



SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER JR.,
SHERIFF

7361 Powell Rd
Wildwood, FL 34785
www.sumtercountysheriff.org



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact Person
Michelle Keszey
Media Relations
Office: (352) 569-1669
Cell: (352) 254-0446
Email: mkeszey@sumtercountysheriff.org

Chop Shop Investigation

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office received information from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office regarding a vehicle stolen from their jurisdiction, on January 11, 2018, from Lacoochee, FL. Investigators learned that the stolen vehicle had later been seen at 13154 CR 727, Tarrytown within Sumter County, FL. That location was believed to be operating as a chop shop for stolen vehicles. Surveillance of the property uncovered numerous vehicles at that location in various points of disassembly.

On February 2, 2018, Sumter County Sheriff's Detectives responded to the address ultimately locating a stolen Toyota Camry from Pasco County. Detectives observed the suspects working on vehicles in the yard; the suspects were later identified as Phillip Dewayne Scott Sr., Phillip Dewayne Scott Jr., and Nichole Marie Scott. At that point, a search warrant was sought for the entire premises. While executing the search warrant detectives observed what appeared to be a very meticulous operation, the vehicles were dismantled with particular attention paid to the destruction of identifying parts and property. Detectives observed numerous small fires around the property each containing automotive components. The stolen vehicle from Pasco County was found upside down on its roof and completely stripped of interior components, including the motor and transmission. Many of the components from that vehicle had already been removed



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from the premises.

Further inspection of the premises revealed rodent activity inside the home where children were present. Numerous environmental hazards were present, some of which included an open septic tank, glass and metal shards throughout the entire property, boards with rusted nails and other hidden dangers often associated with the operation of a chop shop. The Department of Children and Families was contacted regarding the well-being of the children at the home. Detectives are still investigating and more charges are anticipated.

Subsequently, deputies arrested Phillip Dewayne Scott Sr, Phillip Dewayne Scott Jr, and Nichole Marie Scott and charged them as follows:

Phillip Dewayne Scott Sr.

- 1 CT-Vehicle Theft-Grand Theft of motor vehicle
- 1 CT-Larc-Petit Theft 2nd degree 1st offense
- 2 CTS-Child Neglect

Phillip Dewayne Scott Jr.

- 1 CT-Vehicle Theft-Grand Theft of motor vehicle
- 1 CT- Possession of Marijuana

Nichole Marie Scott

- 2 CTS-Child Neglect

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