



THE OWATONNA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
EST. 1909

The Owatonna Police Department is dedicated to providing a safe and secure community through partnerships, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Policing excellence through our People, our Work, and our Relationships

# Just the Facts

May 7, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 20

## Criminal Sexual Assault—

On Monday, our child protection investigator began a case of a child reporting sexual abuse—it was alleged a significant family acquaintance had exposed himself and told the child he wanted more than their current relationship. Text messages and an inappropriate picture were found on the suspect’s phone by family members. In an interview with the child, the child reported the suspect had exposed himself and made inappropriate suggestive sexual comments in person and via a social media app. Later that afternoon, investigators met with the suspect and placed him under arrest. In an interview, he admitted to sending messages but said, *over there in our countries it [was] normal conversation [sic]*. Erick Mendoza, age 40 of Owatonna, has been charged with Soliciting a Child into Sexual Conduct, Soliciting a Child Through Electronic Communication to Engage in Sexual Conduct and 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.



Erick Mendoza

## Department News—

Saturday will mark the end of a long law enforcement career as we say good-bye to retiring friend and Officer Todd Schwanke. Todd has had

a remarkable public service career, serving as a deputy and sergeant with the Steele County Sheriff’s Office, the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs Police Department and since April of 2019, as an officer with the Owatonna Police Department. Todd is also a retired 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant with the U.S. Army and a veteran of three active overseas deployments. Though Todd was with us for only a couple years, the department and community as a whole are quite fortunate Todd chose to come back to Owatonna to close out his law enforcement career. Todd, we wish you well in retirement, you’ve earned it!

## Distracted Driving is Dangerous Driving—

- More than 39,000 crashes were distracted driving-related from 2016-2020, contributing to one in nine crashes in Minnesota.
- In 2020, distracted driving contributed to 2,612 injuries and 29 deaths.
- Distracted driving contributes to 11 % of crashes in Minnesota.

Distracted Driving	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Fatalities	41	24	29	32	29	155
Serious Injuries	254	218	179	149	160	960

## Domestic Violence Arrest—

Last Friday afternoon, patrol officers were called to 1120 East School Street for a disturbance complaint. Our officers also received a second call indicating a family member needed the police. On arrival, officers met with a female victim. She was bleeding from her top lip and was indicating she was not okay. The victim alleged an argument started over family issues and she was pushed. She told the male suspect to not touch her and pushed the male back. The male allegedly started swinging at the victim, punching her in the face five to six times. The suspect was arrested on scene and jailed. Jamie Jeffries, age 26 of Owatonna, has been charged with two counts of domestic assault—misdemeanors.



Jamie Jeffries

## Our Team

### Administration

Police Chief Keith Hiller  
Captain Eric Rethemeier  
Captain Jeff Mundale

### Sergeants

Jason Petterson  
Andy DeVinny  
Andy Drenth  
Josh Sorensen  
Tracy DuChene  
Jason Matejcek  
Zack Schumaker

### Detectives

Brady Vaith  
Christian Berg  
Ben Johnson  
Steven Bowman  
Valerie Satre  
Travis Ardolf

### Patrol Officers

Joel Hunt  
Matt Deltjenbruns  
Andrew Van Osdale  
Melissa Michael  
Alan Callahan  
Derrick Quinlan  
Alexandra Vogel  
Casey Martin  
Luke Selvik  
Travis Johnson  
Benjamin Metcalf  
Joshua Lee  
Todd Schwanke  
Anna Martin  
Zachary Plein  
John Van Alstine  
Jeremy Katz  
Brandon Fandel  
Michael Brein  
Anthony Malepsy

### Community Service Officers

Brian Shaw  
Gabrielle Flemming  
Julia Hansen

### Canine

Vegas

### Support Staff

Kimberly Dub  
Pam Roberts  
Wendy Gasner

### Chaplains

Brent Carlson  
Nancy Deetz  
Loren Olson

### Reserve Officers

Michael Leyva  
Bill Traetow  
Julia Hansen  
Steve Wrede  
Gabrielle Flemming  
Osbeida Aguilar  
Asberry Thoreson  
Maddie Ziegler

### Records Staff

Kate Schroeder  
Renee Babcock  
Rebecca Melchert  
ShaLee Ebertowski