



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE
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STUDENT ARRESTED IN WRITTEN BOMB THREAT CASE

The investigation into a written bomb threat at Wewahitchka High School (WHS) continued today. Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) deputies responded yesterday to the school after the threat was discovered on a wall in the boy's bathroom. The discovery prompted the evacuation and the immediate dismissal of students and staff at WHS. Due to the proximity of Wewahitchka Elementary School (WES) and the logistical challenge presented of transporting students home, students and staff at WES were also dismissed and classes were cancelled for the remainder of the day. No explosive devices were located during a search of the campus and the school facility was later deemed safe.

Today, investigators interviewed multiple students after reviewing video captured by the school's surveillance system. Through the interviews, it was determined that Jay Raymond Floyd Whitfield (15) was responsible for writing the threat on the wall. Whitfield informed an investigator that he wrote the threat in hopes of classes being cancelled for the remainder of the day.

"Parents, please sit down and talk to your kids about this incident," said Sheriff Mike Harrison. "The threat of a human life, in this case the lives of over 400 students and staff, is a serious matter. This is not a game. These are real-life criminal charges that have long term consequences."

Whitfield is currently being held and awaiting first appearance at the Bay Regional Juvenile Detention Center on one count of Threatening to Discharge a Destructive Device (2nd Degree Felony) and one count of Interference with School Administration Functions (2nd Degree Misdemeanor).

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