

# Sheriff

(352) 569-1600



**WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR. –**

**SUMTER COUNTY**

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Sheriff's SWAT Team Searches for Drugs and Stolen Guns**

(05/17/2016) Bushnell – The Sumter County Sheriff's SWAT team executed a search warrant for a residence in the 4400 block of N US HWY 301 in Bushnell searching

for drugs and stolen guns.

Sheriff's detectives obtained a search warrant after receiving information occupants of the residence were suspected of receiving stolen guns in trade for drugs. Levy County Sheriff's officials alerted Sumter County detectives of this information discovered during a Levy County burglary investigation. It was reported that stolen guns taken during a series of burglaries occurring in Levy, Lafayette, and Gilchrist counties had been traded for drugs in Sumter County.

Sumter Sheriff's detectives, armed with this information developed during this cooperative investigation, obtained a search warrant for the property that was executed yesterday (05\16\2016) at approximately 5:28PM. The residence was found to be in deplorable conditions, and after searching the property, detectives recovered three stolen guns from the out of county burglaries, marijuana (in plain view), and drug paraphernalia.



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Arrested were **Christine V. Fender, 26, of Bushnell** and **Anthony Rutledge, 45, of Riviera Beach**. Fender has been charged with Grand Theft, Possession of Marijuana Less Than 20 Grams, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and Child Abuse; she is being held at the Sumter County Detention Center in lieu of \$16,000 dollar bond.

Fender is a convicted felon with a history of felony traffic offenses, and resisting law enforcement with violence. Fender's 9 year old daughter was also present. The investigation concluded that in addition to living openly with drugs, and in deplorable conditions, she was present during previous drug transactions. Fender's daughter with the assistance of the Department of Children and Families has been released to family members.

Rutledge has been charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon and Grand Theft. Rutledge is a convicted felon with a history of narcotic related offenses; he is being held in lieu of \$12,000 dollar bond.

The investigation remains active and additional arrests are expected.



Christine Fender

Anthony Rutledge

###END###



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