**Just the Facts**

**August 30, 2019**

**Volume 10, Issue 35**

**Back in Session—**

The 2019 Steele County Fair is in the rearview mirror and soon our local high school sports teams will be taking to the field, pitch or other sporting venues. It also means that millions of children across the country will be boarding school buses at the beginning and end of each day. As drivers, it’s crucial to understand the motor vehicle laws when approaching a school bus in these situations. In Minnesota:

- Drivers are required to stop at least 20-feet from a school bus displaying flashing red lights and stop arm.
- The vehicle driver shall not allow the vehicle to move until the school bus stop arm is retracted and the red lights are no longer flashing.
- No person may pass or attempt to pass a school bus in a motor vehicle in the right-hand, passenger’s side of the bus when the school bus is displaying the pre-warning flashing amber signals.
- Drivers operating on a separated roadway (divided by a safety island or safety zone) are not required to stop their vehicle when approaching or meeting a school bus that is on a different roadway.

Penalties for violators can either be a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.

**Meth Arrests Continue—**

Last Wednesday, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) culminated an on-going investigation with the arrest of several individuals. During the late morning hours, agents, Owatonna Police Department officers and a canine team with the Minnesota State Patrol executed a search warrant at 216 Hobart St. Upon entering the residence, agents were met by a group of four people that were sitting around a table that contained methamphetamine, marijuana and paraphernalia—there was still smoke of some type lingering in the air. These four were later arrested along with the resident of the home. In addition, agents searched a safe that was in the resident’s bedroom. The safe contained 350.44 grams of methamphetamine, a large amount of cash and dozens of plastic baggies. Brennen Millhouse, 19 of Albert Lea, Kierra Hoisington, 18 of Faribault, Brett Baumeister, 22 of Faribault and Tosha Nielson, 32 of Albert Lea have all been charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Nicholas Balfe, age 43 of Owatonna, has been charged with 1st Degree Possession of Methamphetamine.

**216 Hobart, Continued…**

Related to the investigation at 216 Hobart, a vehicle was seen leaving this residence and was stopped for a moving violation. A MN State Patrol K9 conducted a narcotics sniff on the car and alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered 11.72 grams of presumptive methamphetamine and paraphernalia. The driver of this car, Katrina Schoenecker, 33 of Lakeville, was arrested and has been charged with 3rd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

**216 Hobart, Continued…**

Also related the Hobart investigation, an Owatonna officer stopped another vehicle seen leaving the Hobart residence, or rather, this car stopped on its own because the driver admitted to not wanting to get pulled over. The State Patrol K9 also conducted a sniff on this vehicle and alerted to the possession of narcotics, but not before the driver uttered that there were a lot of drugs in the car. A search of the vehicle revealed 30.5 grams of presumptive methamphetamine. The driver, Shannan Mitchell, 37 of Owatonna, has been charged with 2nd Degree Possession of Methamphetamine.