



SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST



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Career Criminal Arrested After Counterfeiting Crime Spree

(Citrus County) A counterfeit money trail led a local woman straight to jail. Teresa Hare, 46, from Inverness, faces multiple fraud charges after using numerous fake bills at several local businesses throughout the county.

It all started in May, when several counterfeiting cases started coming into the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. Nine local businesses were claiming someone was buying products with fake money. "She was bleaching and washing lesser bills and then re-printing them to look like 50s and 100s", says Detective Bryan Vick, who was the lead investigator on the case. Deputies were able to identify Ms. Hare after pouring through hours of surveillance video from local businesses. "As soon as we started to see similarities at some of the businesses, we knew it was the same person. We've had several cases involving Ms. Hare and I knew it was her on the video."

Once detectives narrowed in on Hare as the one who was passing the fake bills, the search was on to find her. Hare knew she was wanted on previous warrants for resisting arrest and driving while license suspended.

On Monday, June 26, while Detective Vick was in the area of West Gulf to Lake Highway and South Rock Crusher Road, he observed a white minivan, which matched the description in multiple open fraud cases; turn off Hwy 44 onto Rock Crusher Rd. He was able to determine that the driver was not wearing a seatbelt and stopped the vehicle. A few minutes later while he was talking with the driver, a female occupant in the vehicle got out and started running away. Det. Vick recognized her as Teresa Hare and gave her several verbal commands to stop. She was



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apprehended a short time later and taken to the Citrus County detention facility.

Detective Vick found a small plastic baggie containing methamphetamine inside Hare's purse after she dropped it running from the traffic stop. A K9 deputy and his K9 partner were called out to search the vehicle. Inside they located 30 milliliters of meth inside a syringe and a baggie filled with approximately .4 grams of meth.

Detective Vick later obtained a search warrant for her house. Investigators found laptops, printers, wash solution and shredded money all linking Teresa to these fraud cases.

"Teresa Hare is no stranger to criminal activity", says Major Crimes Sergeant Stephen Conley. "Once this trend was identified, Detective Bryan Vick hit the ground running and through his hard work and motivation, he stopped this individual from victimizing more businesses."

On Monday, Teresa was arrested on several charges:

Scheme to Defraud – 1 count, \$5,000 bond

Uttering Forged Bills- 6 counts, \$12,000 bond

Forgery of a Bank Bill- 6 counts, \$12,000 bond

Possession of a Firearm by a Felon- 1 count, \$10,000

Possession of Methamphetamine- 1 count, \$2,000 bond

Resisting Arrest Without Violence- 2 counts, \$2,000 bond

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia- 1 count, \$1,000 bond

Attach Tag not Assigned- 1 count, \$500 bond

VOP- Fraudulent use of Personal ID, Uttering Forged Instrument, Forgery/altered document- No Bond

VOP- Organized Fraud under \$20,000- No bond

VOP- Possession of Methamphetamine- No bond

FTA- Driving while license suspended- \$4,000 bond

Detectives recommend businesses protect themselves by taking these necessary precautions:



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- **Hold a bill up to a light and look for a hologram of the face image on the bill.** Both images should match. If the \$100 bill has been bleached, the hologram will display an image of Abraham Lincoln, who appears on the \$5 bills, instead of Benjamin Franklin. Looking at the bill through a light will also reveal a thin vertical strip containing text that spells out the bill's denomination.
- **Watermark:** Hold the bill up to a light to view the watermark in an unprinted space to the right of the portrait. The watermark can be seen from both sides of the bill since it is not printed on the bill but is imbedded in the paper.
- **Security Thread:** Hold the bill a light to view the security thread. You will see a thin imbedded strip running from top to bottom on the face of a banknote. In the \$10 and \$50 the security strip is located to the right of the portrait, and in the \$5, \$20 and \$100, it is located just to the left of the portrait.
- **Comparison:** Compare the feel and texture of the paper with other bills you know are authentic.