

## PRESS RELEASE

## Man Sentenced to Prison for Theft from Local Business March 30, 2015

Bryan, TX - Christopher Deere 43, pled guilty to Theft of Property with a value between \$1,500 and \$20,000 and was sentenced to eight years in prison. In addition, Deere has been ordered by the Court to repay the more than \$1,800 he stole from victim of the offense.

On February 6, 2014, a local business owner reported that his company's credit card had been used to make twenty-nine unauthorized transactions. The investigation conducted by the Bryan Police Department revealed that the unauthorized charges were made at local auto parts stores. The victim reported that the signatures did not match any of the employees with authorization to use the credit card. He suspected Deere, an employee, of committing this crime. When police contacted Deere, he admitted to the purchases and to reselling parts to customers for half price.

Deere's case was enhanced to a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony because he had previously been to prison in 2002 and 2009 for Burglary of a Habitation.

"Employers place their trust in the people they hire. When that trust is betrayed, and employees intentionally steal, it negatively impacts not only the employer, but everyone in this community. The defendant is going to prison for betraying that trust.

- Andy Rogers, Assistant District Attorney

