



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

MAY 18, 2020 – MAY 24, 2020

On Monday, May 18, Deputy S. Alday, conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Hwy 98 and Columbus Street. As a result of the traffic stop, the driver, identified as Fredrick Martin Hitchcock Jr. (50), was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, DWLS/R and Failure to Register a Motor Vehicle.

On Monday, May 18, Investigators C. Harvey and M. Manley stopped a vehicle near the intersection W. Beatty Avenue and Begonia Street in White City. They identified the driver as Robert Austin Marquardt (29) and learned he was wanted out of Liberty County for Violation of Probation. Marquardt was placed under arrest on the warrant and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Tuesday, May 19, Sgt. S. Ferrell executed an arrest warrant on Sweet Gum Circle in Overstreet by arresting Charles David Johnson (65) for Petit Theft and Possession of Another Person's Identification. On May 6, 2020, Deputy J. Page investigated a theft at the IGA in Wewahitchka where Johnson found a wallet not belonging to him and removed \$160.00 from the wallet before turning it in to store employees.

On Tuesday, May 19, Deputy McCorvey arrested Willie Stanford Riley Jr. (57) on a warrant for Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card. While investigating a theft of a wallet, Deputy McCorvey learned through the victim that after the theft, six fraudulent charges were made at locations in Port St. Joe. He identified Riley as the person who made those transactions. The investigation does not implicate Riley to the actual theft of the wallet.

On Wednesday, May 20, Deputy J. Page responded to a report of a disturbance on McGlon Drive in Wewahitchka. Deputy Page learned that a physical altercation had occurred between John Joseph Kinney (42) and Chasity Lynn Bock (44). As a result of the investigation, both Kinney and Bock were arrested and charged with Battery.

On Wednesday, May 20, Deputy K. Newell was dispatched to a report of a theft at a residential construction site in the 6000 block of Cape San Blas Road. The victim reported that thirteen (13) Shwinco windows were stolen from the construction site while awaiting installation. It is believed that the theft occurred sometime Tuesday, May 19, or in the early morning hours of Wednesday. The theft remains under investigation.

On Friday, May 22, Deputy S. Alday conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 98 near Butler Bay Road in Port St. Joe. During the course of the traffic stop a search of the vehicle was performed based on consent from the driver, and sole occupant of the vehicle, Allen Wayne Royal (56). A searched revealed a personal amount of methamphetamine and a glass smoking pipe. Royal was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Friday, May 22, Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Tupelo Street and West River Road in Wewahitchka. During the stop, Deputy Peek deployed K-9 "Brix" to conduct an open-air sniff around the vehicle. Brix alerted, providing Deputy Peek probable cause to search the vehicle. Numerous articles of drug paraphernalia were found along with personal amounts of methamphetamine. The driver, Tracy Leah Skipper (45), was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. A passenger in vehicle identified as William Sherrill Armstrong Jr. (45) was also arrested and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Saturday, May 23, David Mitchell Rich Jr. (56) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility after warrants were issued for his arrest for Grand Theft and Exploitation of the Elderly. In February 2020, Rich accepted money from someone hiring him to perform a job at a home, but he never performed any work. He also refused to return the money.

On Saturday, May 23, Deputy S. Alday responded to a report of an unknown disturbance on Redfish Street in Highland View. When he arrived on scene it was reported that a white male subject, later identified as Darien Nathen Hutcheson (42), was wandering the streets yelling nonsense. Deputy Alday attempted to get Hutcheson to return to his home but he refused, saying that he was "God" and could "wander the earth as he pleased". Hutcheson was placed under arrest and charged with Disorderly Conduct.

On Saturday, May 23, Deputy S. Alday conducted a traffic stop on Old Transfer Road in Wewahitchka. During the stop, K-9 Deputy M. Peek deployed K-9 "Brix" to conduct an open-air sniff around the vehicle. Brix alerted, indicating the presence of an odor of illegal narcotics in the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed a personal amount of methamphetamine. Haylee Alyss Johnson (33), who was a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Sunday, May 24, Deputy S. Alday responded to a report of a criminal mischief on Old Panama Hwy in Wewahitchka. Deputy Alday learned that an altercation had taken place between Blake Edward Harrelson (24) and another person. During the altercation Harrelson choked the other person and then damaged that person's vehicle with a metal pole and a brick. Harrelson was placed under arrest and charged with Battery and Criminal Mischief.

On Sunday, May 24, Deputy B. McCorvey observed a motorcycle traveling at a high rate of speed on Hwy 98 in St. Joe Beach. Deputy McCorvey activated his speed measurement unit and clocked the motorcycle at 103 MPH. When he turned around to stop the motorcycle, it sped up to 120 MPH. The motorcycle attempted to lose Deputy McCorvey by taking several residential roads and then turning back onto Hwy 98, heading toward Mexico Beach. Deputy McCorvey was able to get the vehicle stopped at the intersection of Hwy 98 and CR 386. The driver of the motorcycle was identified as Peter Anthony Izzo (25). Izzo was placed under for Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement and Unlawful Speed (50 MPH or more over the posted speed limit).

On Sunday, May 24, Deputy G. Desrosier responded to a report of a disturbance on East River Road in Wewahitchka. The disturbance was between Derek Anthony Knowles (29) and Misty Marie Knowles (30), who were both arrested and charged with Battery.

On Sunday, May 24, Deputy B. McCorvey attempted stop a motorcycle on Hwy 71 near the Stonemill Creek Road. The motorcycle failed to stop and sped up to 80 MPH. Deputy McCorvey observed the driver take something out of his pocket and drop it. The motorcycle eventually stopped and the driver was identified as Eric Anthony Sims (32). Sims was placed under arrest and charged with DWLS/R, No Motorcycle Endorsement and Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement. The item Sims threw from his pocket was a cigarette pack, and within the vicinity of the cigarette pack was a pipe with crack cocaine. Sims was also charged with Possession of Crack cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Tampering with Evidence.

On Sunday, May 24, Sgt. S. Ferrell executed an arrest warrant on Plantation Road by arresting Tammy J. Melton (51) on a warrant for Petit Theft. The warrant stemmed from a theft report made at the Ace Hardware in Wewahitchka on May 12, 2020. Video surveillance captured Melton stealing a Dremel tool from the store by hiding it inside of another piece of merchandise. During his investigation, Deputy Young was able to locate and recover the tool from Melton's home.

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