



## ***FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT***

250 Cypress Street

**SCOTT J. MAYBERRY**

(707) 961-2800

Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

*Chief of Police*

Fax: (707) 961-2806

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Releasing Officer: Scott J. Mayberry, Chief of Police  
Report Number: FG1300965, FG1300924  
Date / Time Incident: June 16, 17, 2013, June 26, 2013, July 2, 2013  
Location of Incident: 423 North Franklin Street, 880 Woodward Ave.  
Crime or Incident: Burglary, Possession of Stolen Property,  
Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of  
Narcotic Paraphernalia  
Victim: State of California, Walter Lina, John  
Chamberlin.  
Suspect: Joseph Anthony Fitch, 30 years of age from  
Fort Bragg, Eric Christopher Seale, 37 years of  
age from Fort Bragg

**CIRCUMSTANCES** June 16 and June 17, 2013, Officer Guydan was dispatched to 423 North Franklin Street for a reported burglary. Officer Guydan met with the reporting party who told him the actual owner of the residence was deceased; however he was aware that items from inside the house had been stolen.

June 26, 2013 Officer Kendl was dispatched to 880 Woodward Ave for a reported burglary report. The victim reported to Officer Kendl an unknown person(s) broke into their house while they were away and had stolen several antique items. The investigation at that time revealed no suspects.

July 2, 2013 Officer Guydan was dispatched to the front lobby of the police department to meet with family members who suspected one of their family members was stealing from houses throughout the city. The family members reported hearing that Joseph Anthony Fitch was stealing items and then attempting to pawn the items for money.

Officer Guydan and McLaughlin responded to Fitch's residence at 411 South Street, apartment 1, to contact him and continue this investigation. Upon their arrival they met with Fitch and asked for consent to search his residence. He agreed and within a few minutes of searching officers located suspected stolen items from the Woodward Avenue and North Franklin Street addresses. They also located methamphetamine and narcotics paraphernalia.

Fitch was taken into custody, and the residence was seized until a search warrant could be obtained. Once the search warrant was signed, officers continued their search of Fitch's residence. Additional items reported stolen from Woodward Avenue and 443 North Franklin Street were found.

Officers interviewed Fitch and were told Eric Christopher Seale, who was residing at 511 Cypress Street, apartment 1, was also involved in the thefts.

Officers responded to the Cypress Street address with a search warrant, and upon searching this residence found items stolen from the Woodward Avenue address.

Two additional addresses were searched, 260 North Harrison Street, and 31944 Highway 20. At both locations stolen property was found. Officers also located witnesses who implicated both Fitch and Seale in the burglary and possession of the stolen property.

The property recovered in this investigation was valued in excess of \$10,000.00.

Seale was located at the Highway 20 address and arrested.

Fitch and Seale were processed at the Fort Bragg Police Department then later transported to Mendocino County Jail on the above mentioned charges.

*"This was outstanding team and police work by all of the officers and community service officers involved in this case. They all worked together very hard to recover the property from both burglaries and get it back in the hand of the victims."* Chief Scott Mayberry.

**-- END --**