



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • www.gulfsheriff.com
850-227-1115 • 850-639-5717 • Fax 850-227-2097

Contact: Lt. Tim Wood
Telephone: 850-227-1115
Email: twood@gcso.fl.gov

MEDIA RELEASE
August 27, 2018

GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

AUGUST 20, 2018 – AUGUST 26, 2018

On Monday, August 20th, Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop in the 800 block of N. Hwy 71. While speaking with the driver about the reason for the traffic stop, Deputy Peek was granted permission to search the vehicle. The search revealed pieces of broken glass in the passenger side floor board. A search of the passenger, who was identified as Anthony Thomas Hysmith (35), revealed a broken glass smoking device containing a crystalline substance inside it. A second glass smoking device with the odor of marijuana emitting from it was also found. Both pipes were found in Hysmith's boot. Hysmith was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Tuesday, August 21st, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on Hwy 71. The vehicle was observed speeding and it also had an expired tag. During the traffic stop the driver, who was identified as Robert Alan Cole (38), provided false information to Deputy Harvey as to his real identity. Deputy Harvey learned Cole was not being truthful about his identify. Cole was subsequently arrested for providing false identification to a law enforcement officer. A driver's license check of Cole's correct information revealed that Cole's driver's license was suspended and had two prior DWLSR (Driving While License Suspended or Revoked) convictions. Cole was additionally charged with DWLSR (3rd Offense) and was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Wednesday, August 22nd, Deputy J. Page conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Honey Hill Road and Hwy 381 in Dalkeith. The driver, who was identified as Christopher John Girscht (39), was found to have a suspended driver's license. Deputy M. Peek arrived on scene and consent was provided to him to conduct a vehicle search. During a search, approximately 3.7 grams of methamphetamine was found into the car. Girscht was arrested for driving with suspended driver's license and Possession of Methamphetamine. Girscht was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility without incident.

On Wednesday, August 22nd, Deputy C. Harvey responded to the 2600 block of Indian Pass Road in reference to a theft complaint. The complainant reported that after returning to their vacation home for the first time since late April of 2018, they discovered several tools were missing from the property. Tools reported missing included a Milwaukee Super Sawzall, Drill Bit Set, Router Bit Set, a work light (black and red in color), paint scraper and a knife sharpening stone. This investigation is ongoing, if you have any information please contact The Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On Thursday, August 23rd, Investigator Shane Ferrell and Sgt. Paul Williams went to the 1000 block of Tupelo Street and arrested Austin Richard Hysmith (32) on a warrant for Violation of Probation. Hysmith was on probation for Resisting an Officer with Violence.

On Thursday, August 23rd, Deputy S. Sheline conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at the intersection of S. Hwy 71 and Johnson Lane in Wewahitchka. During the course of the traffic stop permission to search was granted. Deputy Sheline located two partially smoked marijuana cigarettes in the glove box and a plastic baggie containing marijuana under the passenger seat of the vehicle. The passenger, Regsheka Shawntavia Denis Brooks (18), admitted ownership of the marijuana and the two partially smoked "blunts." Brooks was arrested on the charge of Possession of Marijuana Less than 20 grams, and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Friday, August 24th, Deputy V. Everett responded to Laramie Drive in reference to a possible domestic dispute. The complainant, Laramie William Whitten (26), advised the incident took place between he and his girlfriend at a residence in the 3600 block of S. Hwy 71. Deputy Everett travelled to that location and contacted the other party involved the disturbance, later determined to be the victim. During his investigation he could visibly see several red marks on the face and back of the victim. Based on evidence collected, Whitten was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Friday, August 24th, Deputy Chase Harvey observed a small trailer stuck on a piece of property on Linton Road in Wewahitchka. The trailer had various items on it that he believed came from a nearby barn. Contact was made with the property owner and the items on the trailer were identified as items that did come out of the barn in question. It was determined that someone had attempted to steal the items from the barn but was unsuccessful. This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information please contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

On Saturday, August 25th, Deputy J. Page initiated a traffic stop on Gary Rowell Road in Wewahitchka. Contact was made with the driver, Michael Dwain Harrell (42). While speaking with Harrell, he advised Deputy Page that he did not possess a valid driver's license and he could not provide valid proof of insurance on the vehicle. Deputy Page could detect an odor of marijuana emitting from inside the vehicle. Harrell gave consent to search the vehicle and Deputy Page located a metal container containing four (4) white pills, a glass smoking device, a metallic grinder and a container containing Marijuana. Based on these findings, Harrell was placed under arrest and charged with, DWLSR

(Habitual), Possession of Controlled Substance without a Prescription, Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility without incident.

On Saturday, August 25th, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office assisted the Gulf Correctional Institution with a criminal interdiction operation. The operation was intended to target visitors smuggling contraband onto the grounds of the prison. Silvestre Hernandez Galarza (36) was arrested during the operation and charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of a Controlled Substance (Hydrocodone), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of a Concealed Weapon.

On Saturday, August 25th, Deputy M. Manley was dispatched to a report of a physical disturbance on Patrick Street in Wewahitchka. When Deputy Manley arrived on scene he observed George W. "Trey" Simmons III (36) at the residence. Simmons was wanted for failing to pay child support so he was taken into custody transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Simmons was not involved with the disturbance that was reported.

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: Capt. Chris Buchanan