



***Gulf County Sheriff's Office***

***Sheriff Mike Harrison***

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PRESS RELEASE  
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### **TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO DRUG ARREST**

Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison announces the arrest of Michael F. Avitia (38). Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams contacted Avitia Wednesday, May 3, on a traffic stop in the Stonemill Creek area that resulted in his arrest. Avitia was charged with multiple offenses including drug charges.

Avitia was stopped for a moving violation and it was determined he was operating the vehicle without a valid driver's license. He was placed under arrest. Avitia told investigators that he possessed a firearm in a backpack he was wearing and that he was a convicted felon. Investigators found Avitia in possession of a .45 caliber handgun. Avitia also possessed a set of digital scales, seven plastic baggies that contained a crystal-like substance which field tested positive for Methamphetamine, and over \$300 dollars in cash.

Avitia is currently on probation with the Florida Department of Corrections. He was charged with Trafficking of Methamphetamine, Possession of a Firearm by Convicted Felon, Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (Habitual), Violation of Probation, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan  
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