



News Release

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

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For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: February 26, 2016

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Release #: 2016-015

Buchholz High School Student Charged with Making Hoax Bomb Threats:

Over the course of the last three weeks, Buchholz High School received three separate telephonic bomb threats which were called into the front office of the school. The first call was received on February 8, 2016, with subsequent calls received on February 16th and February 18th. These terroristic threats, now known to be hoaxes, prompted a substantive law enforcement response, resulting in the evacuation of Buchholz High School, and the disruption of the proper and orderly function of that educational facility. These criminal actions created an atmosphere of fear and panic among students, school staff, and parents, and diverted an enormous amount of public safety resources away from additional areas of the county which had the potential to place other citizens and visitors in danger.

School Resource Deputies from our Juvenile Relations Bureau and Detectives from our Criminal Investigations Division have been tirelessly investigating these threats over the course of the past three weeks. Through a series of interviews with students and staff at Buchholz High School and other investigative tools, several persons of interest were contacted. On February 19th, Detectives developed significant information which led to the identification of a 14-year old freshman student at Buchholz High School as a primary suspect.

Items possessed by the suspect student were seized and forensically processed subsequent to the application for and issuance of a search warrant. During that forensic investigation, significant and substantial evidence was obtained implicating this student's involvement with these bomb threats.

As such, the student has been charged with three (3) separate misdemeanor counts of interfering with school administrative functions, and three (3) separate felony counts of making a false report of planting a bomb, explosive, or weapon of mass destruction.

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