



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: October 14, 2007
Prepared By: Sergeant Keith Faulk
Release #: 2007-103
Case #: 07-12687
Incident Date: October 14, 2007
Incident Time: 6:40 A.M.
Incident Location: 3548 SW Archer Road, Gainesville
Friedman's Jewelers

Jewelry Store Burglary:

Armed thieves broke into an Archer Road jewelry store early Sunday morning. Three of the burglars escaped in one vehicle but the look-out was captured by responding deputies. Christopher Hemelrick, an employee from a local business called 911 after observing three armed B/M's break the store's front glass door, enter the business and began to break the display cases containing jewelry. A second vehicle was observed in the parking lot that alerted the burglars of responding deputies. The two vehicles then attempted to flee. Deputies Brian Ritter, Greg Guzman and Bill Arnold responded within seconds of Hemelrick's call. Deputy Arnold approached on foot, and was able to stop the look-out vehicle and detain its occupant.

A separate vehicle fled the area onto I-75. Deputies pursued that suspect vehicle, a blue Mercedes SLK and its occupants southbound with speeds reaching over 100 miles per hour. Deputies cancelled the chase after the dangers of the pursuit outweighed the apprehension of the suspects.

B/M Jerry Pierre, 02/14/83, of 5814 NE 4th Court, Miami, FL was arrested at the scene for driving the look-out vehicle. Pierre was charged with Principal in the First Degree of Armed Burglary, a first degree felony by Detective Christian Goodman.

Deputies are asking anyone with information on this crime to call the Sheriff's Office at (352) 955-1818. Callers can also remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest by calling Crime Stoppers at 372-STOP (7867).