



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Southwest Florida Water Management District Employee Arrested for Grand Theft and Other Charges

Date: November 22, 2013

On 11-20-13 at approximately 8 p.m., Deputies Dane Jenkins and Lauren Johnson conducted a traffic stop on a silver Chevrolet in the area of Libby Road and Everett Avenue in Spring Hill. Upon making contact with the driver, later determined to be Tyler Scotland, the deputies observed that he was extremely nervous, as his hands were shaking.

Scotland was asked to exit the vehicle. He complied. At this time he advised the deputies that he used to have an addiction to Dilaudid, and used to inject it into his person.

Scotland gave consent to a search of his vehicle. While searching the vehicle, deputies located a white sock containing three syringes and a spoon under the driver's seat. The syringes and spoon field tested positive for opiates.

Post Miranda, Scotland advised he had no knowledge that the items were located inside his vehicle. He told deputies the last time he used drugs was April 2013.

Scotland was placed under arrest for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Before responding to the Detention Center, Deputies Jenkins and Johnson conducted a routine check in one of the databases available to Hernando County Sheriff's Office deputies. The query revealed a very high volume of pawn activity recently conducted by Scotland.

Further investigation revealed over 20 recent pawns at a local pawn shop where laptop computers were involved. Post Miranda, Scotland was questioned regarding the pawn

activity. He told deputies that “he works with computers and just buys and sells them for money, because he is having hard times.”

Deputies asked Scotland where he was employed. He advised that he worked in the Information Technology Department at Southwest Florida Water Management District, and has been employed there since 2008. At that time the deputies immediately became suspicious.

Scotland was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center for the Possession of Paraphernalia charges.

On 11-21-13 Deputy Jenkins contacted a representative from Southwest Florida Water Management District to discuss the matter. It was quickly determined that the laptops that were recently pawned were the property of Southwest Florida Water Management District. The deputies responded to the pawn shop and recovered 14 of the stolen laptops.

It was determined that Scotland had completed all of the transactions over the last month and that he collected a total of \$3,200 for the pawn transactions.

The investigation revealed that between the dates of 07-01-13 and 11-20-13 Scotland was stealing Dell laptops from his employer, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and pawning them at local pawn shops for US currency. There were a total of 23 transactions noted in the pawn records.

The value of each computer is \$1,500, making the total recovered property valued at \$21,000.

Scotland was charged as follows:

- Grand Theft (23 counts)
- Dealing in Stolen Property (23 counts)
- Defrauding a Pawnbroker (14 counts)
- **Total Bond - \$300,000.**