



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

APRIL 8, 2019 – APRIL 28, 2019

On Tuesday, April 9, Deputy P. Young responded to Cobia Avenue in Highland View in regards to a physical disturbance that was transpiring in the front yard of a residence. Deputy Young learned that Donna Tracy Odom (48) had been involved in a physical fight with a family member. During his investigation he learned that Odom was the aggressor. Odom was placed under arrest and charged with Domestic Battery.

On Wednesday, April 10, Deputy M. Manley was dispatched to Jehu Cemetery in Wewahitchka to investigate a report of someone running over grave stones with a vehicle. Deputy Manley was able to locate the vehicle responsible parked at a residence on Jehu Road. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Scotty Lydell Messer (52). The intent to run over the grave stones could not be established and was ruled accidental. Messer was issued a criminal citation for Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Property Damage.

On Friday, April 12, Alvin Dereak Chambers (52) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility on a warrant for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

On Friday, April 12, Brian Tafoya Jenkins (40) was arrested on Jeffery Drive in Port St. Joe on a Writ of Bodily Attachment for failing to pay child support. Jenkins was also wanted in Bay County for Violation of Probation.

On Friday, April 12, Deputy A. White was dispatched to the 1000 block of Old Bay City Road to investigate a report of a burglary. The victim reported that while he was away from home, a 60-quart Arctic cooler was stolen from his boat. The victim's shed was also broken into. Stolen from the shed were tool boxes, battery chargers, a chain saw, a weed eater, fishing rods and reels, fishing tackle, miscellaneous tools and more ice chests. The burglary remains under investigation.

On Friday, April 12, Deputy C. Harvey arrested Zeikel Paul Pitts (39) behind a residence on Fern Drive in Wewahitchka. Pitts was wanted on a warrant for driving with a suspended driver's license and for a Writ of Bodily Attachment for failure to pay child support. Pitts was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be booked.

On Friday, April 12, Deputy C. Kesterson was assisting the Port St. Joe Police Department in locating a vehicle involved in leaving the scene of an accident with property damage. During the search, the vehicle, which was described as a white Ford Ranger with a camper shell, was reported to be involved in another accident on Ling Street in Highland View. The Ford Ranger had backed into someone's wooden privacy fence and left the scene. Deputy Kesterson located the suspect vehicle parked at the Highland View VFW. Deputy Kesterson noticed the vehicle had damage to it with small pieces of wood in the bumper. While investigating the scene of the crash on Ling Street, Brenna Christine Jewell (33) was developed as the suspect. Jewell was apprehended while hiding in a wooded area on Ling Street. Deputy Kesterson charged Jewell with Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Property Damage. The Port St. Joe Police Department also has charges pending against Jewell.

On Friday, April 12, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell arrested Brandon Lee Burkett (32) while patronizing the Express Lane in Wewahitchka. Burkett was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Grand Theft (x3), Trespassing and Possession of Methamphetamine (x2). Burkett had active warrants out of Bay and Walton County as well. Burkett's vehicle was searched which revealed a glass smoking device with a liquid inside, the liquid tested positive for methamphetamine. The weight of the liquid was approximately 170 grams. Burkett was additionally charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine.

On Saturday, April 13, Deputy M. Manley stopped a vehicle on 20th Street near the intersection of Forest Park Avenue for running a stop sign. The driver, and sole occupant, was identified as Steven Michael Arthur (25). During the course of the traffic stop, Deputy Manley discovered that Arthur was in a possession of marijuana and a pipe used to ingest marijuana. Arthur was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Saturday, April 13, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for inoperable brakes lights on a trailer on Hwy 22 near Creamer Road. Deputies identified three occupants in the vehicle, two of which included Shawn Bennett Wood (43) and Christie D. Johnson (43). As deputies spoke with the driver (Wood), they could smell an odor of burnt marijuana coming inside the vehicle. Deputy Peek deployed K-9 Brix to conduct a free sniff around the vehicle and Brix alerted, indicating the presence of an odor of illegal narcotics was coming from the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle Johnson asked deputies to retrieve her glass of tea from the vehicle for her. When they did, they found a small plastic baggie floating in it. The liquid was field tested for methamphetamine and test results were positive. The total weight of the liquid was 278

grams. Johnson was placed under arrest and charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine and Tampering with Evidence. Burnt marijuana cigarettes were found in her vicinity of the vehicle so she was additionally charged with Possession of Marijuana. Wood was found to have methamphetamine in his pocket so he was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Saturday, April 13, Deputy Young responded to a report of a physical disturbance on Jehu Road in Wewahitchka. A female victim had reported that her live-in boyfriend had beaten her up. Marcus Dewayne Cooley (41) was identified as the aggressor by the victim. Cooley fled into a wooded area prior to law enforcement arriving on scene. Cooley later returned home, where he would be apprehended and charged with Domestic Battery.

