

BRUNSWICK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Computer Store Owner Pleads Guilty In Exchange For Father's Freedom

A Shallotte computer store owner who was arrested Jan. 17 in a local sting operation, agreed to plead guilty to a conspiracy charge last week in exchange for the release of his father, who is under FBI investigation for alleged money laundering, police said.

Douglas Eugene Tompkins Jr., 25, of Red Springs pleaded guilty April 19 to one charge of conspiracy to receive stolen goods. He was charged with arranging to purchase \$40,000 worth of "stolen" video games, computers and electronic equipment that was to be delivered to his Pyramid Computers store in Shallotte Plaza.

Unbeknownst to Tompkins and his co-conspirators, their supplier was an undercover police informant and the vanload of stolen goods had been loaned to detectives by a Wilmington department store.

Also arrested in the sting were Douglas Eugene Tompkins Sr., 45, of Red Springs, store manager Steve Edward Caudill, 29, of Calabash and store employee James Curtis Hartsell, 26, of Longwood.

During the arrest, detectives seized \$23,000 in cash and a van the conspirators had planned to use to transport the stolen goods.

The FBI was called in when local investigators became suspicious that Tompkins Jr. may have been purchasing stolen goods from other states, said Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Billy Hughes.

Shortly after the arrests, Special Agent Craig Ackley of the FBI's Wilmington office confirmed that the agency was looking into the possible violations of federal money-laundering statutes. Hughes said last week that the FBI investigation is continuing with Tompkins Sr. as a suspect.

One method of money laundering involves the use of illegal profits in a bona fide business to establish legitimate financial records that can disguise the source of the money.

Tompkins Jr. is listed as the owner of 13 video and video-game rental stores in the Red Springs and Lumberton areas, Hughes said. The Pyramid store at Shallotte Plaza, which opened last summer, was Tompkins' only computer outlet.

As part of a plea bargain arranged between district attorney's office and the lawyer Roy Trest, who represents both Tompkins senior and junior, the son agreed to plead guilty on the

condition that the state dismiss the charge against his father. Tompkins Jr. also agreed to turn over the confiscated van and \$23,000 cash to the sheriff's department.

Tompkins Jr. was sentenced to one year in prison, suspended for three years on the condition that he pay court costs and community service fees. He was put on three years supervised probation and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service within 180 days.

Caudill and Hartsell also pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge and received the same sentence with the addition of a \$100 fine each.

Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks presided over five days of court in Bolivia last week. Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger prosecuted cases for the state.

In other superior court action:

■Wilbur Lee Kinlaw Jr., 33, of Long Acres subdivision, Shallotte, was sentenced to 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to 14 counts of second-degree burglary, two counts of breaking and entering and larceny and three counts of possessing stolen goods. Kinlaw and a female accomplice were charged in a string of break-ins at mobile homes in their neighborhood. Kinlaw was recommended for work release and ordered to pay court costs, restitution and attorney fees.

■Stanley Brent Sawyer, 41, of Leland was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty March 22 to one charge of taking indecent liberties with a female child younger than 16 years old. Sawyer was also fined \$200 and ordered to pay court cost and restitution according to a schedule to be determined by the N.C. Department of Corrections. He is to undergo counseling while in prison.

■Anthony Clark, 22, of Wilmington was sentenced to five years in prison after he pleaded guilty to two counts of selling cocaine. The sentence is to begin at the end of another he is now serving. He was ordered to pay court costs, \$330 in attorney fees and \$850 restitution to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department's narcotics squad.

■Bobby Lee Trogdon II, 20, of Ashboro pleaded guilty to two charges of forgery and two counts of uttering forged paper. He was sentenced to five years in prison as a committed youthful offender. Trogdon was recommended for im-

mediate work release and ordered to pay a \$100 fine, court costs, restitution and \$240 in attorney fees.

■Bobby Wayne Wilkins, 26, of Magnolia Drive, Shallotte, pleaded guilty to two counts of breaking and entering and larceny and one count of marijuana possession. He was sentenced to three years in prison to run at the same time as a sentence he is now serving. Wilkins was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, court costs and \$480 in attorney fees.

■Alex Ohara King, 20, of N.C. 130, Shallotte received a two-year prison sentence after pleading no contest to two counts of assault with a deadly weapon. He had been charged with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury in the Aug. 30 shooting of Julian Keith Marlow of Bolivia and Sebri Dejuan Burst of Leland. Both were hit with slugs from a .22 caliber pistol.

■Arlynn Deion Vernon, 22, of Route 1, Leland pleaded guilty to a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury and was sentenced to six months in prison with credit for time served awaiting trial. He was also given a three-year suspended sentence and placed on five years supervised probation. Vernon was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, court costs, restitution and \$480 in attorney fees.

