Domestic Violence Felonies—

On Wednesday afternoon, our officers were called to the Owatonna Hospital Emergency Department for the report of a domestic assault. The responding officer learned an assault had taken place the previous evening and the victim was now seeking treatment. The victim reported being in an abusive situation for the past six months. The victim reported being awakened to her attacker hitting her face with a closed fist. The suspect allegedly told the victim to shut up or he would slice her; he had a knife and had cut her stomach. The victim also reported getting treatment the day prior for a broken nose caused by the suspect. Officers observed the victim with a black eye and swelling, a cut lip and scratch on her stomach. Officers located the suspect at a residence on Cedardale Dr. and placed him under arrest. Jose Arriaga, age of 47 of Owatonna, has been charged with 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, 3rd Degree Assault—both felonies and (2) counts of Domestic Abuse—both gross misdemeanors.

Cops in the Community—

This past week, three of our patrol officers, Ben Metcalf, Travis Ardolf and John Van Alstine, visited with bus drivers of the Owatonna Bus Company to do some training and talk about school bus stop arm violations. We continue to see stop arm violations occur and we’ll take this opportunity to again express the need for the motoring public to be aware of loading and unloading school buses and their requirement to stop at least 20-feet from a school bus displaying flashing red lights and an extended stop arm.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery and Arrest—

Last Saturday, our office fielded the report of a vehicle stolen while left warming up and unattended. A day earlier, a stolen vehicle had been recovered on Rosewood Drive; however, the thief was not located. On a hunch, a patrol sergeant went back to the Rosewood Drive area, and sure enough, the newly reported vehicle was located. Officers checked a home believing it may be associated with the stolen vehicle and in doing so, observed a male run from a back door. The officer lost sight of the male, but not his footprints left in the newly fallen snow. The trail of bread crumbs led to another home where officers located the suspect in a back bedroom where he was arrested and later jailed. In an interview with a witness, the arrested suspect was identified driving the stolen vehicle. A later search of the home the suspect ran from led to the discovery of the stolen vehicle’s keys. At the jail, the suspect was found in possession of presumptive positive methamphetamine. Shayne Bowers, age 30 of Fairbault, has been charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot. Bowers remains under investigation for the other recovered stolen vehicle and for stolen property located in the most recent stolen vehicle.