On Saturday, April 13, Deputy P. Young was dispatched to the area of Hwy 71 and Church Street in regards to an unknown disturbance. When Deputy Young arrived, he observed a white female, later identified as Carrie Lynn Thomas (41), walking in the middle of Highway 71. Concerned citizens attempted to lure Thomas from the middle of the road but their attempts were met with belligerence. Deputy Young attempted to stop Thomas to speak with her but she ignored him and continued walking away while yelling profanities. Thomas was taken into custody and charged with Disorderly Intoxication. Thomas resisted Deputy Youngs efforts to affect an arrest so she was additionally charged with Resisting Law Enforcement without Violence.

On Sunday, April 14, Deputy A. White was dispatched to the 7000 block of W. Hwy 98 in Wewahitchka in reference to a report of a battery. The incident had occurred on the side of the road. Witnesses stated that a man, later identified as Gleen Van Stephens (57) of Maridian, Massachusetts, dragged a white female out of a van they were traveling in and was battering her. According to the victim, Stephens was hitting her inside the van and displayed some marks that were consistent with her statements. Stephens was placed under arrest and charged with Domestic Battery.

On Sunday, April 14, Deputy J. Page stopped a vehicle for speeding on CR 386, near the intersection of South Long Street. She learned that the driver, identified as Jorge Arturo Hernandez (25) of Navarre, FL, did not have a valid driver's license. Hernandez was placed under arrest and charged with No Valid Driver's License.

On Monday, April 15, Deputy C. Kesterson was dispatched to the 400 block of Santa Anna Street to investigate a report of a domestic disturbance. When Deputy Kesterson arrived, he met with a female victim who reported that her husband had forced her on the ground and held her down during an argument. The husband, who was identified a Kevin Craig Gibson (40), was placed under arrest on scene and charged with Domestic Battery.

On Monday, April 15, Deputy M. Manley received information regarding the location of a wanted person out of Bay County. David Warren Jamerson (40) was wanted out of Bay on a Writ of Bodily Attachment. Deputy Manley located Jamerson on West Arm Drive in

Wewahitchka and took him into custody. Jamerson was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be held for Bay County.

On Tuesday, April 16, Deputy M. Manley took a report of a phone scam. The scam consisted of someone posing as a law enforcement officer in Texas stating that a vehicle was found in Texas that was registered in the victim's name. The victim was told that the vehicle contained narcotics and thirteen bank accounts, also in the victim's name. The caller explained that the victim was being investigated for money laundering by the U.S. Government and transferred the victim to a person posing as a DEA Agent. The agent instructed the victim to protect what money she had in her legitimate bank accounts and transfer the money to Google Play cards. The victim was then instructed to provide them the card numbers, which the victim did. The victim lost a substantial amount of money as a result of this phone scam. This identical scam was reported to the Sheriff's Office by another Gulf County resident on April 24, 2019.

On Tuesday, April 16, Deputy C. Harvey went to Searcy Street in White City and arrested Andrea Rachell Hatcher (34) on a Writ of Bodily Attachment for failing to pay child support. Hatcher was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Tuesday, April 16, Investigator P. Baxley arrested Tracy Diane Foster (52) on Woodmere Drive Wewahitchka. Foster was wanted out of Bay County on warrants for Grand Theft and Burglary. Foster was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to await extradition to Bay County.

On Tuesday, April 16, Jacqueline D. Glass (47) was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility from Okaloosa County to be held on charges of Arson following a bond revocation. Glass is currently being held without bond.

On Wednesday, April 17, Deputy A. White was investigating a case at a residence on County Road 386. During his investigation, he identified a person named Danielle Nicole Cruz (27) who was wanted out of Bay County for failing to appear in court on criminal charges. Cruz was taken into custody and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Wednesday, April 17, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell stopped a vehicle on Mace Martin Road for having an expired Texas license plate. Contact was made with the driver, and sole occupant of the vehicle, Sarah Cathleen Franklin (35). During the course of the traffic stop deputies obtained consent to search the vehicle where they discovered methamphetamine wrapped in a dollar bill concealed in the center console. Franklin was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Wednesday, April 17, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell stopped a vehicle near the intersection of 2nd Street and East Orange Street for failing to stop at a stop sign.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Colton Lee Mullinax (24). Deputies learned that Mullinax's driver's license was suspended and was considered a habitual traffic offender. When deputies attempted to take Mullinax into custody, he fled on foot. Investigator Ferrell chased after Mullinax and apprehended him following a brief foot chase. Mullinax was charged with Driving While License Suspended (Habitual/Felony) and Resisting Arrest without Violence.

On Wednesday, April 17, Sgt. D. Sanders travelled to the Calhoun County Jail to arrest Tracy Colton Potter, who was being held on a Gulf County warrant. Potter's warrant was for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Felony Driving While License Suspended. Potter was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be booked on the warrant.

