



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
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 4, 2019 – FEBRUARY 10, 2019

On Monday, February 4, Deputy C. Harvey arrested Charles Earl Hood Sr. (44) at the Gulf County Sheriff's Substation in Wewahitchka after Hood turned himself in for violating his probation. Hood was on probation (Community Control) for Aggravated Battery on a Pregnant Person, Aggravated Assault with a Weapon and False Imprisonment.

On Monday, February 4, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 71 and Reid Avenue in Wewahitchka. Deputy Harvey identified an occupant in the vehicle as Zeikel Paul Pitts (39), who had an active warrant for violation of probation. Pitts was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and driving with a suspended driver's license. Pitts was arrested on the warrant and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Monday, February 4, Deputy M. Manley was patrolling the area of Doc Whitfield Road and N. Kim Avenue when he observed a subject on the side of the road with a flashlight. Deputy Manley drew closer and noticed the man was struggling with fixing a bicycle and holding a flashlight at the same time. Deputy Manley stopped and offered to hold the light for him. The man, who was later identified as Allen Keith Dotson (46), accepted the assistance but seemed very uncomfortable by the deputy's presence. Deputy Manley conversed with Dotson and learned that Dotson had a history of narcotics use. Deputy Manley asked him if he had any narcotics on him and Dotson produced a metal tool socket used to smoke marijuana and gave it to Deputy Manley. Deputy Manley felt that Dotson was trying to conceal something else so he was placed in handcuffs. Dotson had a glass pipe with methamphetamine in it. Dotson was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Monday, February 4, Deputy V. Everett was dispatched to Hwy 22, near the Bay County line, to investigate a report of a reckless driver heading toward the City of Wewahitchka. While he was responding to the area, the reporting person advised that the reckless driver had crashed into a ditch. The vehicle remerged onto the roadway and continued on until Deputy Everett located it. After observing the vehicle operating at a slow speed and swerving on the roadway, Deputy Everett stopped the vehicle on Hwy 22 near Kemp Cemetery Road. The driver was identified as Blair Benson Fredrickson (38)

from Vero Beach, Florida. Fredrickson appeared to be under the influence of something and performed poorly during field sobriety assessments. Fredrickson was taken into custody and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Fredrickson stated that he had been smoking marijuana and marijuana was found in his vehicle.

On Tuesday, February 5, Sgt. S. Strickland travelled to the Bay County Jail and arrested Rana Marie Parker (29) on a Gulf County warrant. Parker was wanted in Gulf County for violation of probation on the original charge of Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement. Parker was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be booked.

On Tuesday, February 5, Investigator S. Ferrell and Deputy M. Peek responded to a report of a verbal altercation on 7th Street in Wewahitchka. Deputies met with a female victim who was upset and crying. The victim explained that Ryan Matthew McDonald (26) came into her home and, during an argument, persuaded her to drive her to another location. While in the vehicle, McDonald become progressively irritated and out of control. The victim stopped the vehicle and McDonald began to choke her. The victim tried to escape the vehicle but McDonald would not allow her as he continued to attempted to choke her. A citizen witnessed the event unfolding and assisted the victim in getting away from McDonald. McDonald was not located and currently has an active warrant for his arrest for Battery by Strangulation.

On Tuesday, February 5, Sidney Lee Robbins (26) was arrested at the Gulf County Court House on warrant for Violation of Probation. Robbins was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Tuesday, February 5, Deputy M. Manley conducted a traffic stop on E. Lake Avenue in Wewahitchka. Deputy Manley contacted three occupants in the vehicle, including the driver, who was identified as Joseph Billy Taylor Jr. (54). While Deputy Manley was conducting a driver's license check on Taylor, Sgt. P. Williams, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell arrived to assist. Deputy Peek deployed K-9 "Brix" on the vehicle to conduct an open-air sniff around the vehicle. Brix alerted, indicating a presence of an odor of illegal narcotics. By this time, Deputy Manley learned that Taylor had a suspended driver's license so he was placed under arrest. During a search of Taylor's clothing, two (2) Hydrocodone pills and a small baggie of methamphetamine were found. Taylor was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Methamphetamine and Driving While Suspended or Revoked.

On Friday, February 8, Deputy C. Harvey was dispatched to a residence on Fork Drive in reference to a report of an attempted burglary. The complainant reported that he captured video surveillance of a subject driving a newer model gold Chevrolet Avalanche pulling into his driveway. A white male, in his 30's exited the vehicle and entered into the screened in back porch of the residence. The suspect was wearing shorts and a tank top and had a tribal style tattoo on his right shoulder. The homeowner was watching the suspect live on his mobile device. The homeowner was able to communicate with the suspect through the security system and demanded that the subject leave, which he did. Charges will be pending against the suspect once his identify is known.

