

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE March 31, 2008
TIME 2:00 PM

Deputies Arrest 3 Suspects In Connection With Burglary Ring

Hughson, CA- Sheriff's Deputies arrested 3 people this morning in connection with multiple burglaries. The investigation started last week with during a multi-agency probation and parole sweep when officials went looking for Billy Ray VanHouten (24-yrs-old) of Hickman, who was a wanted parolee. VanHouten was not located during the search but information was developed on his vehicle and that he was involved in a burglary ring. Deputies started looking for VanHouten.

This morning at about 5:00am while on patrol, Deputy Sutton from Hughson Polices Services, spotted VanHouten driving his white pickup in the City of Hughson. Deputy Sutton followed VanHouten while other deputies responded to assist. After backup arrived, deputies stopped VanHouten for a Vehicle Code violation. VanHouten was arrested and his two passengers were detained. After searching VanHouten's vehicle, deputies found stolen property belonging to different victims from Modesto, Oakdale, and Knights Ferry. One of the victims reported his car had been burglarized about 4:00am this morning while he was working at Memorial Medical Center in Modesto. Both passengers, Ricky Bargas (18-yrs-old) and Kelly Peterson (38-yrs-old) both of Empire were arrested. All three were booked for burglary, possession of stolen property, and possession of burglary tools. VanHouten had an additional charge of violation of parole.

According to Sheriff's detectives, VanHouten is suspected to have been involved in over thirty vehicle burglaries from Modesto to Oakdale. Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective Jon Rivera at (209) 525-7094. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.

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