop immediately and continued northbound on Elm Avenue. The operator eventually turned to go east on East University Street and then turned into a driveway at 203 East University. The driver immediately exited the vehicle and refused the officer’s request to get back into the vehicle. The driver began walking toward the front door of the residence, asking the officer what his problem was and that he was home. The officer grabbed the driver to control him and was met by resistance—the officer was able to control the driver to the ground and he was secured in handcuffs. While speaking with the driver, the officer noted signs of intoxication—after failed roadside field sobriety tests, he was placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving. The driver was transported to the Steele County Detention Center for further DWI processing. Jon-Erik Ross Meier, age 26, was formally charged with (2) counts of 3rd Degree DWI.

Spring Break Helpful Hints—

The cold weather is still here but relief is coming. With Spring Break beginning for many college students this week and our own OHS in a few weeks, here are some spring break tips from our friends at the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association:

Traveling and Touring—

Remember that some people prey on tourists. Be cautious of what you sign up for or who you trust when you are on spring break, especially in other countries where the laws are different.

Always keep your luggage with you and in your sight. If you must step away, make sure you ask a friend you can trust to keep an eye on your belongings.

Never leave your passport, other forms of ID or money in an unsafe place. It is best to keep this with you at all times.

Never walk alone or get into a vehicle with someone you do not know.

Entertainment—

Keep any beverages with you and in your sight at all times.

Be aware of what you are drinking and how much—alcohol concentrations may be different in other countries.