



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
June 16, 2014

GCSO Law Enforcement Summary

June 9, 2014 – June 15, 2014

On Monday June 9th, Deputy Ken Starnes responded to the area of Evergreen Drive in Wewahitchka in reference to a theft of utilities complaint. Deputy Starnes conducted an investigation and determined a neighbor had connected a water hose to a vacant residence without permission and had been using their water for several days. The suspect in this investigation was issued a trespass warning and criminal charges are pending.

On Monday June 9th, Sgt. John Murnan responded to the area of Sycamore Street in Wewahitchka in reference to a theft reported by the City of Wewahitchka. A stainless steel pump control panel valued at \$9,000.00 was stolen from property owned by the City of Wewahitchka. This investigation is ongoing, anyone with information concerning this investigation is asked to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIPS (8477).

On Tuesday June 10th, Deputy Ken Starnes began an investigation in reference to an individual attempting fill a drug prescription that had been altered/forged to obtain a controlled substance. Through further investigation an arrest warrant was obtained for Christy Renee Smith (34) of Port St. Joe for Acquire/Obtain or Attempt Possession of a Controlled Substance. She was arrested on June 12th and released on a \$2,500.00 bond.

On Tuesday June 10th, Deputy Joel Oquendo responded to the area of Byrd Parker Drive in Wewahitchka in reference to a caller catching someone stealing from his parent's residence. The investigation revealed Jason Thomas Carnine (32) of Kentucky had stolen a bank check from the victim's residence while inside as a guest, but had not yet cashed it. The victim's son, inadvertently saw the bank check with his parent's name when it fell on the ground while Carnine was taking something out of his pocket. He was subsequently arrested and charged with petit theft. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. On June 13th, the victim dropped the charges and Carnine was released.

On Wednesday June 11th, Deputy Paul Williams responded to the Family Dollar Store in Wewahitchka in reference to a shoplifting investigation. On June 10th, Family Dollar Store employees witnessed an individual shoplift, and as the suspect left the store obtained the vehicle registration. Through the vehicle registration and video from the store security cameras, Deputy Williams positively identified the suspect. The Gulf County Sheriff's Office is awaiting an arrest warrant to be issued.

On Wednesday June 11th, Lieutenant Tim Wood arrested James Anthony Turman (19) of St. Joe Beach on an active warrant for Violation of Probation. Investigator Larry Dickey had recently conducted an investigation involving Turman where he was arrested for burglary of a conveyance. At the time of that arrest, Turman was already on probation for a separate Burglary, Grand Theft and Giving False Information to a Pawn Broker. He is currently being held in the Gulf County Detention Facility without bond.

On Wednesday June 11th, Deputy Shane Ferrell responded to the Highland View area in reference to a domestic disturbance. During Deputy Ferrell's investigation, the parties involved were checked for outstanding warrants. It was discovered one party involved, Janel Nicole Barefoot (26) of Highland View was wanted by the Bay County Sheriff's Office for Violation of Probation for an Escape Charge. Barefoot was arrested and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. She has been extradited back to Bay County.

On Thursday June 12th, Deputy Brian Smith responded to an area at Cape San Blas in reference to the theft of a bicycle. The bicycle is described as a men's Trek Navigator 20, black & silver in color, valued at \$500.00. This investigation is ongoing, anyone with information concerning this investigation is asked to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIPS (8477).

On Friday June 13th, Sgt. Jerome Williams responded to the area of Howard Creek in reference to a residential burglary. During the burglary, there was property taken from inside the residence as well as several fishing rods that were outside the residence. This investigation is ongoing, anyone with information concerning this investigation is asked to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIPS (8477).

On Friday June 13th, just before mid-night, Sgt. Jerome Williams responded to the 8000 block of Highway 98 in St. Joe Beach in reference to a young white male exposing his sexual organs at two females between the ages of 12 and 13. The two females were tourist and could not identify the suspect but provided a description as follows: White male, approximately 20 years of age, approximately six feet tall, beard, long hair-line, unknown tattoo on one of his legs. This investigation is ongoing, anyone with information concerning this investigation is asked to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIPS (8477).