On Wednesday, April 18, Sgt. P. Williams travelled to Houston County, Alabama, to pick up Kenneth Allen Polk (36), who was being held by authorities on Gulf County charges. Polk was wanted for Battery and Tampering with a Witness. The charges against Polk resulted from an investigation by Deputy C. Harvey and Investigator P. Baxley which began on February 14, 2019, when they were assigned a report of a woman who was beaten by her boyfriend while staying in Presnell's Campground. Polk was transported back to Gulf County and booked on the charges.

On Wednesday, April 18, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near Stone Mill Creek Road. It was known that the driver of the vehicle, Eugene Phillip Allen (32), had a suspended driver's license. Allen was placed under arrest and charged with Driving While License Suspended.

On Wednesday, April 18, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell stopped a vehicle on East Magnolia Avenue in Wewahitchka for not having a registration plate on it. Deputies identified one of the occupants in the vehicle as Megan Marie Sims (21). Sims had an active warrant in Gulf County for violation of probation on the original charges of Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Sims was taken into custody and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Sunday, April 21, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on East River Road in Wewahitchka. The vehicle was occupied by Sandra Denise Kelsoe (30). During 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. Deputies located a magnetic box hidden under the hood that contained approximately 8 grams of methamphetamine and miscellaneous drug paraphernalia. Kelsoe was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Sunday, April 21, Deputy C. Harvey responded to a disturbance on Burgess Creek Road. An intoxicated man was on another person's property cursing out loud and acting in a

belligerent manor following an argument. The intoxicated man, who was identified as Brian Christopher Causey (37), refused to leave the property and refused to refrain from causing a disturbance. Causey was still on scene when Deputy Harvey arrived and was placed under arrest and charged with Disorderly Intoxication.

On Tuesday, April 23, Sgt. P. Williams arrested Jessika Louise Turner (27) on Monument Avenue in Port St. Joe on a warrant for Violation of Probation. Turner was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Wednesday, April 24, Theodore Dwayne Kennell (20) turned himself in to the Gulf County Detention Facility to be booked on a warrant for Violation of Probation. Kennell was on probation for Burglary of an Unoccupied Structure, Possession of Burglary Tools and Armed Burglary.

On Thursday, April 25, Deputy M. Manley travelled to the Jackson County Jail to pick up Christopher Wyatt Brown (44) who was being held on a Gulf County warrant. Brown was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Battery. Brown transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility and booked.

On Friday, April 26, Ryan Michael Carver (28) was arrested by Gulf County deputies and officers with Florida Probation and Parole on Linton Road in Wewahitchka. Carver was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine and Burglary. Carver was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility and held without bond.

On Friday, April 26, Brittany Annette Kinney (20) turned herself in to the Gulf County Detention Facility on a Capias for failing to appear in court on the original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On Friday, April 26, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 71 near Whitfield Hill. Deputies identified two occupants in the vehicle as Curt Larson Johnson (35) and Jerry Dale Goodwin Jr. (48). During the course of the traffic stop deputies learned that Johnson (driver) did not have a valid driver's license and was labeled as a habitual offender. Goodwin (passenger) had an active warrant for his arrest for Violation of Probation. Goodwin was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine. Both subjects were taken into custody. During an inventory of the vehicle, deputies found several syringes containing a liquid. The liquid was field tested in the syringes and they all tested positive for Methamphetamine. Johnson was charged with Driving While License Suspended (Habitual), Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Attached Tag Not Assigned and Altering a Registration Decal. In addition to the warrant violation of probation warrant, Goodwin was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Saturday, April 27, Deputy M. Peek and Investigator S. Ferrell stopped a vehicle near the intersection of Hwy 71 and Magnolia Avenue for having a registration tag attached that was registered to another vehicle. Deputies identified a passenger in the vehicle was William Earl Barber (28). Barber had an active warrant for his arrest for Violation of Probation. Barber was on Drug Offender Probation for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Barber had another warrant for Tampering with Electronic Monitoring Equipment after Barber cut an ankle monitor off himself to prevent probation officers from tracking him. After a brief struggle with deputies, Barber was taken into custody and searched. Barber was found to be in possession of methamphetamine, marijuana and digital scales. Deputies then identified the driver as Cody Allen Skipper (34). It turned out that Skipper had a suspended driver's license and was labeled as a habitual traffic offender. Skipper was taken into custody and K-9 Brix was deployed to conduct an open-air sniff around the vehicle. Brix alerted, giving deputies probable cause to search the vehicle. In the vicinity of where Barber was seated in the vehicle, a Beretta .22 automatic pistol was found. Barber and Skipper were transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Barber was charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Resisting Law Enforcement without Violence. Skipper with charged with Driving While License Suspended (Habitual) and Attaching Registration Tag not Assigned.

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
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