



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

**SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Arrested Due to Alert Citizen

(Inverness) The repetition of the mantra “If you see something, say something” worked flawlessly on Tuesday when CCSO deputies received a call regarding a suspicious person near the Brannen Bank in Inverness. When Dep. Eichorn responded to speak with the man, he dropped a suitcase he was holding and fled across Hwy 41 into the Mossy Oak Mobile Home Park.

He didn't get very far before deputies caught up to him. After searching him, they found a pawn transaction receipt from earlier in the day. The details on the receipt led them to believe the property that was pawned had been stolen. Deputies then inspected the suitcase which led them to a home in Inverness.

Sure enough, the residents were on vacation. When deputies gained access to the home, they discovered it had been ransacked. They also learned the items in the suitcase belonged to the homeowners... so did the items that had been pawned. The

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stolen items were recovered that day.

“It is not every day we have the suspect in jail and property located before the victims know they were victimized,” said East District Patrol Captain Dave Vincent.

“This is definitely a case where an alert person called in a tip that immediately paid off.”

Through a thorough and swift investigation, two additional arrests were made in connection with the crime. Those arrested were Andrew Joseph Hogan, 40, of Inverness, Mitchell Alvis Cook, Jr., 34, of Inverness and John A. Muller, 45, of Inverness, who was arrested on Friday. Hogan and Cook were each charged with trafficking in stolen property, grand theft and burglary of a residence with a \$17,000 bond. Muller was charged with trafficking in stolen property.

“I will continue to sing the praises of our hardworking deputies and detectives,” Sheriff Prendergast said. “A great tip, quick apprehension and phenomenal police-work led to three more criminals being taken off our streets.”

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