Child Predators Caught—
Detectives from the Owatonna Police Department, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), the SCDIU Violent Crimes Enforcement Team (VCET) and local partners from Waseca and Blooming Prairie PD—all members of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force—developed an undercover sting to identify individuals using on-line forums that were targeting 14 year old children for sex; then making arrangements to meet the alleged children (male or female). The two day investigation netted alarming results. Four of five suspects, listed above, were arrested after coming to Owatonna and stopping at a known address with intent to commit Attempted 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Assault and Solicit a Child or Believe to be a Child in Person or Internet Sexual Conduct—both felonies. The fifth suspect was arrested in Worthington and will be charged in another jurisdiction with Solicit a Child or Believe to be a Child in Person or Internet Sexual Conduct.

Beware of Counterfeit Money
Counterfeit bills in cash denominations of 20’s, 50’s and 100 dollar bills have been showing up at local convenient stores this past week. Retailers have been successful detecting the counterfeit bills with a counterfeit pen. On November 10th, Ernest Moore, 54, of Minneapolis, was arrested and charged with a gross misdemeanor Uttering or Possessing Counterfeit Currency as he was attempting to purchase lottery tickets from Holiday Gas Station with three (3) fifty dollar bills. In his wallet, Moore had a total of $850.00 in $50 denominations. Retailers should remain suspicious if cash currency doesn’t look or feel right. In addition, retailers should be suspicious if a person passes a large bill for a small purchase, i.e. a $100 bill for a bag of chips. Counterfeit pens are a reliable and quick method to check for counterfeit bills. For additional resources and visual images on how to identify counterfeit money, click here.

Lost or Stolen Cell Phone?
Cell phone technology and the App called Lookout Mobile Security assisted an Officer locate and identify a stolen cell phone. On November 8th, a citizen reported her Samsung Galaxy 5 cell phone was stolen by an unknown person. The citizen stated she enabled the App which takes a cell phone picture of the suspect while attempting to open or enter a passcode. The picture of the suspect was then sent to the owner’s e-mail address. The police officer investigating the matter recognized the suspect as Amber Lynn Brockmiller. Brockmiller was eventually found and served a citation for theft while in custody awaiting her arraignment on a 1st degree controlled substance [Methamphetamine] charge from a November 14th traffic arrest.