Can I Take Your Order?

On Sunday afternoon Owatonna officers were called to Cabela’s for the report of in-progress shoplifters. Responding officers were advised that Cabela’s loss prevention officers were currently monitoring two females via surveillance cameras that were suspects in previous shoplifting incidents at the store—loss prevention had observed them on this date concealing North Face jackets in a purse.

An Owatonna officer arrived on scene as one of the suspects was exiting the store and she was placed under arrest. The officer observed she had a winter jacket with Cabela’s tags concealed under the jacket she was wearing. In an interview with the officer, the suspect admitted to coming to the store to steal the jackets. She admitted she steals the jackets to sell on the street in north Minneapolis and that she also takes orders from people on what they want her to steal. Edlixis S. Champion, age 28, was jailed and later formally charged with theft—a gross misdemeanor. A search warrant was also served on Champion’s vehicle and many items of property believed to be stolen were seized. This investigation remains on-going.

Toward Zero Deaths—

To keep motorists and memories safe this holiday season, law enforcement across the state will be on the lookout for drunk drivers. The extra enforcement campaign began November 26th and runs on weekends through December 27th and includes the Owatonna Police Department. Crashes involving drunk drivers have lasting effects on survivors and their families; 17 people suffered life-changing injuries in crashes involving an impaired driver during the Thanksgiving holiday period the last three years. During that same three year period, 1,624 drivers were arrested for DWI. Locally during this year’s Thanksgiving holiday, one driver was arrested for DWI by Owatonna officers.

Tips to Prevent Drunk Driving

- Plan for a safe ride – designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation or stay at the location of the celebration.
- Offer to be a designated driver, or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere.
- Buckle up – the best defense against a drunk driver.
- Report drunk driving – call 911 when witnessing drunk driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

SCDUI News—

The South Central Drug Investigations Unit (SCDIU) has never really had a home to call their own—until now. City crews started a project two weeks ago at the law Enforcement center to convert space in the lower level into office space for SCDIU agents to headquarter in Owatonna. The project is expected to be completed by the first of the year and should increase efficiencies in coordinating multi-jurisdictional investigations.