



# **Gulf County Sheriff's Office**

## **Sheriff Mike Harrison**

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MEDIA RELEASE  
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### **GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY**

May 9, 2016 – May 15, 2016

On Monday, May 9, 2016, a juvenile surrendered themselves at the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) on a pick up order for Failure to Appear. Deputy C. Smith arrested the juvenile and transported the individual to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in Bay County.

On May 9, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a black Ford truck driven by Evan Carter Matlock (23) for a traffic violation on County Road 381 in close proximity to Honey Hill Road. Through further investigation Matlock consented to a search of the vehicle. The search revealed Matlock, who was on probation, was in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Matlock was arrested and charged with Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Violation of Probation. Matlock was on probation for Possession of Sexual Performance by a Child. He was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF).

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, the GCSO received a complaint of a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of Maddox Street in Oak Grove. Deputy M. Layfield responded to the scene to investigate. The investigation revealed Jonathan Andrew Gay (29) committed battery against the victim, who was pregnant at the time of offense. Deputy Layfield observed physical injuries to the victim to substantiate the allegation. Gay was arrested and charged with Aggravated Domestic Battery. He was transported to the GCDF.

On May 10, 2016, Deputy M. Garrett and Sergeant J. Murnan arrested Von Terrell Holmes (50) on four separate arrest warrants in the 1500 block on Highway 22 in Wewahitchka. