Just the Facts
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Snow Effects—
Heavy snow fall such as we experienced this past week is really taxing on our roadways and our community members trying to get around. Emergency services experienced the same difficulties responding to the many calls for service we experience resulting from the snowfall as the picture to the right depicts. We’re thankful to this community member who helped free our patrol SUV from deep snow. For the record, during the time period of January 22nd at 6:00 AM to January 25th at 6:00 AM, our officers responded to 13 motor vehicle crashes (some multi-vehicle) and 67 vehicles off the roadway/and or motorist assists. Bring on Spring!!

Police Pursuit Lands one in Jail—
Last Friday evening, one of our officers attempted to stop a vehicle for a driver’s license violation near the intersection of W. Bridge St. and Interstate 35. When he did so, the suspect vehicle began pulling to the side of the road, then suddenly began accelerating away onto the interstate and extinguished its lights. The officer did not pursue as he had a civilian rider in his vehicle, but kept sight of the vehicle and it fled on the interstate. The vehicle exited the interstate and headed east on 26th Street. A back-up officer was positioned in this area and observed the same vehicle, still with no headlights. The driver of the vehicle tried eluding the officer around the area of 26th St and 3rd Ave. NE and finally came to a stop near the Husky Car Wash. From there, the driver exited the vehicle and fled on foot. A foot chase ensued and the suspect was eventually apprehended when a pursuing officer deployed a Taser device. The driver was arrested and was showing signs of intoxication and was found in possession of presumptive methamphetamine. Chad A. Griffen, age 36, of New Richland was formally charged with Fleeing in a Motor Vehicle, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, 2nd Degree DWI-refusal to Test and Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot. Griffen told officers he ran because he didn’t want to go to jail again.

In Honor of a Fallen Officer—
On Wednesday, Captain Jeff Mundale and Patrol Administrative Technician Pam Roberts spent the day representing the Owatonna Police Department at the Wenger Corporation Health Fair. The duo talked and handed out pamphlets on crime prevention and traffic safety concepts. They also brought along a distracted driving simulator that enabled Wenger employees to participate in a practical scenario that displayed perils of texting and driving.

More Snow Troubles—
On Monday evening, our officers responded to a fight at the Hospitality House, 250 E. Main St. The responding offices learned a dispute took place between two residents over clearing snow. It turns out one of the residents took all of the shovels to make some cash shoveling snow. Another resident was snow blowing at the home and ran out of gas; to finish, he went to use a shovel and found them missing. A confrontation and name calling ensued which led the resident looking for a shovel to grab the other resident by the throat and punch him in the face multiple times. Alan M. Greiner, age 38, of Kenyon was arrested and jailed—he has been formally charged with two counts of Domestic Abuse—both gross misdemeanors.

Cops in the Community—
On Wednesday, Captain Jeff Mundale and Patrol Administrative Technician Pam Roberts spent the day representing the Owatonna Police Department at the Wenger Corporation Health Fair. The duo talked and handed out pamphlets on crime prevention and traffic safety concepts. They also brought along a distracted driving simulator that enabled Wenger employees to participate in a practical scenario that displayed perils of texting and driving.