



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Couple Reported to be Passed Out in Vehicle at Gas Pumps

Date: October 9, 2019

On 10-08-19 just before 8 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the Sunoco (convenience store), located at 765 S. Broad Street in Brooksville to investigate a report of two persons passed out, in a vehicle, at the gas pumps.

Having received information that the couple was "passed out," Hernando County Fire Rescue was also dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival, deputies were directed to the persons/vehicle in question by paramedics, who had already made contact with the couple.

The two individuals, identified as Michael Nutt and Bridgette Eisenhart, were standing outside of the vehicle when deputies arrived. Both subjects appeared to be tired but alert enough to answer questions.

The vehicle, a silver Nissan Altima, was still parked in front of the gas pumps. Deputies requested permission to search the vehicle and received consent from both parties.

In addition to drug paraphernalia, deputies located multiple items of clothing (some still had security tags from a major department store attached), and various high-end electronics including an electric gate opener, two Dyson vacuum cleaners, and a Lenovo Desk Computer. All electronic items were still in their original boxes and valued at several thousand dollars.

Both persons were detained.

During a secondary search of the vehicle, deputies located several syringes, a vial, a notebook, and numerous pawn receipts. The substance in the vial field tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine.

Taking into consideration the items located in the vehicle, along with the pawn slips and the contents of the notebook, detectives were able to link both Nutt and Eisenhart to numerous Retail Theft cases from various counties throughout the state.

Deputies transported Nutt and Eisenhart to the District One office in Brooksville.

Upon questioning, Nutt confessed to stealing all of the items that were pawned (by Eisenhart). Nutt told detectives that Eisenhart was pawning the items because he did not have any type of identification, upon being released from jail. Nutt also stated that he really didn't want to pawn the items using his name, as he was well-known for committing Retail Theft and pawning the stolen items.

Nutt went on to say that he and Eisenhart are both addicted to pain medication, and they use the money, usually a few hundred dollars per day, to support their addiction.

Upon questioning, Eisenhart also confessed to her part in the crimes, pawning numerous stolen items for Nutt. Eisenhart told detectives that she never actually stole any of the items, she just sold them at the pawn shops because Nutt did not have identification and was well-known already for stealing and then the pawning items. Eisenhart told detectives she was aware that the items she was pawning were stolen.

Eisenhart confirmed Nutt's statement about being addicted to drugs and using the money to support the addiction.

Both suspects were placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Bridgette Eisenhart DOB/02-25-1987
 - Dealing in Stolen Property (14 counts)
 - Defrauding a Pawn Broker (12 counts)
 - Possession of Paraphernalia
 - Bond - \$132,000
- Michael Nutt DOB/12-04-1986
 - Dealing in Stolen Property (10 counts)
 - Organized Fraud
 - Possession of Paraphernalia
 - Bond - \$52,000.

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, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.