



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

APRIL 17, 2017 – APRIL 23, 2017

On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams arrived at a residence in the 100 block of James Pitts Road in Wewahitchka to serve an out of county arrest warrant on Robin Alan Vathis (48). Investigator Williams made contact with the homeowner and at that time Investigator Ferrell observed Vathis exit a shed on the property. Vathis was given several verbal commands to stop but fled into the residence. Vathis ran into a bedroom and continued to resist arrest by ignoring the investigators verbal commands to surrender. Investigators deployed an electrical weapon (Taser) at Vathis. Vathis continued to physically resist arrest and had to be tased a second time. After the second deployment of the electrical weapon (Taser) Vathis complied and was taken into custody without further resistant. Vathis nor the investigators were injured during the incident. Vathis was found to be in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. In addition to the out of county arrest warrant, Vathis was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Resisting Arrest without Violence. Vathis was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF).

On April 18, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a storage shed burglary complaint in the 400 block of Highland Drive in the northern area of Gulf County. Sgt. R. Burkett responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported a 50 year old Johnson 3hp outboard motor, Minolta 35mm camera and miscellaneous kitchen items were stolen from their storage shed. Sgt. Burkett continues to investigate.

On April 18, the GCSO received a suspicious person complaint in the 100 block of State Road 71 in Wewahitchka. Deputy M. Manley responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported seeing a male enter the men's restroom and the women's restroom at Lake Alice Park. Deputy Manley made contact with the male who was identified as Jacob Adam Rodriguez (23). Rodriguez consented for Deputy Manley to a search his backpack. During the search Deputy Manley discovered Rodriguez was in

possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Rodriguez was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Rodriguez was transported to the GCDF.

On April 18, Investigator S. Ferrell, Investigator P. Williams, Sgt. R. Burkett and Deputy P. Baxley apprehended a wanted fugitive out Gulf and Bay County in the 3000 block of State Road 71 in northern Gulf County. William Vincent Hal Hurd (25) was arrested without incident. Hurd was wanted by the GCSO for Giving a False Name to Law Enforcement, Resisting Arrest without Violence and Violation of Probation. Hurd was also wanted by the Bay County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for Shooting into an Occupied Vehicle, Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Destruction of Evidence. During a probable cause search of Hurd, he was found to be in possession of a controlled substance. In addition to the numerous arrest warrants, Hurd was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance (Alprazolam). Hurd was transported to the GCDF.

On April 18, Investigator L. Dickey arrested Samuel Jefferson Harden (69) for Lewd or Lascivious Molestation on a Child under the age 12 and False Imprisonment. The arrest was the result of an ongoing investigation that began on Sunday, April 16, 2017. Harden was delivered to the GCDF where he's being held on a \$150,000.00 bond.

On Wednesday, April 19, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams arrested Jordan Lee Nickell (24) exiting a residence in the 100 block of Arrowhead Circle located in the northern area of Gulf County. Nickell was wanted by the GCSO for Failure to Appear. Nickell was transported to the GCDF.

On April 19, a sexual battery on an adult complaint was reported to the GCSO. Deputy M. Layfield responded to the complaint and conducted a preliminary investigation. This case has been assigned to the GCSO Criminal Investigation Division (CID). Investigator L. Greenwood continues to investigate.

On Thursday, April 20, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a red Toyota truck driven by Derek Anthony Knowles (26) on State Road 71 in the Honeyville area for a moving violation. Investigators smelled the odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. During a probable cause search investigators located a marijuana cigarette. Knowles was arrested and charged with Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana. Knowles was transported to the GCDF.

On Friday, April 21, the GCSO received a walk-in burglary complaint at the GCSO Wewahitchka Sub-Station. Deputy M. Manley responded to the complaint to begin an investigation. The complainant reported two guns had been stolen from their residence in the 200 block of Old Panama Highway in Wewahitchka approximately three weeks ago. This investigation has been assigned to CID. Investigator L. Dickey continues to investigate.

On Saturday, April 22, Deputy C. Harvey was patrolling the area of County Road 386 south of Wetappo Drive in the Overstreet area. Deputy Harvey observed an oncoming vehicle traveling in the wrong lane causing him to leave the roadway to avoid being hit head on. Deputy Harvey conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, a tan Nissan, driven by Alice Claudia Eubanks (52). During the traffic stop a passing motorist made contact with Deputy Harvey. The motorist told him the vehicle he had stopped had caused three other vehicles to leave the roadway to avoid a traffic crash, and at one point the suspect drove approximately one mile in the wrong lane. Deputy Harvey arrested Eubanks and charged her with Reckless Driving. Eubanks was transported to the GCDF.

On Sunday, April 23, the GCSO received a domestic disturbance complaint in the 7200 block of Gardenia Street in White City. Sgt. R. Burkett and Deputy M. Manley responded to the disturbance to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported their step-son Christopher Dewayne Brant (24) had locked himself in a bedroom and attempted to set the residence on fire. Brant was arrested and charged with Arson. During a post Miranda Warning interview with Brant he admitted to setting the fire so his mother would contact law enforcement. Brant was transported to the GCDF.

On April 23, Deshawn Q. Ford (29) turned himself in at the GCDF for a Violation of Probation warrant. Deputy C. Harvey served the warrant.

On April 23, the GCSO received a domestic disturbance complaint in the 1300 block of Highway 22 in Wewahitchka. Deputy P. Baxley responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The investigation revealed Johnny Lee Noble (54) battered his paramour. Deputy Baxley observed physical injuries to the victim to substantiate the allegations. Nobles was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Nobles was transported to the GCDF.

If you have any information regarding the aforementioned cases, please contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115, 850-639-5717, or remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 850-785-TIPS.

Prepared by: Lt. Paul Beasley
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison