

## Spotsylvania man pleads guilty in HVAC thefts

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**B**Y KEITH EPPS

A man who spent considerable time last year on businesses' rooftops dismantling large HVAC units has pleaded guilty to numerous charges.

Jonathan Alan Nestor, 29, of Spotsylvania County pleaded guilty to 32 charges Monday in Fredericksburg Circuit Court, including multiple counts of grand larceny, larceny with the intent to sell and destruction of property.

Prosecutor Travis Bird said Nestor hit eight different businesses in the city between May and August, and caused damage ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000 per unit. Nestor has been convicted or charged with similar offenses in Spotsylvania, Stafford, Culpeper and Frederick counties.

According to the evidence presented by Bird, Detective Tim Garrett's investigation began when city police got a tip from authorities in Frederick after Nestor was caught stealing there. Local authorities went to Summit Recycling and learned that Nestor had made a number of sales there.

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HVAC units contain valuable copper and other metals that can be sold for sizable profits. Nestor is a former HVAC technician who has knowledge and tools to take apart large units.

Detectives from Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Stafford began conducting surveillance and were in Central Park on Aug. 19, when they caught Nestor on the roof of the Sunset Thai building and later got evidence tying him to other thefts.

Nestor will be sentenced in Fredericksburg on May 2.

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