On Saturday June 14th during the early morning hours, Sgt. Jerome Williams conducted a traffic on a 2003 silver Volkswagen driven by Kimberly Ann Clarkson (31) of Port St. Joe for running a stop sign at the intersection of Highway 98 and Sea Shores Drive. During the traffic stop Sgt. Jerome Williams detected the odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. K-9 "Marco" was deployed and gave a positive alert for illegal drugs inside the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed a bag of less than twenty grams of marijuana in the glove compartment. Clarkson was placed under arrest and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where she was conditionally released at first appearance.

On Saturday June 14th, Deputy Ken Starnes responded to the Indian Pass Campground Office in reference to a commercial burglary. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken during the burglary. This investigation is ongoing, anyone with information concerning this investigation is asked to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office at 850-227-1115 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIPS (8477).

On Saturday June 14th, Deputy Joel Oquendo was patrolling the area of Wewahitchka when he observed a suspicious vehicle backed up to a tractor trailer on private property. Due to recent thefts in the area Deputy Oquendo contacted the property owner to verify if anyone was authorized to be on their property. The property owner advised Deputy Oquendo he had not authorized anyone to be on the property. Based on this information, Deputy Oquendo made contact with the occupants of the suspicious vehicle. The occupants were identified as Anthony Thomas Hysmith (31), and Eugene Phillip Allen (27), both of Wewahitchka. Through further investigation Deputy Oquendo discovered Hysmith and Allen had just stolen property valued at \$1,240.00 from the property owner. The stolen property was recovered and returned to the owner. Hysmith and Allen were arrested and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Both were charged with Trespassing and Grand Theft and are being held on a \$7,000.00 bond.

On Saturday June 14th, Sgt. Jerome Williams and Deputy Brian Smith responded to the Money Bayou area in reference to a domestic disturbance. Prior to deputies arriving on scene, the suspect fled the area on foot. Gulf Correctional Institute (Gulf C.I.) K-9 unit responded to the scene to assist in searching for the suspect. The Gulf C.I. K-9 unit deployed their tracking dogs and began searching. Through further investigation Christopher James Long (46) of Port St. Joe was tracked to a wooded area near his residence. He was found hiding in a swamp area and subsequently arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he was conditionally released at first appearance.

On Sunday June 15th, Deputy George Desrosier arrested Michael Ray Whitfield (40) of Wewahitchka on a Violation of Probation warrant at his residence. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he is being held on a \$635.00 bond.

On Sunday June 15th, Sgt. Jerome Williams conducted a traffic stop on a 2001 Toyota in the area of Highway 98 and Depot Creek for unlawful speed. Sgt. Williams made contact with the driver, who instead of providing the deputy with a driver's license, he gave him a Tarrant County, Texas inmate identification card. The driver was identified as, Christopher David McKeehan (45) of Texas. A driver license check revealed McKeehan was operating a motor vehicle with no valid driver license. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he was issued traffic citations for unlawful speed 80 mph in a post 60 mph zone, and No Valid D/L. McKeehan was released on a \$500.00 bond.

From June 9th through June 15th the GCSO logged the following department activity: Security/Zone Checks, 250; Traffic Stop, 30; Civil Paper Service, 15; Request for Security Checks, 3; Field Contact, 34; Information, 14; Theft/Shoplifting, 9; Abandoned Vehicle, 1; Reckless Driver, 5; Suspicious Vehicle, 1; Citizens Assist, 0; Disabled Motor Vehicle, 2; Domestic Disturbance, 17; Escort, 1; Prowler/Trespass, 2; Sexual Offender Address Verification, 4; Street Obstruction, 0; Suspicious Activity, 2; Suspicious Person, 0; Traffic Accident, 4; Warrant Arrest, 4; Welfare Check, 0; Alarm, 10; Animal Call, 21; Physical Disturbance, 2; Disturbance, 2; Mentally Ill, 1; Harassing Phone Calls, 0; Assault, 0; Burglary, 3; Contact Message, 0; Noise Disturbance, 1; Hit & Run, 0; Lost Personal Items, 0; Prisoner Transport, 2; Recovered Property, 0; Death Investigation, 0;

Prepared by: Lieutenant Paul Beasley

Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison