



# **Gulf County Sheriff's Office**

## **Sheriff Mike Harrison**

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • [www.gulfsheriff.com](http://www.gulfsheriff.com)  
850-227-1115 • 850-639-5717 • Fax 850-227-2097

Contact: Capt. Chris Buchanan  
Telephone: 850-227-1115  
Email: [cbuchanan@gcso.fl.gov](mailto:cbuchanan@gcso.fl.gov)

MEDIA RELEASE  
January 19, 2015

### **GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY**

JANUARY 12, 2015 – JANUARY 18, 2015

On Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a 911 call regarding a physical disturbance in the 9400 block of U.S. Highway 98 in the Beacon Hill area. Sgt. J. Williams and Deputy C. Harvey responded to the call. The altercation resulted in the transport of one subject to Sacred Heart Hospital and the arrest of Benjamin B. Hobbs (28). Hobbs was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF) where he was booked in on one charge of Battery. He was later first appeared and released on his own recognizance.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Deputy P. Baxley made contact with a complainant at the GCSO Substation in Wewahitchka in reference to the theft items from a grave. The suspect removed a Santa Claus and Snowman decoration, along with their metal stands, from the Buckhorn Cemetery. Artificial flowers were also stolen from the grave. The decorations were described as approximately four foot tall and were last seen Christmas Day.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Deputy C. Sanders executed a warrant for Failure to Appear on Fredrick L. Cummings (46). Cummings was in the custody of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office before being transported to the GCDF. He was first appeared and released on his own recognizance. Cummings failed to appear on his original charge of Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (DWLS/R).

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, the GCSO received a complaint regarding the burglary of a residence in the 100 block of Venus Drive in Port St. Joe. Deputy C. Sanders responded to investigate the complaint. No items were removed from the residence.

On Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, the GCSO executed an order to transport by traveling to Wakulla Correctional Institution. William W. Thomas, Jr. (37) was due to appear in court on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. He was returned to Wakulla Correctional Institution the following day.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the GCSO received a complaint regarding a subject standing in the middle of the road in the 100 block of Lake Grove Road in Wewahitchka. Deputy C. Sanders responded to the area to attempt to locate the subject. The subject was identified by the complainant as Michael S. Teston (37). Teston was located while he was attempting to conceal himself from the view of Deputy Sanders behind a tree. He was taken into custody for Loitering and Prowling and transported to the GCDF. He remains in custody.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Deputy C. Sanders was dispatched to the 200 block of Marvin Pitts Road in Honeyville in reference to theft. The complainant reported the theft of a 30 horse power Mariner Outboard Motor and two galvanized boat trailer tires. A stainless steel prop was also removed from another outboard. The offense was reported to have occurred at some point during the last 30 days.

On Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, Deputy S. Ferrell and Investigator J. Hanson served two outstanding warrants from Bay County on Lenina R. Wiles in the 100 block of James Pitts Road in Wewahitchka. The out of county warrants were for Grand Theft and the Exploitation of the Elderly. She was transported to the GCDF.

On Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, Deputy M. Garrett served Yolanda J. Rodriguez (24) with a warrant for Violation of Probation on her original charges of Introduction of Contraband into a State Facility, Possession of Marijuana, and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Rodriguez was arrested by the Garland Police Department (Dallas County) in Texas on December 28, 2014. She was extradited back to Gulf County on the charges. She remains in custody.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. J. Williams and Deputy C. Harvey arrested Tyler W. Phillips (19) in the 400 block of Angel Fish Street in Highland View. The GCSO held a warrant on Phillips for Lewd and Lascivious Acts on a Disabled Adult. The case was investigated by Lt. P. Beasley. Phillips was transported to the GCDF where he remains in custody. He is currently on probation for Felony Battery.

On Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, Deputy P. Baxley responded to the 100 block of Ridge Road in Dalkeith in reference to the theft of a pressure washer. The complainant reported the item was taken on this date. It was described as having a yellow frame and red six horse power motor.

On Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Deputy P. Beuligmann was contacted at the GCSO Substation in Wewahitchka in reference to the theft of a 50 inch television. The investigation resulted in the arrest of Branden L. Burkett (28) for Grand Theft. Burkett is currently on probation for Grand Theft and was charged accordingly. He remains in custody at the GCDF.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, Deputy C. Sanders and Deputy D. Wisner responded to the report of a traffic accident in the area of Our Town Road north of Wewahitchka. A caller reported they observed an overturned vehicle in the ditch, but could not see anyone around it. The

driver of the vehicle, Lawrence P. Cowart (61) was later located near the vehicle and treated by Emergency Medical Services. The Florida Highway Patrol responded to investigate the crash which resulted in Cowart's arrest for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). He was booked into the GCDF and later released on a \$1,500 bond.

On Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, Deputy M. Layfield assisted the Port St. Joe Police Department in the arrest of Walter B. Quay (44) in the area of Avenue D and U.S. Highway 98 in Port St. Joe. Quay was wanted for Violation of Probation on his original charge of DWLS/R and DUI. He was transported to the GCDF where he remains in custody.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan  
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison