



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

On September 18, K-9 Deputy M. Peek was assigned to investigate a burglary on Audubon Lane in Wewahitchka. The victims in this case reported to Deputy Peek that someone had broken into their house and stole two (2) televisions, a Samsung Tab 3, a Dell laptop, a Remington .22 LR rifle and several pieces of jewelry. Deputy Peek was able to develop some suspects and he will be begin attempting to track the property.

On September 19, Deputy P. Young was dispatched to South Osceola Street in Indian Pass to investigate a report of stolen medication. Deputy Young learned that a medicine bottle containing Morphine was possible taken by a house guest. During his investigation, the victim called and reported to the Sheriff's Office that the medication was found and that it was not stolen.

On September 19, Deputy M. Manley began investigating a report of a burglary on Audubon Lane in Wewahitchka. The suspect in this case forced their way into an unoccupied house and searched throughout the house without taking anything. Deputy Manley collected some pieces of evidence that may identify the suspect(s).

On September 19, Investigator S. Ferrell and Investigator P. Williams observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Dead Lakes Drive. They also observed that the driver was wearing a ski mask. They conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle on Freeman Rouse Road. Investigators identified the driver, and lone occupant of the vehicle, as Lajarius Xavier Cooper (25). During the course of the traffic stop, investigators developed probable cause to search the vehicle. Cooper was found to be in possession of Methamphetamine, Alprazolam and a pipe used to ingest Methamphetamine. Cooper was arrested and charged accordingly.

On September 19, Deputy M. Manley discovered the site of another burglary on Audubon Lane. On this particular event, Deputy Manley determined that someone had broken into the house and used it as shelter. Contact was made with the owner of the property and we learned that no one was supposed to be there. At this time it is unknown whether anything is missing from the residence. Deputy Manley was also able to collect valuable evidence on this scene that may identify the suspect.

On September 19, Deputy M. Manley responded to a report of a robbery that had just occurred on Lakeview Drive. The victim explained that Jeffrey Scott Murray (56) came to his house demanding to borrow money to settle a debt with a drug dealer. The victim refused to give him money and attempted to call authorities on Murray's behalf to help him. Murray grew impatient and took the victim's wallet from the counter. A struggle ensued between Murray and the victim. The victim was able to prevent Murray from taking his wallet but lost some of his money during the struggle. Warrants for Murray's arrest will be obtained for Battery on a person 65 years of age or older and Strong Armed Robbery.

On September 20, Deputy D. House was dispatched to Audubon Lane in reference to a house fire. Stone Mill Creek Fire Department arrived on scene also and extinguished the fire. The State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause of the fire. No one was injured as a result of the incident.

On September 20, Deputy A. White was dispatched to the 10000 block of CR 30A to investigate the theft of a Rigid 12" Sliding Miter Saw. The saw was among several other construction tools but only the saw was reported missing. Ultimately the victim opted not to have the theft investigated and the report was closed.

On September 20, Kasey Kathrine Pratt (23) was arrested in Bay County, Florida, and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Pratt was wanted in Gulf County for Grand Theft, Uttering a Forged Instrument and Violation of Probation.

On September 20, Deputy A. White was dispatched to investigate a theft in the 100 block of Narvaez Street. It was reported to Deputy White that an air compressor, air hose and a nail gun was stolen from a porch that was left unsecured.

On September 21, Investigator P. Williams and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Palmetto Drive and Scrub Oak in Overstreet. The driver, Wendi Diane Graham (41), was found to be driving with a suspended driver's license. Graham was arrested and charged accordingly.

On September 21, Deputy D. Sanders was patrolling the area of Americus Avenue and Cortez Street when he observed David Lee Bollinger (49) riding a bicycle. Deputy Sanders knew Bollinger had a warrant for his arrest for Criminal Contempt of Court so Deputy Sanders apprehended him and transported him to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On September 21, Deputy P. Baxley conducted a traffic stop on Doc Whitfield Road near Old Bay City Road. Deputy Baxley made contact with the driver, who he identified as Allen Lavone Mitchem (57). As Deputy Baxley spoke with Mitchem, he could smell marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a personal amount marijuana hidden in the vehicle. Mitchem was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana.

On September 22, Deputy S. House and M. Mathis travelled to the Lowell Correctional Institute to take custody of Summer Dawn Burke (32) and transport her to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Burke was wanted in Gulf County for Violation of Probation. Burke was on probation for the original charges of Possession of Heroin and Possession of Marijuana.

On September 22, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office was on parade detail as the Wewahitchka High School held its annual homecoming Parade in downtown Wewahitchka. The Wewa Gators capped their homecoming festivities by defeating North Bay Haven 42 – 26. Congratulations in their win!

On September 23, Deputy P. Baxley was dispatched to the area CR 386 to investigate a report of a reckless driver traveling north toward Hwy 71. Deputy Baxley located the vehicle and observed it being operated in a reckless manner. Deputy Baxley stopped the vehicle in the area of Hwy 71 and CR 386. Deputy Baxley made contact with the driver, Brandy Leigh Hill (34), and determined that Hill was under the influence of alcohol. As a result of Deputy Baxley's investigation, Hill was arrested, charged with Driving Under the Influence and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On September 24, Deputy P. Young was called to the Gulf Correctional Institute (GCI) to assist them with an investigation where they had caught a visitor with marijuana inside his vehicle. Dennis Soto (28) was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility and booked for Introduction of Contraband into a Correctional Facility and Possession of Marijuana.

On September 24, Deputy P. Baxley and Sgt. C. Dixon were dispatched to the 3000 block of CR 386 to investigate a report of a physical altercation. Deputies arrested Timothy C. O'Bryan Sr. (57) after they determined that he was the aggressor against two separate victims. O'Bryan was charged with three counts of Domestic Battery.

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. Tim Wood

Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison