



WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gary W. Hester, Chief of Police

Date: Aug. 10, 2011

Time: 8:00 P.M.

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WINTER HAVEN – Today, (8-10-11) Winter Haven Police arrested 34-year-old Cherita Monique Henry of Winter Haven (DOB 12-2-76) when it was discovered she took prescription drugs that were intended for patients at the assisted living facility where she worked.

Detectives who were investigating an attempted murder case from 8-6-11 were given consent to search the suspect's home (713 Sears Ave., NE, Winter Haven). During the search, a snack bag was found to have a stack of small white cups, each with pills inside and a name written on a piece of paper.

Henry was questioned at the time and she denied any knowledge of the pills. When asked, she told detectives that she is employed at Hawthorne Inn Assisted Living Facility as a nurse in the pharmacy. The pills were taken into evidence.

After contacting the administration at Hawthorne Inn, detectives learned that each name found with the pills were in fact names of patients residing at the facility and confirmed that Henry is responsible for distributing their medication. Most of the patients were being treated for dementia or other mental disabilities.

There are a total of 14 victims from the Hawthorne Inn and 24 medications recovered from the cups, all prescribed to the patients.

Henry was arrested at her home on 14 counts of Neglect of Elderly without Great Bodily Harm (F-3), Petit Theft (M-1) and 24 counts of Possession of Certain Drugs without Prescription (M-2) and transported to the Polk County Jail.