



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

MARCH 5, 2018 – MARCH 11, 2018

On Monday, March 5th, Investigators P. Williams and S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 71 South, near the intersection of Old Transfer Road. During the course of the traffic stop, investigators learned that the registration tag currently on the vehicle was not registered to the vehicle. The driver, Gary Wayne Purswell (47), was placed under arrest and charged with Attaching Tag Not Assigned and having an expired tag.

On Monday, March 5th, the GCSO received three calls from the Cape San Blas area in reference to burglaries on Haven Road and Seagrass Circle. One residence on Haven Road had a vehicle and a storage room burglarized. Fishing equipment and tools were stolen. The vehicle and storage room under the house were left unlocked. An unlocked vehicle was rummaged through on Seagrass Lane but nothing was reported stolen.

On Monday, March 5th, Deputy P. Young was dispatched to the Dollar General, located at 309 N. Hwy 71, in reference to a possible retail theft. Deputy Young arrived and met with the store manager who advised him that a suspect currently in the store was putting items in her purse. Deputy Young waited for the suspect to check out and contacted her outside the store. It was determined that the suspect, who was identified as Cleatha Ann Simmons (46), had store items in her purse that she did not pay for. Simmons was placed under arrest and charged with Retail Theft.

On Monday, March 5th, Deputy P. Young and Sgt. R. Burkett were dispatched to the Dixie Dandy in Wewahitchka in reference to a verbal disturbance in the parking lot. When deputies arrived, they encountered a white male subject in the parking lot, acting erratically and concealing his hands. The subject, later identified as Austin R. Hysmith (32), refused to calm down and continued to cause a disturbance. Hysmith was taken into custody and charged with Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Law Enforcement with Violence.

On Tuesday, March 6th, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office received more reports of thefts on Haven Road and Court Street. The thefts occurred during the string of burglaries that occurred last week. The subjects responsible for those thefts last week were apprehended in Walton County and property stolen during those thefts have been recovered. Local charges are pending against the suspects.

On Tuesday, March 6th, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams arrested Donna Yvonne Dennis (51) on Avondale Street on a warrant for Burglary. The warrant came as a result of an investigation by Deputy A. White that began on February 21st, 2018, on Crestwood Lane in Wewahitchka.

On Wednesday, March 7th, SRO Sgt. S. Strickland responded to a disturbance in the Port St. High School commons area. A 12-year-old student was acting in a disorderly manner and became belligerent when school officials tried to calm and restrain him. When Sgt. Strickland became involved, the student became increasingly belligerent and made threats toward officials. The student began kicking Sgt. Strickland in an attempt to get away so he had to be physically restrained in handcuffs. The student was arrested and charged with Disruption of an Educational Institution, Resisting Law Enforcement with Violence and Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer.

On Wednesday, March 7th, Deputy D. Sanders responded to a report of a disturbance in the 900 block of Old Panama Highway. The disturbance was a domestic dispute between two people in a relationship. It was determined that during the disturbance, Cody Duanne Harrelson (23) threw a brick at his significant other, who is pregnant, striking her in the leg. Harrelson was placed under arrest and charged with Aggravated Battery on a Pregnant Person (Domestic) and Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon (Domestic).

On Thursday, March 8th, Robert Dewayne Alderman (30), was transported from Bay Correctional Institution to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be booked on a Violation of Probation warrant. Alderman is on probation for Burglary (x2) and Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2) and is currently being held without bond.

On Friday, March 9th, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell responded to a report of drug activity on a logging job site located off of Road 9 near Howard Creek. Witnesses on scene stated that a worker identified as Cameron Lamar Moore (30), was caught doing drugs on the job. Moore was located off-site and was found to be in possession of a synthetic form of marijuana. Moore was arrested and charged with Possession of a New Legend Drug and Violation of Probation.

On Friday, March 9th, K-9 Deputy M. Peek received a call about a reckless driver in the Highland View area. Deputy Peek located the vehicle and observed traffic violations. He stopped the vehicle near the intersection of Hwy 98 and Avenue C in Port St. Joe. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Candace Nichole Cosby (34). During the course of the traffic stop, Deputy Peek found Cosby to be in possession of Methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Cosby was placed under arrest and charged accordingly.

On Friday, March 9th, Jackie Lee Cox (53) was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility from Dade City, Florida, to be booked on charges of Grand Theft Auto.

On Saturday, March 10th, Nicole M. Gushue (20) turned herself in to the Gulf County Detention Facility after failing to appear in court on the following charges: Sale of a Controlled Substance (x2), Sale of Marijuana, Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Saturday, March 10th, Investigator P. Baxley conducted a traffic stop on Lake Grove Road near Canning Drive. While speaking with the driver, who was identified as Victoria Elaine Smith (20), Inv. Baxley could smell marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a personal amount of marijuana so Smith was placed under arrest. A subsequent search of her clothing revealed drug paraphernalia and a small plastic baggie containing cocaine. Smith was charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Cocaine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

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