



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Career Criminal Arrested Shortly After Committing Residential Burglary

Date: March 7, 2018

On 03-06-18 at approximately 4 p.m., Hernando County deputies were dispatched to 1451 Newhope Road regarding a Residential Burglary in progress.

Operators in the Emergency Communications Center received a call from a very alert neighbor who reported hearing sounds of glass breaking. When the neighbor looked outside to see where the noise was coming from, he observed the suspect, later identified as Randy Ross, walking away from 1451 Newhope Road, his neighbor's home.

The neighbor then retreated into his own home, only to hear more glass breaking. Upon looking again, he observed the suspect crawling into a window on the west side of the residence.

The neighbor, Eric Ford, then observed Ross walking westbound on Newhope Road, wearing plastic gloves and carrying a hammer in his belt loop. Ross was also carrying a green and blue backpack.

Deputy C. Woodbury made contact with Ross on Newhope Road. At first, Ross was cooperative with Woodbury, conversing and placing the backpack on the hood of the deputy's patrol car.

Suddenly and without warning, Ross decided he no longer wanted to partake in conversation with Woodbury and fled on foot, ignoring Woodbury's commands to stop.

Detectives from the HCSO District Two Office immediately responded to the area to assist in locating Ross. Detective C. Owens spotted Ross running several blocks away and ordered him to stop. Again, Ross ignored the commands of law enforcement.

Owens quickly caught up with Ross and escorted him to the ground. Even while on the ground, Ross continued to attempt to get away from Owens. Detective E. Dunn and Deputy C. Smith arrived and assisted with placing Ross into custody. Ross continued to actively resist arrest. It should be noted that Ross was taken into custody less than 30 minutes after committing the burglary.

Upon interview, Ross admitted to detectives that he used a hammer and a brick to break the window and gain entry into the residence. He admitted entering the residence to steal “merchandise” so he could purchase “meth.” Ross stated that he “uses meth heavily.” Ross also told detectives that he “ditched” the hammer and the gloves while he was fleeing from law enforcement. He later showed them where to locate the items.

Detectives learned that Randy Ross was released from prison on 04-13-17 after serving 15 years for burglaries, dealing in stolen property, and other violent crimes.

Detectives made contact with the victims of the burglary, Joshua and Jenette McGrew. The McGrews both identified items inside the backpack as their personal property. The McGrews advised that the items had been stolen from inside their residence and neither had granted permission to Ross to enter the residence.

Damage to the residence was estimated at approximately \$550.

Additional investigation revealed that Ross has a permanent address in Wesley Chapel and that he is a documented Career Offender.

Randy Doyle Ross W/M DOB/04-09-1970 was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Burglary to Dwelling (enhancement of Traveling Across County Line)
- Possession of Burglary Tools
- Resist Arrest w/o Violence (2 counts)
- Bond - \$19,000.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.