



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

AUGUST 31, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

On Wednesday, September 2, Deputy S. Alday conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 71 near the intersection of Blake Drive in Wewahitchka. While conversing with the driver, who was identified as Edward Garcia (59), Deputy Alday suspected that he was under the influence of alcohol. Garcia was requested to perform field sobriety assessments which he performed poorly, indicating that he was in fact impaired. Garcia was placed under arrest and charged with DUI. Garcia submitted to a breath test which resulted his blood alcohol level was .131 which is nearly two times the legal limit.

On Wednesday, September 2, Deputy B. McCorvey executed an arrest warrant on Starfish Avenue by arresting Salina Marie Harrison (39). Harrison was wanted for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Expired Driver's License more than 6 Months (two counts) DWLS/R (two counts) and Attaching Tag Not Assigned.

On Thursday, September 3, Investigator M. Manley and C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle near the intersection of Old Dairy Farm Road and Mossie Road in Wewahitchka. During the course of the traffic stop, investigators obtained consent to search the vehicle. A search revealed Alprazolam and Xanax pills. None of the occupants in the vehicle had prescriptions for either medication. A digital scale with methamphetamine residue was found also. Vehicle occupants Mary Kathleen McFarland (59) and Shena Melissa Lane (36) were both arrested and charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance. McFarland was additionally charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Lane was additionally charged with Illegally Distributing a Controlled Substance.

On Friday, September 4, Deputy S. Alday and Sgt. S. Ferrell responded to Spruce Avenue near Overstreet to investigate a report of gun shots being fired inside a residence. Deputies made contact with a man identified as Christopher A. Stembridge (48). Stembridge stated he shot his gun inside his home to scare away intruders. Deputies could not validate his claim that intruders were in his home but did determine that he was under the influence of prescription medication and alcohol. Deputies learned that

Stembridge was a convicted felon so they secured his weapon and ammunition and placed him under arrest for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

On Saturday, September 5, Deputy P. Young conducted a traffic stop on CR 386 for speeding. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Merlin Roglio Florez Perez (29) from El Salvador. Perez has never had a driver's license issued to him so he was placed under arrest and charged with No Valid Driver's License.

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