



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

OCTOBER 14, 2019 – OCTOBER 20, 2019

On Monday, October 14, Deputy S. Alday conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of East Magnolia Avenue and Highway 71 in Wewahitchka. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Bobbi Marie Ray (34) from Panama City. During a driver's license check, Deputy Alday learned that Ray's license was suspended so she was placed under arrest. During a vehicle inventory, in preparation to have it impounded, Deputy Alday discovered a syringe containing methamphetamine and an Oxycodone tablet. Ray was additionally charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, and because she did not have a prescription for the Oxycodone, she was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On Monday, October 14, Deputy J. Page responded to the Five Acre Farms area to investigate a report of a trespasser on Deseret Ranch property. According to Deseret employees, they encountered a man walking on their property carrying a baseball bat. When the man was approached by Deseret employees, he secured his bat in his vehicle, also on Deseret property, and walk away. The man they identified was Steven Morris Bennett (54). Attempts were made to locate Bennett but he was not found. The following morning, Deputy P. Young was dispatched to the same area in reference to a woods fire. Deputy Young encountered Bennett, who had been in the woods all night. Bennett stated he built the fire to keep the coyotes from attacking him. His fire resulted in approximately five acres of Deseret timber being destroyed. Bennett was transported to an area hospital to be treated. Deputy Page will be obtaining warrants for Bennett's arrest for Trespassing on Posted Agricultural Land, Malicious Land Burning and Criminal Mischief.

On Monday, October 14, Deputy P. Young, was dispatched to Beacon Road in St. Joe Beach in reference to a theft from a construction site. The victim of the residential construction site reported that five light fixtures were stolen from inside the home. The fixtures were not yet installed. They are called "Fishing Float Pendants" and are described as large glass globes with netting around the outside. The investigation remains open.

On Monday, October 14, Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop on Waterview Way in Wewahitchka. During the course of the stop, Deputy Peek obtained consent to search the vehicle from the driver, who was identified as Brian Keith Darnell (46). During a search of the vehicle, Deputy Peek found methamphetamine and a glass smoking device. Darnell was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Monday, October 14, Jesse Alexander Jensen (22) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility on a warrant for Violation of Probation. Jensen was on probation for two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On Tuesday, October 15, Johnny Arnez Williams Jr. (39) turned himself in to the Gulf County Detention Facility on a warrant for Violation of Probation. Williams was on probation for Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement and Possession of Cocaine.

On Wednesday, October 16, Investigators S. Ferrell and C. Harvey arrested Mary Leanne Modi (32) on W. Beatty Avenue in White City. Modi was wanted for Grand Theft of a Testamentary Instrument. In a case investigated by Deputy J. Page, Modi had stolen titles belonging to another person, whom she was formally in a domestic relationship with.

On Wednesday, October 16, the GCSO travelled to the Bay County Jail to arrest Bradley Lamar Drinkard (30) who was being held on a Gulf County warrant for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

On Wednesday, October 16, Investigators C. Harvey and S. Ferrell executed an arrest warrant on Bass Street in Howard Creek by arresting Aaron Barjames Touchet (43). Touchet was wanted for violation of Probation on the original charge of Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Wednesday, October 16, Deputy K. Newell was dispatched to Highland View to take a report of a missing female juvenile. According to juvenile's caretaker, the 15-year-old had sneaked out of the house during the night and her whereabouts were unknown. Deputy Newell learned that she may be with a male companion in Howard Creek. Deputy Newell later located the missing juvenile and returned her to her caretakers.

On Wednesday, October 16, Investigators S. Ferrell and C. Harvey executed an arrest warrant on Myers Road in Wewahitchka by arresting Eugene Phillip Allen (33). Allen was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Trespass and Petit Theft.

On Wednesday, October 16, the GCSO travelled to the Escambia County Jail to pick up Ronnie Ray Boone (60) who was being held on a Gulf County warrant for Violation of Probation. Boone was on probation for Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon. On that same transport, Robert Gregory Godwin (62) was picked up from the Walton County Jail who was being held on a Gulf County Order of Contempt and Writ of Bodily Attachment.

On Thursday, October 17, Michael Lee Collinsworth (23) turned himself in to the Gulf County Detention Facility after warrants were issued for his arrest for three counts of Lewd and Lascivious Molestation on a Victim less than 12 Years Old and three counts of Lewd and Lascivious Battery on a Victim less than 12 Years Old. Investigator A. White was assigned the case which was reported to the GCSO on September 29, 2019.

On Thursday, October 17, Deputy B. McCorvey conducted a traffic stop in Seven Springs subdivision in Wewahitchka. During the stop, the occupants were asked to exit the vehicle while Deputy M. Peek deployed K9 Brix for a free air sniff. While Deputy McCorvey was speaking with the driver, who was identified as Cameron Tyler Laster (22), he noticed Laster was kicking at something on the ground. Deputy McCorvey recovered the item, which was a vape pen. Laster acknowledged the pen was his and that it contained THC extract, which is a felony to possess. Field test results confirmed it was THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) extract so Laster was placed under arrest and charged accordingly.

On Thursday, October 17, Investigators C. Harvey and S. Ferrell arrested Benjamin Lee Russell (39) on Tupelo Street in Wewahitchka, on a warrant for Violation of Probation on the original charge of Grand Theft.

On Thursday, October 17, Investigators S. Ferrell and C. Harvey stopped a vehicle on Hwy 71 near Mitchell Road for not having a registration plate. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Angela Jeannine Lovelace (42). Investigators confirmed that the vehicle was not registered and revealed that Lovelace was in possession of amphetamine/dextroamphetamine and ondansetron hydrochloride pills. Lovelace did not have a prescription for either. Lovelace was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Medication without a Prescription and No Vehicle Registration.

On Thursday, October 17, Deputy Alday was patrolling the area of Hwy 71 and Johnson Lane when he saw man standing on the side of the road next to a motorcycle that was laying on its side. Deputy Alday stopped to assist the man, who was identified as Terrence Antonio Cage (36). According to Cage, he had crashed his motorcycle as a result of another vehicle pulling in front of him. Deputy Alday learned that Cage's drivers license was suspended and he did not have a motorcycle endorsement. Cage was placed under arrest for DWLS/R and No Motorcycle Endorsement.

On Saturday, October 20, Deputy P. Young responded to a report of a theft at Rich's IGA in Wewahitchka. Store management reported that they had captured a suspect on video surveillance stealing goods. A suspect has been identified and criminal charges are being pursued.

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