



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

---

**From:** Sergeant Donna Black  
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

**Re:** Royal Highlands Appliance Thief Caught

**Date:** March 18, 2010

**Case#:** 2010-10636 & 2010-09662

---

**Arrested: MICHAEL ANTHONY LANDER,**  
W/M, DOB 10/20/72, address 4051 Longbranch Ct. Spring Hill



Detectives from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office have apprehended a subject who is believed to be responsible for committing numerous burglaries and thefts of appliances in the Royal Highlands area of Hernando County.

In a proactive initiative to catch the person (s) responsible for the burglaries and thefts, Hernando Deputies placed bright green **WARNING** stickers on houses that were under foreclosure or vacant telling would be thieves that the property may be monitored by GPS tracking devices. As warned, at some of the houses Detectives installed an undetectable tracking device on the appliances. This innovative investigative method paid off on March 16, 2010 when the above listed subject broke into a vacant home at 12080 Sandpiper Ave and removed a refrigerator and stove complete with a GPS tracker.

The device was tracked to **LANDER's** home at 4051 Longbranch Ct. in Spring Hill. Unbeknown to Detectives, **LANDER** had listed the appliances for sale on Craigslist and on March 17<sup>th</sup> a person showed up **LANDER's** residence, purchased a refrigerator and drove away. Detectives were able to confirm that it was the same refrigerator that was stolen from the Sandpiper house because the tracking device lead them to the home of the purchaser, identified as Arthur Craig of 1324 Carlton St. in Spring Hill. Mr. Arthur Craig confirmed that he found the ad for the refrigerator on Craigslist and paid **LANDER** \$225.00 for it. Mr. Craig did not know the refrigerator was stolen and is not involved in any crime. The Detectives removed the stolen refrigerator from Mr. Arthur Craig's property.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Detectives made contact with **LANDER** at his residence and discovered the stove stolen from the house on Sandpiper Ave in **LANDER's** garage. The serial number tag had been taken off the stove which interestingly enough had been recorded by the Detectives when the GPS device was placed in the refrigerator.

**LANDER** admitted to burglarizing approximately 14 residences within the Royal Highland area of Hernando County and specifically targeted kitchen appliances. According to Detectives, **LANDER** said that he was posting and selling the appliances on Craigslist; an online web site used to list items for sale. Detectives said they were told that he solely supported his family by selling appliances for at least the past year. **LANDER** is reportedly cooperating with Detectives and showing them some of the homes he remembers burglarizing.

According to Detective Sergeant Jeff Kraft along with Detectives Ignacio Velez and Mike Little, who has been working on this case, checks of Craigslist lead them to 35 appliances that **LANDER** has listed and sold on the website in just this month alone. The investigation into **LANDER's** involvement in burglaries and thefts in the Royal Highland area is continuing.

The Deputies will continue to tag the vacant and foreclosed home with the **WARNING** stickers and randomly employing the use of the GPS device in appliances. The **WARNING** stickers were supplied by Hernando County Crime Stoppers, Inc in a joint effort to stop the burglaries and thefts in Hernando County.