**Two charged in prostitution sting**

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NEW ULM – A 32-year-old New Ulm man and a 25-year-old Garretson, S.D. man were charged Tuesday with felony prostitution in Brown County District Court.

Ryan D. Schultz, 811 10th St. North, New Ulm; and Matthew J. Brands of Garretson were arrested in a New Ulm sex sting Aug. 11 and 12 involving the Brown County and Nicollet County Sheriff’s Office and the Mankato Department of Public Safety.

The men were among eight people – five men and three women – arrested for various crimes in the sex sting. New Ulm City Attorney Roger Hippert said his office received reports on the other six suspects late Tuesday afternoon. Misdemeanor charges on the remaining suspects may be filed on Wednesday.

On Friday, area law enforcement agencies used a New Ulm apartment to conduct the sex sting. An advertisement was placed on Craig’s List Casual Encounters that stated an 18-year-old female who was “into older guys” was looking for fun, according to court documents.

There was an overwhelming response to the advertisement. “We couldn’t keep up after doing the Craig’s List stuff. We had more than 100 calls in two days,” said New Ulm Police Senior Investigator Jeff Hohensee. “We clearly stated the female was 16 years old when we communicated with people. Some of the people who contacted us said they wouldn’t come to New Ulm because they knew stings happen here.”

One of the responses came from a phone number later determined to belong to Schultz. He stated he was a white, fit, drug- and disease-free 30-year-old male. In one of the messages, an investigator told Schultz that she loves a specific sex act and marijuana, according to court documents.

Schultz replied he can provide both. The investigator then gave Schultz an undercover phone number.

The investigator stated they were 16 and asked Schultz if he could buy alcohol. Schultz replied that he could provide both and agreed to pay $160 for the sex act.

Schultz agreed to pick up the investigator and arrived at 8:53 p.m. in a white 2011 Chevy pickup truck. A female officer went on the balcony and asked Schultz if he wanted to come in. Schultz said he did not, told her to get in his truck and was arrested and taken to jail. Law enforcement took $160 in cash from Schultz’ pocket.

Brands informed an investigator he was driving from Garretson, S.D. to New Ulm (a 145-mile trip) to have sex for $150. He was driving a 2008 Pontiac Grand Prix with a South Dakota license plate when he arrived at the apartment earlier agreed upon and arrested without incident. Law enforcement removed $160 from his front pocket.

Brands’ vehicle smelled of marijuana and was transported to the New Ulm Police Impound lot.

Brands and Schultz are being held in the Brown County Jail.

Schultz is scheduled to appear in court at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 30. Brands is scheduled to appear at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 6.

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