The daily packages delivered to this writer’s front porch this week served as a good reminder that many of us take advantage of the convenience of online shopping. In fact, according to Adobe Analytics, Cyber Monday shoppers spent an estimated 9.4 billion online. Packages left at the front door open the door of opportunity for porch pirates to help themselves to your purchases. What can you do to protect yourself from being victimized by a crime of opportunity? The simple answer is to avoid the opportunity all together and do your shopping in person—but let’s stop kidding ourselves, online shopping has become a way of life, so consider these tips:

- If you can, have your packages delivered to your workplace or office
- Require a signature for delivery
- If you’re not going to be home, reroute or reschedule delivery
- Have the package delivered to a friend or neighbor you know will be home
- Sign up for delivery notifications so you’ll be notified as soon as the package arrives and can secure it
- If you’ll be away, have delivery held by the carrier
- Consider installing an obvious security camera to deter a thief

SCDIU Drug Investigation Arrest—

In April, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) was contacted by an informant about a male selling cocaine. A deal was brokered and the informant bought approximately ¼ ounce of cocaine from the suspect in the downtown area. A few days later, the same SCDIU agents and the informant arranged a second deal in the parking lot of the Owatonna Hospital where approximately ½ ounce of cocaine was bought from the suspect. This past week, the suspect was spotted in a car by the SCDIU case agent in charge of this case—the suspect was stopped and arrested by an Owatonna uniformed officer. Henry Fox, age 36 of Owatonna, has been charged with 1st Degree Sale of Cocaine and Driving after Revocation. The vehicle driven by Fox at the time of his arrest, a 2014 Ford Fusion, has been seized and is subject to forfeiture for being used in the second drug sale.

Good Luck Sean—

As you read this Officer Sean Cooper will be working his last shift as an Owatonna police officer. Sean has been with the department since 2007 and has served as a patrol officer, field training officer and as a detective and SCDIU agent. Sean will be taking his talents to Olmstead County where he will become a sheriff’s deputy. We wish Sean the best of luck!

Georgia Trucker Charged with Felony—

Last Friday evening, Owatonna officers were called to Viracon for the report of a trucker hitting his girlfriend. Officers located the female victim inside a Viracon building holding her head and trying to catch her breath. The victim reported she was struck in the head and stomach. She tried running from the suspect, but was caught when she fell. That suspect picked her up and slammed her to the ground, choked and then continued to slam her head into the concrete. Viracon staff intervened and the male walked off. Officers searched the suspect’s semi-tractor and discovered the male hiding under some blankets in the sleeper berth—he was placed under arrest. The victim suffered visible injuries to her head and stomach from the assault. David Thornton, age 26 of Albany, Georgia, has been charged with Felony Domestic Assault by Strangulation, Domestic Assault Causing Bodily Injury, Domestic Assault Causing Fear and Violating an Order for Protection.

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