

**From:** [Seminole SO Public Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Bentsen, Kristen M](#)  
**Subject:** SCSO NEWS RELEASE/Three arrested in homicide of Sanford man  
**Date:** Monday, July 18, 2016 2:15:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [Charles Shannon Rhinehart Arrest Report\\_Redacted.pdf](#)  
[Charles Shade Rhinehart Arrest Report\\_Redacted.pdf](#)  
[Christina Jordan Arrest Report\\_Redacted\[1\].pdf](#)  
[Charles Shane Rhinehart\[1\].jpg](#)  
[Charles Shannon Rhinehart\[1\].jpg](#)  
[Christina Jordan Booking Photo\[1\].jpg](#)

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Three arrested in homicide of Sanford man**

SEMINOLE CO. (July 18, 2016) – The Seminole County Sheriff's Office this morning arrested Charles Shannon Rhinehart, age 46, for the homicide of Stephen Thomas, 51, of Sanford. Rhinehart's son, Charles Shade Rhinehart, age 18, and Christina Jordan, age 33, were also arrested for accessory after the fact.

Thomas was last seen on July 13 at around 9 p.m., at a bar in Sanford. He was reported missing by family members the following day after he did not return home and failed to show up for work that morning. When his truck was found abandoned in a parking lot on Keyes Court in Sanford, deputies and Sanford Police Department officers responded to the location and initiated an extensive search of the area, including a nearby homeless camp occupied by several of Thomas' acquaintances. Investigators interviewed several subjects at the camp including Jordan and the two Rhinehart men.

On July 17 investigators received a tip which lead them to a location near the homeless camp where they discovered Thomas' body buried in a shallow grave. Witnesses told investigators that Thomas and Charles Shannon Rhinehart were involved in a physical altercation. During the fight, Thomas stabbed Rhinehart with a knife. The two were separated, but as Thomas walked away, Rhinehart struck him several times in the head with a shovel, killing him. Rhinehart then tossed Thomas' cell phone and knife into the fire in an attempt to destroy the evidence.

Charles Shannon Rhinehart was arrested and booked into the John E. Polk Correctional Facility (JEPCF) on charges of second degree murder and two counts of destroying evidence. He is being held on a no bond status and is scheduled to attend first appearance tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Christina Jordan and Charles Shade Rhinehart were also arrested and booked into the JEPCF on the charge of accessory after the fact, a second degree felony, for refusing to provide law enforcement information about the crime. Jordan is being denied bond at this time because she was arrested in May for fraud and was out on felony bond status. Charles Shade Rhinehart is being held on a \$2,000 bond and both he and Jordan were scheduled to attend first appearance today at 1:30 p.m.

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