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PRESS RELEASE

The City of Avon Park Police Department investigated the carjacking of a 1997 Dodge pickup truck that occurred on Sunday August 3rd, 2008 at approximately 2300 hours. The victim, a resident of Dade County was stopped at the Racetrac gas station located at 1625 US 27 South in Avon Park fueling his truck. While at the Racetrac he was approached by a white male who appeared to be in his twenties. The male requested that the victim provide him a ride in his truck north on US 27. The victim provided the male with transportation as a passenger inside the cab of the truck. While traveling north on US 27 the male directed the victim to turn east onto West Bell Street, telling the victim his residence was in that area. When the victim approached the intersection of West Bell Street and South Florida Avenue the male passenger brandished a sharp object and pressed the sharpened object against the victim's abdomen and directed him to get out of the truck or he would penetrate his abdomen with the weapon. The victim stopped the truck and exited the vehicle, while exiting the victim armed himself with a cutting instrument in an attempt to defend himself, at which point the male passenger left the vehicle on foot, taking the vehicle keys with him.

A City of Avon Park uniformed Police Officer was patrolling the area and witnessed the disturbance and made contact with the armed victim. The victim was agitated and surrendered the weapon to law enforcement. Once the weapon was surrendered the victim explained that he had been carjacked and described the direction the male left in. During the attempt to locate the male suspect he returned to the truck with the keys and drove away. The truck was listed as stolen in the national crime database.

The truck was located in Madison County, Florida by Madison County Sheriffs Office where an arrest was made on the driver for the grand theft of the motor vehicle. The driver was identified as W/M Trigg Hess Deweese, 12/20/1979 of 4249 Shad Drive Sebring, Florida. The victim of carjacking identified Deweese as the person responsible for the carjacking. Deweese was also charged with armed carjacking (Life Felony) as a result and is in custody at the Madison County Sheriffs Office Detection Facility without bond awaiting extradition to Highlands County.

It should also be noted that Deweese is currently on felony probation in Highlands County until 2013 for a 2003 home invasion robbery and has an extensive criminal history.

“I would not recommend that any citizen of Highlands County allow persons in their vehicles or homes that they do not know”

Matthew P. Doughney
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