



VILLAGE OF PINECREST
Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Police are looking for a "gypsy burglar" and want to ID the owner of distinctive medallion

Pinecrest, FL – Pinecrest police have identified three men, known as "gypsy burglars", who reportedly burglarized the home of a 70 year old woman who lives in the 11500 block of Southwest 77th Avenue at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10 using a distraction scam.

Police are looking to locate Skippy Thompson, date of birth 03/02/1994, who was identified by police as one of the men involved in the distraction burglary. The two other men, Mitchell Miller, date of birth 08/26/1952, and Tommy Thompson date of birth 11/17/87, were identified by police as associates of the "gypsy burglar" group. They were located by Pinecrest Police and arrested by the Broward Sheriff's Office on arrest warrants for similar crimes.

The three men posed as fence contractors working for the victim's rear neighbor and told her that her neighbor wanted the rear fence removed. One man led her to the rear of the yard to talk about the fence. Soon a second man came to the rear of the yard. While in the yard one man fell to the ground and spilled what he said was a toxic liquid on the victim's left hand where she wore two wedding rings valued at \$40,500.

They rushed the victim into the home and told her to take of her rings before washing her hands because the liquid was acidic. After the men left in a black pick-up truck, the victim noticed that her rings were missing and other jewelry valued at \$5000 was also missing.



Pinecrest Police found a distinctive gold medallion with the name Donnie in cursive on one side and the date 8/21/53 on the other which is believed to be the property of another distraction burglary victim in the suspects black truck along with other jewelry. Pinecrest Police located the truck after it was repossessed from the identified men. Picture attached.

Gypsy burglars are known for using distraction techniques to burglarize, con and fraud victims, who are usually elderly. They live off these crimes and are known for training their children at a young age to do the same.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and agencies such as, the Broward County Sherriff's Office and Bay Harbor Islands Police are working together with Pinecrest Police to identify and arrest more members of "gypsy burglar" families.

Photos and the incident report are attached. PIO available for sound until 2:00 p.m.

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