



SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Border Patrol Assist / Indoor Marijuana Grow Operation

On Monday November 5th 2018, deputies responded to a call for assistance from the United States Border Patrol regarding two Hispanic males that fled from a traffic stop near Interstate 75 and the exit to the Florida National Cemetery. Deputy's located one of the suspects and he was taken into custody on CR 631-C Bushnell. Meanwhile the Sheriff's Office received another call that the other suspect had crossed Interstate 75 traveling eastbound on foot. Deputies responded to that area at which time a detective observed a male subject fitting the description of the remaining suspect take flight from the yard located at 8001 CR 674 Bushnell, FL.

Detectives then observed the rear door to the residence at 8001 CR 674 standing open and due to the circumstances, suspected that the male fleeing border patrol may have committed a burglary in the effort to evade capture. Sumter Correctional Institution responded with their bloodhounds and ultimately tracked to the location of two males



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attempting to hide in forest vegetation. The two males were arrested and identified as Osvaldo Lopez-Gonzales and Yosdany Gonzalez.

While at the residence, detectives found evidence of an indoor marijuana grow operation. The premises were then secured while detectives sought a search warrant. Upon execution of the search warrant, an elaborate marijuana indoor grow operation was confirmed and resulted in the seizure of:

- 157 marijuana plants
- Loose marijuana over 20 grams
- Two electronic money counters
- A loaded semi-automatic Springfield 45 caliber handgun
- Three separate locations of Sumter Electric power diversion
- Numerous items from past indoor grow operations.

The street value of the marijuana yield is approximately \$565,000 and Sumter Electric's estimated losses due to the theft by power diversion are approximately \$97,883. At this time, the case is still under investigation and additional charges are forthcoming. The Sheriff's Office wants the public to be aware that these types of operations are usually tied to organized crime originating out of South Florida and the Tampa Bay region and these elaborate power diversions result in hundreds of thousands of dollars in theft from utility companies which in turn affect our citizens. We take all of these cases seriously and will maintain a zero tolerance policy.

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