



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Jessica Burns
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: Narcotics Trafficking Arrest Made After Suspect Discards Drugs During Traffic Stop – 2025-00360941

Date: December 12, 2025

On 12-09-2025, Detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit were conducting proactive patrol when they observed a red SUV at the 7-Eleven gas station located at 15310 Cortez Boulevard. Detectives positively identified the driver as **Kenneth Harbaugh DOB/10-09-1993**, and confirmed his driver license was suspended. Further investigation revealed Harbaugh had six prior convictions for Driving While License Suspended or Revoked.

As Harbaugh exited the parking lot and traveled eastbound on Wiscon Road, Detectives attempted a traffic stop. Harbaugh slowed to a low rate of speed but failed to immediately stop.

During the attempted stop, the vehicle briefly left the roadway, at which time Detectives observed two small clear plastic baggies being thrown from the front passenger window. The vehicle ultimately came to rest in front of a business located at 15436 Wiscon Road, where Harbaugh was removed from the vehicle and taken into custody without further incident.

Detectives recovered the discarded baggies from the grass, which were found to contain a white crystal substance. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed additional narcotics and drug paraphernalia, including a zipper pouch containing a rolled fictitious \$20 bill concealing a small baggie of white powder, numerous used syringes, Suboxone sublingual strips, and a clear baggie containing a green leafy substance. Harbaugh was also found to be in possession of six additional fictitious bills, which were below the statutory threshold for a criminal charge.

Testing later identified the narcotics as 22.9 grams of methamphetamine, 0.6 grams of cocaine, and 7.1 grams of marijuana.

Further investigation determined Harbaugh was currently on felony probation stemming from a prior Hernando County case for Fleeing to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer. As a result, Harbaugh was additionally arrested for Violation of Probation.

Harbaugh was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center, where he was held on a **NO BOND** status pending first appearance due to the trafficking charge.

CHARGES:

- **Trafficking in Methamphetamine**
- **Possession of Cocaine**
- **Possession of Suboxone**
- **Tampering with Physical Evidence**
- **Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Law Enforcement Officer**
- **Possession of Marijuana Less Than 20 Grams**
- **Driving While License Suspended or Revoked**



Kenneth Harbaugh

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!