On Friday, February 8, Deputy C. Harvey served an arrest warrant on Palm Avenue in Wewahitchka by arresting Justin Alan Catrett (31). Catrett was wanted for violation of probation on the original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On Friday, February 8, School Resource Deputy D. Huggins was investigating a report of marijuana use at the Wewahitchka High School. Huggins identified a 14-year-old student who was in possession of marijuana on school grounds. During further investigation, Deputy Huggins was able to identify the person who sold the 14-year-old the marijuana as Krista Marie Taylor (18), also a student. The 14-year-old was given a Notice to Appear for Possession of Marijuana and released to the parents. Taylor was charged with Possession of Marijuana and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Friday, February 8, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell observed Aaron Shane Whitehurst (35) walking in the area of East River Road and 2nd Street in Wewahitchka. Whitehurst had an active warrant for his arrest for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Burglary and Grand Theft. Deputies contacted Whitehurst and took him into custody. Whitehurst and a back pack that he was wearing was searched and deputies found methamphetamine, a glass smoking pipe, hand tools and knives. Whitehurst was additionally charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Saturday, February 9, Deputy V. Everett, was assigned to investigate a physical altercation at a residence in the 8000 block of CR 386. Deputy Everett arrived and met with the victim who stated that a man named Dalton Omar Khalil Salameh (23), from Jacksonville, Florida, had struck him in the head with a closed fist the night before. This evening, prior to calling the Sheriff's Office, Salameh had tried to attack the victim again, this time with a knife. The victim defended himself by striking Salameh and retreated inside his home. The victim came back outside with a friend and Salameh had armed himself with a shovel and was threatening the victim. Salameh left the area but Deputy Everett and Deputy M. Manley caught him returning to the victim's house. Salameh was taken into custody and charged with Aggravated Assault.

On Saturday, February 9, Deputy J. Page was assigned to investigate a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Neal Road. It was reported that someone had broken into a house and used it to live in temporarily. Upon inspection of the home, Deputy Page found that the bed had been slept in, clothing in the bedroom had been disturbed and wine bottles were found inside that did not belong there. Deputy Page canvassed the area but there is not enough information to identify a suspect.

On Saturday, February 9, Sgt. R. Burkett arrested Jonathan Neal Morton (41) at the Gulf County Detention Facility on a warrant for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance. Morton was in custody in Forrest County, Mississippi, and was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility by a contracted prisoner transport service.

On Sunday, February 10, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell were dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Freeman Rouse Road. Deputies located the vehicle, which did not have a tag on it. Deputies observed who the driver was and identified him as Demetrice Lee Jones (30). Deputies also knew that Jones did not have valid driver's license. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle in the 1700 block of Hwy 22A. Jones stopped his vehicle, exited and attempted to walk away. The deputies confronted Jones and advised him that he was under arrest for driving with a suspended driver's license. Jones resisted arrest but he was ultimately taken into custody. A search of Jones' vehicle revealed a plastic baggie with methamphetamine and a baggie containing crack cocaine. Also found were several jeweler type baggies used for narcotics distribution. Jones was charged with Possession of Crack Cocaine, Possession of Methamphetamine, Resisting Law Enforcement without Violence, Failing to Register a Motor Vehicle and Driving While License Suspended or Revoked.

On Sunday, February 10, Deputy V. Everett was dispatched to an unknown disturbance at the Creek Stop Deli. A white male subject had come into the Creek Stop and was being very loud and disruptive. The subject left and it was reported that he was laying in the road on Hwy 71 in front of the Creek Stop. When Deputy Everett arrived on scene, he observed the subject walking in the turn lane on Hwy 71. Deputy Everett identified the man as Derek Anthony Laurimore (26). Laurimore appeared to be under the influence of a substance and could not explain to Deputy Everett what he was doing or where he lived. Laurimore was placed under arrest and charged with Disorderly Conduct.

On Sunday, February 10, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on CR 386 near the intersection of North Long Street. The vehicle was occupied by James Ryan Caswell (38) and Jill Marie Collins (48). During the course of the traffic stop, Deputy Peek deployed K-9 Brix to conduct a free air sniff around the vehicle. Brix alerted, indicating the presence of an odor of illegal narcotics. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed approximately 40 grams of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, thirty-five (35) Trazodone pills. A chambered .22 rifle was also found in the vehicle. Collins was placed under arrest and charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine, Possession of Medication without a Prescription and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Caswell was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

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