



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Kasey Johnson
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Re: Traffic Stops Lead to Two Drug Arrests – 2023-24682 & 2023-24686

Date: August 3, 2023

On 08-01-2023, at approximately 10:20 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop on the driver of a truck with an inoperable taillight and expired registration, in the area of Broad Street and Wiscon Road in Brooksville.

As deputies approached the vehicle, it was noted both driver and passenger appeared to be very nervous. During the traffic stop, a K-9 deputy responded to the scene and walked around the outside of the vehicle. The K-9 alerted to the presence of narcotics within the truck.

A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a clear plastic bag containing methamphetamine and a glass smoking pipe. After being read his Miranda Rights, the passenger, **Eric Dishner DOB/08-24-1971**, admitted the drugs and pipe belonged to him.

Dishner was placed under arrest for Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where bond was set at \$4,000.

On 08-02-2023, at approximately 12:08 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop on the driver of a vehicle in the area of Commercial Way and Williams Street in Spring Hill.

The driver, identified as **Patrick Pace DOB/03-25-1975**, was unable to provide vehicle registration or proof of insurance, stating the vehicle belonged to his son.

The deputy then conducted a query of the vehicle tag number which revealed the tag was not registered to any vehicle. A search of the vehicle's identification number (VIN) showed the vehicle was not registered to any tag number.

Due to an unregistered vehicle being parked in the roadway, an inventory search of the car was completed which revealed a backpack with three clear plastic baggies, two of which contained a white powdery substance and one which contained a rock-like material and a straw which contained a white powdery substance.

Pace was then detained and read his Miranda Rights. Pace admitted the backpack and all of its contents were his and that both substances were **Fentanyl** which were for his own personal use.

Pace was placed under arrest and charged with **Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and given a Criminal Citation for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.**

Pace was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where bond was set at \$3,500.

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 was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.