

Sheriff

(352) 569-1600



WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR. – SUMTER COUNTY

MEMBER, FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
1010 NORTH MAIN STREET
BUSHNELL, FLORIDA 33513

Media Release

Contact Person:

Captain Kevin Hofecker

Office: (352) 569-1600

Email: khofecker@sumtercountysheriff.org

Three Arrested in Boat Theft

Lake Panasoffkee, FL. – August 22, 2012



Richard E. Winningham, 43, and Christopher T. Hunt, 35, of Lake Panasoffkee and Ciara R. Dorsey, 24, of Coleman were arrested by Sumter County detectives after deputies responded to a theft complaint in the 1400 block of CR 434 in Lake Panasoffkee.

On August 21, 2012 at 4:05p.m., Sumter County deputies responded to the theft call after the boats owner called the sheriff's office and reported seeing two men take his boat that was being docked behind his residence.

The boat, a 15 foot fiberglass boat and 15 horse outboard motor were docked behind the victim's Lake Panasoffkee residence, and the men were seen operating the boat into the main part of the lake. A perimeter was set up around the area and the sheriff's water patrol unit was called in to search for the suspects.

At about 5:36p.m., deputies made contact with all three suspects in the area of C-470 and Wilderness Drive, who were in a 2003 Dodge Ram truck. In the bed of the truck, deputies observed, in plain view, a 15 horse outboard motor that matched the description as the one on the stolen boat. The victim identified the outboard as his, and the two men as the two suspect's who stole his boat. During this time, Winningham fled from deputies, and after a short foot pursuit, he was taken into custody after being tazed. Both men were arrested without further incident. The investigation also determined that Ciara Dorsey was involved in the theft. Dorsey's role consisted of driving the men to the area and she dropped them off so that the theft could be facilitated. She was to return and pick the two up after the theft had been completed. The victim's boat was later discovered abandoned in a canal about 500 yards from where the trio was arrested. (See page 2)

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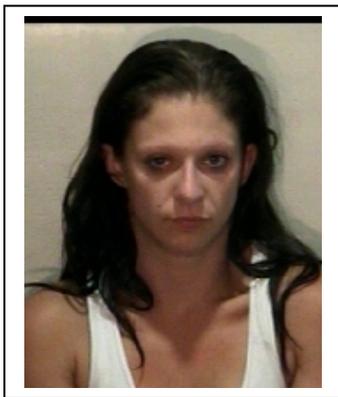
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Winningham and Hunt were charged with Burglary, and Grand Theft. Winningham also faces an additional charge of Resisting a Law Enforcement Officer without Violence. Winningham is being held without bail because he was out of jail on a pending Sumter County drug charge from a May 2012 arrest. Hunt's bond was set at \$7,000 dollars.



Ciara Dorsey was charged with Principal to Burglary and Grand Theft; her bond was set at \$7,500 dollars.

###END###



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