



SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Arrest - Murder Investigation

On December 30th 2018, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office was contacted by the Melbourne Police Department and informed of an active death investigation occurring within their jurisdiction. The preliminary investigation revealed that the dismembered body of a male had been discovered inside of a camper trailer located at Wickham Park Campground in Melbourne. The cause of death was subsequently determined to be homicide due to blunt force trauma. The medical examiner identified the murder victim as Anthony Franklin Mitchell (55 years of age).

The investigation revealed that Anthony Mitchell moved to the Lake Panasoffkee RV Village in Sumter County in early August 2018 and that he was residing with his girlfriend Penny Rebecca Pospisil (47 years of age). The victim's family last spoke with him on August 22nd 2018 and it was shortly after that time that detectives learned that Rebecca Pospisil had started informing friends, family and neighbors that Anthony Mitchell had passed away. The investigation also revealed that persons within the Lake Panasoffkee RV Village noticed a foul odor coming from Mitchell and Pospisil's camper trailer.



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Detectives from the Melbourne Police Department learned that Penny Pospisil had moved the camper trailer from Lake Panasoffkee, Florida to Melbourne Florida near the end of September 2018. Upon arrival in Melbourne, witnesses reported a foul odor coming from the camper trailer and no witnesses at Wickham Park Campground in Melbourne ever reported seeing the victim.

The Melbourne Police Department obtained a search warrant for the camper trailer after being called to Wickham Park on December 30th 2018 for a well-being check since no one had seen Penny Pospisil and her lot fee was overdue. Upon their arrival, officers noted a foul odor coming from the trailer and ultimately discovered Anthony Mitchell's dismembered body in the advanced stages of decomposition.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Melbourne Police Department worked closely together throughout the investigation and it was ultimately determined that Mitchell's murder occurred around August 23rd 2018 in Lake Panasoffkee, Sumter County, Florida.

The investigation revealed that Penny Pospisil, has in the time since Anthony Mitchell's death, dismembered his body inside of the camper trailer and undertaken significant steps to cover up the crime as well as the decomposing remains left behind.

On today's date, detectives from the Sumter County Sheriff's Office worked in a coordinated effort with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office to conduct surveillance on a home believed to be Penny Pospisil's residence. During that surveillance, deputies observed Penny Rebecca Pospisil exit the residence at which time she was arrested on a Sumter County Warrant for 2nd Degree Murder and Abuse of a Dead Human Body. She was booked into the Brevard County Jail where she is being held without bond.

The Sheriff's Office is asking that if you have any information regarding this murder investigation please contact Detective John Knight at (352)-569-1600. ###