

# Sumter County

# Sheriff's Office

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## Man Arrested in Stolen Checks Case

On 01/04/17, the Lady Lake Police Department and Sumter County Sheriff's Detectives executed a Sumter County arrest warrant charging a Lady Lake man with multiple felony charges of fraud and theft. Mark Dwayne Guemle, 47, was taken into custody at his residence. Guemle is charged with stealing over \$32,000 from a 77 year-old retired Navy veteran who employed Guemle to perform lawn care and handyman work.

The victim, a resident of The Villages in Sumter County, discovered in November 2016 his checking account had been drained of all but \$4.33. The victim's bank found nearly fifty of his checks, sequentially numbered, made payable to Guemle, and totaling over \$32,000, had been cashed between March and November 2016. The victim later discovered a number of checks had been stolen from his residence, and contacted the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

The victim denied having written the questioned checks, and stated he usually paid Guemle in cash. The victim further denied Guemle had done any work which remotely justified payment of over \$32,000. Investigation by financial crimes detectives confirmed all of the stolen checks were cashed by Guemle, and a warrant was obtained for his arrest. When taken into custody, Guemle admitted having fraudulently cashed the victim's checks, stating he stole them because he was experiencing financial difficulty.

Guemle was charged with Grand Theft From Persons 65 or Older, Fraudulent Use of Personal ID Information > \$5,000, Felony Petit Theft, and Uttering a Forged Instrument. Guemle is currently being held in the Lake County Jail on \$32,000 bond.

###END###