■Jennifer Payton Bellamy, 17, of Southport pleaded guilty to a charge of common law robbery for trying to hold up a car wash with a toy gun. She was sentenced to 90 days in jail and given a 10-year prison sentence suspended on payment of a \$50 fine, court costs, \$240 attorney fees and community service fees. She was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and put on intensive probation for five years.

■Jack Christopher Vaught, 26, of Calabash was sentenced to 14 days in jail after pleading guilty to one count each of assaulting a female and injury to personal property. A two-year prison sentence was suspended on the condition that he pay \$385 restitution to his victim and \$450 to the Hope Harbor Home battered women's shelter. Vaught was put on supervised probation for two years.

■Michael Allen Bell, 28, of Raintree Road, Wilmington, entered a negotiated plea of guilty to a charge of being an accessory after the fact to armed robbery. He had been charged

with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury, second degree burglary and robbery with a dangerous weapon in the Jan. 14 shooting of Bernard Gales and the robbery of a safe from a home in Bolivia. Sentencing was delayed on the condition that Bell continue to cooperate with investigators in the case. He was freed on an unsecured bond.

■Tammy Darlene Lockamy, 19, of Seagrove pleaded guilty to two counts of forgery and two charges of uttering forged paper. She was given a five-year sentence suspended on payment of a \$100 fine, court costs, \$441 restitution, \$240 in attorney fees and a \$100 community service fee. She was put on supervised probation for five years and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

■Christopher Brian Bass, 19, of Route 1, Winnabow, pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking and entering and larceny. He was given a five-year suspended sentence and five years' supervised probation. Bass was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and to pay a \$100 fine, \$480 in attorney fees, court costs, restitution and a community service fee.

■Robert Brice Jones Jr. of Route 5, Leland, pleaded guilty to one charge each of larceny, possession of stolen goods and embezzlement. He was sentenced to six years, suspended on payment of a \$100 fine, \$3,663 restitution, a community service fee, court costs and \$350 in attorney fees. He was put on supervised probation for five years and ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

■Jeffrey Wade House, 20, of Baldwin Drive, Leland, entered a negotiated plea of guilty to one charge of breaking and entering and larceny. He had been charged with second degree burglary, and two counts each of larceny and possession of stolen goods. House was sentenced to five years, suspended on payment of a \$100 fine, court costs, community service fee and \$390 for his court-

appointed lawyer. He was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

■A jury found Marsha J. Hendry, 43, of Elgin, S.C., guilty of driving while impaired by alcohol and driving left of center in a case appealed from district court. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended two years on payment of a \$100 fine and court costs. She was put on unsupervised probation for two years. Her driver's license was revoked for 30 days.

■David Edward Troy, 34, of Route 1, Leland pleaded guilty to conspiracy to traffic in excess of 400 grams of cocaine. Sentencing was delayed until a date to be determined by the district attorney's office. Troy's bond was reduced to \$5,000.

■Samuel Wright Freeman, 38, of Bolton pleaded guilty to one count of trafficking cocaine by delivery. He had been charged with three counts of drug trafficking. The state allowed Freeman to plead to a lesser charge and receive a reduced sentence in exchange for his cooperation with law enforcement agencies. He was given a five-year suspended sentence and five years probation and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, \$420 for his lawyer and \$100 in community service fees. Freeman will be required to complete 100 hours of community service.

■Jerry Hemmingway, age unavailable, of Longwood was given a three-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty to the delivery of co-

caine. He had been charged with possession with the intent to manufacture, sell and deliver cocaine and cocaine sales. Hemmingway was fined \$50, put on supervised probation for five years and ordered to pay \$100 in community service fees, \$480 in attorney fees and court costs. He was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service.

■Charles Robin Myrick, 35, of Route 5, Southport, admitted violating the terms of his probation and was sent to prison for two years. He was recommended for work release and ordered to pay \$210 for his lawyer.

■Amy Reynolds Akers, 28, of Old Mill Mobile Home Park, Leland admitted violating her probation and was ordered to serve 10 days in jail. She will be transferred to intensive probation after her release.

■Leon Watson, 43, of Longwood admitted violating his probation and was allowed to continue on probation with a modified judgment.

■Matthew Joseph Richard, 20, of Route 3, Shallotte, admitted violating his probation and was allowed to continue on supervised probation on the condition that he pay \$120 in attorney fees.

■Two felony drug charges were dismissed against Willie Lee Dixon, 42, of Clarendon Avenue, Southport, after a prosecuting witness failed to appear in court. He had been charged with possession with the intent to sell and deliver cocaine and cocaine sales.

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