Dynamic Duo Arrested for Theft—

Back on December 19th, the Owatonna Police Department was called to Target for a shoplifting complaint that was in progress. The responding officers were told that two suspects were currently in the store and were using a magnetic device to unlock spider wire security devices. Officers met with Target loss prevention personnel and learned that the suspects had taken several cellular telephones and a set of head phones from the rack and had removed the spider wire from the boxes. They were told that it appeared one of the suspects was acting as a lookout as the other removed the spider wire. The officers went to the loss prevention office and watched the suspects on surveillance cameras. They observed one of the suspects remove a magnetic unlocking device from his pants and remove spider wire from a gaming device. The suspects then placed a large television inside a cart and carried another toward the front of the store. The suspects exited the store with the goods without paying for them. Officers confronted the duo in the parking lot and one began to flee on foot; she was caught after a brief foot pursuit. Both parties were arrested and brought to the Steele County Detention Center. During an interview, the female suspect admitted to the theft and produced a magnetic unlocking device she had concealed in her shirt. Yahshanna S. Brazelton, age 22 and Keenan D. Harris, age 22, were formally charged with Theft and Conspiracy to Commit Theft—both felonies. The pair attempted to shoplift $2,577.93 in property from Target and have also been linked to thefts from the Medford Mall and the Twin Cities Metro area. A search warrant was later served on their car where numerous items were seized that are believed to be stolen.

Department News—

This past week, two of our detectives, Andy Drenth and Joel Hunt, were awarded written commendations from the Faribault Police Department for assisting in investigations that occurred in the Faribault Police Department’s jurisdictions. Detective Drenth was commended for assisting the Faribault Police Department in May with a successful investigation that focused on a local Faribault business that was illegally selling synthetic marijuana. The investigation lead to an arrest, charges and the removal of dangerous criminal activity from the Faribault community. Detective Hunt was commended for assisting the Faribault Police Department in April in a violent domestic abuse investigation, resulting in the saving of a human life, successful security of multiple crime scenes and coordinated efforts which led to the swift capture of a violent felon.

Alcohol Compliance Checks—

Toward the end of November and the middle of December, Detective Terrence Flynn coordinated alcohol compliance checks on local off-sale and on-sale liquor establishments. Compliance checks are completed randomly throughout the year as a tool to identify establishments that sell alcohol to underage youth. The purpose of the checks are twofold—to enforce state statutes and local ordinances and to identify, warn, and educate establishments that serve or sell alcohol to underage youth. During this wave of checks, with the use of two underage operatives, forty-one establishments were checked and all but one were found to be in compliance, Andiamo Italian Ristorante—charges are pending on the server who served the underage operatives. The Owatonna Police Department has been conducting alcohol compliance checks since 1999. This is another example of the department’s ongoing cooperative efforts with the Steele County Safe & Drug Free Coalition.