



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • www.gulfsheriff.com
850-227-1115 • 850-639-5717 • Fax 850-227-2097

Contact: Capt. Chris Buchanan
Telephone: 850-227-1115
Email: cbuchanan@gcso.fl.gov

PRESS RELEASE
March 2, 2017

LENGTHY THEFT INVESTIGATION CONCLUDES WITH FOURTEEN ARRESTS

Sheriff Mike Harrison announces the arrest of fourteen individuals on grand theft charges after lengthy investigation. The investigation started in March 2016 after a complaint was received from the owner of Rich's IGA in Wewahitchka. The complaint alleged that employees and customers, who conspired with the employees, stole from the business between November 2015 and March 2016.

Investigator L. Greenwood obtained video of the transactions for the timeframe and identified the suspects. The video footage analyzed and compared to transactions made on the store's registers revealed the scheme. The employees and customers who committed the offenses benefited financially and/or with unpaid merchandise. The following individuals were arrested as a result of the investigation and charged with Grand Theft of \$300 or more but less than \$5,000: Michael R. Benavides (61), Mary D. Booker (61), Charity B. Griffin (22), Ryan M. Hathcox (22), Rebecca A. Linton (33), Stephanie R. Martin (42), John A. Matlock (48), Jesse D. Parker (27), Maree D. Suber (26), Robert J. Williams (31), Brittany M. Wood (26), and Dorothy C. Ziglar (75). Connie D. Himes (56) was charged with Grand Theft of \$5,000 or more but less than \$10,000. Lawesla D. Matlock (37) was arrested and charged with Grand Theft of \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000. Himes was arrested in Fayette County, Kentucky, where she is awaiting extradition to Gulf County.

The evidence discovered during the investigation showed approximately \$60,000 in cash and merchandise were stolen during the four-month period. Investigator Greenwood attempted to interview all suspects in the case. Four out of the fourteen cooperated with the investigation and confessed.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison