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(Neb.)- Chadron Police Make Arrest In Wal-Mart Theft



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 06/13/2013 03:55 PM

(Chadron)-On Tuesday, June 11, at approximately 2:45 p.m., the Chadron Police Department received a call from Wal-Mart regarding a theft by shoplifting in progress. The suspect in the store was identified by Wal-Mart employees as possibly matching a description of a male subject who attempted to shoplift \$1500.00 worth of merchandise back in November 2012, but fled from the store before law enforcement could arrive.

As a result of this call and information from Wal-Mart employees, Chadron Police Officers, Dawes County Deputies and the Nebraska State Patrol Troopers responded to Wal-Mart and set up surveillance and monitored the activity of the suspect inside the store, while working closely with Wal-Mart staff. During the surveillance other suspects were identified and subsequently left the store and were apprehended by law enforcement in the parking lot.

The suspects were brought to the Chadron Police Department and search warrants were obtained to seize and search the vehicle the suspects were using as well as the suspect's personal belongings. As a result of the search, items were recovered that were suspected as being shoplifted from Wal-Mart and valued at \$622.67.

Items recovered from the vehicle and two of the suspect purses were jewelry, makeup, clothing, water bottle, purses, bags, earrings, DVD's, cell phones, suspect marijuana, Band-Aids, toothpaste, sunglasses and shoes. During the course of the investigation the suspects also abandoned another shopping chart inside Wal-Mart with similar items as found in the vehicle, which totaled \$897.18.

Michael Merrival (age 33), Kandis Little (age 24), and Katie Little (age 19), all of Pine Ridge, South Dakota were placed under arrest as a result of this investigation and are being held in the Dawes County Jail for Theft by Shoplifting (Class IV Felony) and Conspiracy to Commit Theft by Shoplifting (Class IV Felony) with a total value of property at \$1519.85. Bond was set at 10% of \$25,000 for each of the suspects.

Sergeant Loutzenhiser says “This was a good team effort between Wal-Mart employees and local law enforcement. We really want to express our thanks to the employees of Wal-Mart for their assistance and cooperation during this investigation. This types of crime, such as shoplifting, and the resulting monetary loses to retail stores are typically transferred back to consumers.” The Dawes County Sheriff’s Office, Nebraska State Patrol, and the Dawes County Attorney’s Office assisted with this investigation.