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Redgranite Man Charged in Tax Fraud Scheme

Christopher D. Zindars, who currently resides in the Waushara County Jail on unrelated drug charges, was charged on February 22 with seven felony charges relating to a tax fraud scheme in which he fraudulently received \$5,927 in state income tax refunds using fictitious W-2's. The charges include two counts of Unauthorized Use of an Entity's Identifying Information, two counts of Uttering a Forgery, two counts of Fraudulent Claim for Income Tax Credit, and one count of Fraudulent Claim for Homestead Credit. Zindars is being prosecuted by the Waushara County District Attorney's Office following an investigation and referral of charges by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation.

According to the criminal complaint, Zindars obtained tax refunds totaling \$5,927 from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue by filing two false income tax returns using fictitious W-2's from a former employer, where he had worked previously but was terminated for theft. A search warrant sworn out by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue in November 2015 led to the seizure of several computers, tax related documents, and suspected drugs at Zindars' former residence located at 625 Main Street, Redgranite, WI.

The complaint further states that Zindars had the refunds electronically deposited into his bank account and on a prepaid debit card, and used the proceeds to pay off outstanding debt and purchase two vehicles.

Under Wisconsin law, filing a false or fraudulent tax return is a felony. If convicted on all seven counts, Zindars could face up to 48 years in prison, as well as \$70,000 in fines.

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