



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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PRESS RELEASE
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KIDNAPPING SUSPECT ARRESTED

Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison announces the arrest of David Anthony Hysmith (40) of Wewahitchka. Hysmith was arrested and charged with Violation of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence, Felony Battery, Aggravated Assault with a Firearm, False Imprisonment and Kidnapping.

The Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) contacted the victim in the case who reported she was confronted by her husband at their residence in Wewahitchka this morning. The victim obtained an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence on Thursday, January 18, against Hysmith which prohibited him from having contact with her or to go to the couple's residence. During the confrontation at the residence Hysmith battered, threatened to shoot and held the victim against her will. Hysmith then forced the victim at gun point to drive him to a remote location north of Wewahitchka where he exited the vehicle which gave the victim an opportunity to escape.

The GCSO responded to the area of Gaskin Side Camp Road and Bea Bea Drive north of Wewahitchka where Hysmith was last seen. K-9 Units from Gulf Correctional Institution and Calhoun Correctional Institution assisted in the hunt for Hysmith, along with the Bay County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit and officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Hysmith was apprehended near the intersection of State Road 71 and Stone Mill Creek Road after the K-9 Units tracked him over seven miles. Hysmith was armed when he was taken into custody.

While being transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility Hysmith experienced a medical emergency. He was transported to Bay Medical Sacred Heart by Gulf County EMS where he is receiving medical treatment. Deputies await Hysmith's release and will transport him to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be first appeared on his charges.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan
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