



# **HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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## **PRESS RELEASE: May 8, 2017**

### **Busy weekend for K-9 Deputy Tomblin and partner Remco**

SEBRING -- Highlands County Sheriff's Office K-9 Deputy Cory Tomblin and his partner, Remco, had a busy weekend, assisting in three arrests -- all stemming from traffic violations.

On Saturday night, May 6, Deputy Braxton Herbert was conducting traffic enforcement with Lake Placid Police Department Officer Mitch Cooper at U.S. 27 and Heartland Boulevard. Just after 11 p.m., Cooper clocked a car at 64 mph in a 50 mph zone. When Herbert tried to stop the car at Tower Street, it instead fled through a parking lot and eventually stopped on County Road 621, where the driver -- 24-year-old John L. Brinson -- jumped out and ran away.

Tomblin and Remco came to the scene and Remco found the scent, following the trail through an orange grove and a grass field to the Placid Arms Apartments. The lengthy track ended when Remco followed the trail to the back door of apartment 22, where Brinson was found and taken into custody. He was charged with fleeing/eluding a law enforcement officer, resisting an officer and driving with a suspended license.

Tomblin's next case also started with an attempted traffic stop in Lake Placid. This time, Officer Cooper tried to stop a red sedan for speeding at 11:43 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, and it took off north on U.S. 27 at a high rate of speed. Cooper stopped his pursuit, but Deputy John Garrison happened to be sitting in the median of U.S. 27 at South Tauchens Road, where he was doing traffic enforcement. The red sedan driven by 20-year-old Mitchell Allen Williams was clocked at 98 mph when it passed Garrison, who had been alerted by Cooper via radio.

Garrison went after the car, which appeared to turn left onto Lake Josephine Drive, but instead ended up driving north in the southbound lanes of U.S. 27. The car then tried to turn into Buttonwood Bay but ran off the road and became stuck. Williams fled on foot, however Tomblin and Remco weren't far away and quickly tracked Williams about 250 yards into the heavy brush.

Williams surrendered after Tomblin said he was going to release Remco, but as deputies attempted to pull him out of the brush Tomblin saw him toss a plastic sandwich bag deeper into the woods. When the bag was retrieved, it was found to contain marijuana.

Williams was charged with fleeing/eluding police with disregard to safety of others, driving without a valid license, resisting an officer, purchasing marijuana, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of drug equipment and tampering with evidence.

A few hours later, just after 1 a.m. Monday morning, May 8, Deputy Trey Marley pulled over a car with no tail lights at South Central Avenue and Main Street in Avon Park. While questioning the occupants, Marley smelled marijuana, so called for Remco to check the air around the car. Remco indicated the presence of narcotics, and a search found a methamphetamine pipe inside the car. The driver, 30-year-old Ashley Nicole Norman, was arrested and a strip search at the jail found a plastic bag containing 9 grams of suspected methamphetamine hidden inside her body. She was charged with possession of drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia and smuggling contraband into a detention facility.