



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • 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

MEDIA RELEASE
March 31, 2015

GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

MARCH 23, 2015 – MARCH 29, 2015

On Monday, March 23rd, Deputy P. Baxley conducted a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 98 near 3rd Street in Port St. Joe for a traffic infraction. The driver, April M. Sparks (26), was contacted and admitted to the infraction. K-9 Deputy J. Oquendo arrived on scene and contacted Sparks. Prior to deploying his partner, she removed a small plastic bag of marijuana from her bra and handed it to the deputy. Sparks was arrested and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF) for Possession of Less than Twenty Grams of Marijuana.

On March 23rd, Deputy D. Sanders was on patrol and observed a vehicle exceeding the posted speed limit in the area of State Road (SR) 22 and Wetappo Creek. A traffic stop was conducted and contact was made with the driver, Channing B. Fontenot (24). Deputy Sanders determined Fontenot was operating the vehicle on a suspended driver's license. He was arrested and transported to the GCDF for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (DWLS/R).

On March 23rd, Deputy D. Wiser was dispatched to the 400 block of Ling Street in Highland View regarding the theft of a four wheeler. The complainant stated the vehicle was stolen within the last month, or so. It was described as a camouflaged colored 110cc 2014 Power Sports four wheeler valued at \$600.00.

On March 23rd, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) traveled to the Calhoun County Jail to transport Brandon R. Evans (23) to the GCDF. An Order to Transport was issued for Evans to appear in court the following day. Evans was served with a warrant for Violation of Probation once he arrived and was booked into the GCDF.

On Tuesday, March 24th, the GCSO received a complaint regarding a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of McGlon Drive in Wewahitchka. Deputy D. Sanders and Investigator J. Hanson responded to the call. While in route to the call, deputies learned Paul J. Causey (31) was intoxicated and attempting to make entry into the residence. Once deputies arrived, they observed Causey running from the residence into a wooded

area. Causey refused commands from the deputies and continued to flee. After a brief search he was located a short time later and taken into custody. Causey was intoxicated and was escorted back to the patrol vehicles. At the conclusion of the investigation he was arrested for Resisting a Law Enforcement Officer without Violence, Loitering and Prowling, and Disorderly Intoxication. Causey was transported to the GCDF.

On March 24th, Shanteria L. Brown (29) was taken into custody at the Gulf County Courthouse. Brown appeared in circuit court and was determined to be wanted by the Bay County Sheriff's Office for Failure to Appear. She was booked into the GCDF to await extradition to Bay County.

On March 24th, Investigator J. Hanson executed a warrant at the GCDF on Freddie L. Granger (54) for the Sale of Crack Cocaine within 1,000 Feet of a Church. Granger was in custody at the GCDF on unrelated charges.

On Wednesday, March 25th, Deputy G. Desrosier arrested James C. Terry (43) in the 500 block of Byrd Parker Drive in Wewahitchka. The GCSO held a Writ of Bodily Attachment for Child Support on Terry. He was transported to the GCDF.

On Thursday, March 26th, a search warrant was executed at 104 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Port St. Joe. The warrant was the culmination of an investigation into the sale of illegal narcotics at the residence. Lottie G. Yarrell (59) was arrested in the residence and served eight warrants for the Sale of Crack Cocaine within a 1,000 Feet of a Church and one warrant for Principle to Sale of Crack Cocaine within a 1,000 Feet of a Church. Yarrell was also charged with Possession of Crack Cocaine as a result of the search warrant. Yarrell was transported to the GCDF.

On March 26th, Kendrick J. Byrd (32) was arrested on six warrants for the Sale of Crack Cocaine within 1,000 Feet of a Church. The warrants were executed on Byrd at the GCDF, where he was in custody on unrelated charges. The warrants were the result of investigations conducted by the GCSO Narcotics Unit.

On March 26th, the GCSO received a call from the Gulf Correctional Institution, at 500 Ike Steel Road, in Stone Mill Creek regarding a disorderly person on the property and possibly armed. Once deputies arrived it was learned the subject was not armed and was detained by Correctional Officers. The incident was determined to be domestic related. Ernest C. Thursbay (50) was arrested and transported to the GCDF. He was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Trespassing on Prison Grounds.

On Friday, March 27th, Deputy J. Oquendo conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of SR 71 and Howard Creek Road. Deputy Oquendo observed the vehicle being driven erratically and suspected the driver to be under the influence. Contact was made with the operator of the vehicle, Jathan Nunery (23), and the passenger. Probable cause was developed through an investigation and Nunery was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). The passenger, Matthew R. Green (19), was also determined to be in possession of alcohol. Both subjects were transported to the GCDF. Nunery was

charged with DUI, DWLS/R, and Giving Alcohol to a Person Under 21. Green was charged with Possession of Alcohol by a Person Under 21.

On March 27th, Deputy D. Sanders responded to the 100 block of Haven Road on Cape San Blas regarding the theft of a utility trailer. The complainant reported the theft of an 18 foot 2006 Hi-Way Star utility trailer described to be a white, single axle, box style trailer with a “barn” style door. The business name, “Residential Elevators, Inc.,” is on the outside of the trailer. The complainant stated the trailer contained approximately \$15,000 in assorted tools and equipment. Investigator L. Dickey continues to investigate the case.

On Sunday, March 29th, Deputy J. Oquendo conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of County Road 22A and Richards Avenue in Wewahitchka. The vehicle failed to maintain its lane and the driver was suspected of DUI. When contact was made with the driver, Thomas K. Lee, Jr. (23), Deputy Oquendo could smell the odor of marijuana coming from within the vehicle. During the investigation, Deputy Oquendo determined Lee had chewed marijuana in his mouth in an attempt to get rid of the substance. He was placed under arrest for Possession of Less Than Twenty Grams of Marijuana and Tampering with Evidence. Lee was transported to the GCDF.

On March 29th, Sgt. C. Dixon assisted the Port St. Joe Police Department (PSJPD) by transporting Walter J. Lewis to the GCDF after he was placed under arrest by the PSJPD for DUI. Sgt. Dixon searched Lewis’ person before placing him in the rear seat of his patrol vehicle and found Lewis possessed a marijuana cigarette in his pocket. He was transported to the GCDF and booked in on Possession of Less than Twenty Grams of Marijuana.

On March 29th, Deputy P. Williams conducted a DUI investigation in the area of SR 71 and CR 386 in Wewahitchka. At the conclusion of the investigation, Corey G. Griner (23) was arrested for DUI. Griner’s breath alcohol content was over twice the legal limit. He was transported to the GCDF.

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