Not a Very Merry Christmas Eve—

On Christmas Eve, an Owatonna officer on routine patrol ran a license plate on a vehicle out near the Owatonna airport. The license plate check came back that the registered owner of the vehicle was wanted out of Rice County on a felony warrant. The vehicle was stopped and the registered owner was found in the car; he was arrested without incident. The car was occupied by a second person, the driver’s daughter and she was also found to be wanted on a felony warrant; she too was arrested without incident. While searching the vehicle, an officer uncovered a Sharpie permanent marker that been altered to create a cavity within the marker housing. Inside the housing, the officer found a baggie which contained 2.7 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine. In an interview, the driver admitted ownership of the marker. When the female passenger was taken to the jail, her purse and contents were searched. Inside the purse, a container was found that contained trace amounts of methamphetamine and a pipe. The driver, William A. Thomas, age 48, was formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. The passenger, Colleen M. Thomas, age 24, was formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Ice Safety—

The time is getting closer for what many of us thought may not happen this winter—ice fishing season. Many ice anglers are making last minute preparations to drag their ice shanties onto an area lake, or to make a trip up north to many of the state’s iconic fisheries. Before making that trip or even considering venturing out on a frozen lake, the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presents an illustration for recommended ice thickness for safe travel. Already this year, two ice fishermen died in neighboring Wisconsin after falling through thin ice and four snowmobilers went through thin ice in central Minnesota. For more information on ice safety, the MN DNR has created a web page with all the information you’ll need to keep you safe while enjoying your on-ice activities.