



RACINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff Christopher Schmaling

Chief Deputy James P. Weidner

*******MEDIA RELEASE*******

On Friday, November 3, 2023, correctional officers at the Racine County Jail located contraband within the jail. The contraband included two cell phones, two USB chargers, nine Oxycodone pills, a lighter, tobacco, rolling papers, a makeshift smoking pipe, three pens, and two razors.

A correctional officer was able to develop information that there was contraband in 4D, dayroom three. Based upon this information, staff initiated a shakedown of the dayroom and cells. During the shakedown, inmate Tarvis Koker, a 21-year-old male from Racine, appeared to be concealing items in his cell. Correctional Officers removed Koker from the cell and searched the cell. Correctional officers located a cell phone inside a water filled trash bag. The cell phone was bent in an attempt to break the phone. Correctional Officers located a USB charger in the cell.

During the shakedown, correctional officers also observed inmate Andrew Crutcher, a 33-year-old male from Kenosha, appearing to hide items on his person. Correctional officers located a sock in Crutcher's waist band area that contained nine Oxycodone pills, a lighter, tobacco, rolling papers, a makeshift smoking pipe, three pens, and two razors. Correctional officers located another cell phone and a USB charger in Crutcher's cell.

A deputy interviewed Koker who stated the cell phone was a "community phone", and he made phone calls on it every day since he was moved to the dayroom in late October 2023. Koker stated he knew the dayroom was going to be raided before it happened and other inmates told him to flush the cell phone down the toilet. Koker stated the cell phone would not fit down the toilet, so he bent the cell phone and placed it in water.

A deputy interviewed another inmate who stated Crutcher had a relationship with the Director of Mental Health Services, Brittany Perez, a 36-year-old female from Kenosha. The inmate stated Perez was smuggling contraband into the jail and providing it to Crutcher. Perez is a clinical social worker who has been employed at the jail since June 2023. Perez is a contract employee and enters the jail through the Professional Entrance where there are Contraband warnings. Perez would have had to conceal the contraband to get it past the correctional officers.

Investigators were able to download the cell phone located in Crutcher's cell, and they located a text string between Crutcher and Perez. The investigator documented that Crutcher and Perez were calling and texting each other regularly and were engaging in a romantic relationship. Crutcher and Perez discussed wanting to pursue a sexual relationship, and Perez sent Crutcher nude photographs of herself.

In one text conversation, Crutcher asked Perez to bring him "a pack of Newports and like 6 of them black and milds, Newports 100's, The jazz wood tipped ones." Perez responded, "That sucks. I can't leave today. I come in on Sunday for Missy and can bring that to you then." In another text conversation, Perez told Crutcher that she is not going to bring him any more contraband and "people are talking".

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On Saturday, November 4, 2023, Investigators arrested Perez. Investigators attempted to interview Perez, but she declined to make a statement and requested an attorney. Perez is being held on two counts of Delivering an Article to an Inmate with a \$10,000 bail.

Deputies referred one charge to the Racine County District Attorney's Office on Koker for Possession of an Illegal Article by an Inmate.

Deputies referred the following charges to the Racine County District Attorney's Office on Crutcher:

- Possession of an Illegal Article by an Inmate
- Possession of Narcotic Drug
- Possession of a Controlled Substance on or near a Jail

Sheriff Schmaling stated, "No matter who you are, if you smuggle contraband into the Racine County Jail, you will eventually get caught. Jail staff are consistently doing shake downs, conducting K-9 searches, watching security cameras, and developing informants. Once you are arrested, the Sheriff's Office will work diligently with the District Attorney's Office to ensure you are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

Christopher Schmaling
Sheriff, Racine County

By: Lt. Michael J. Luell
Public Information Officer

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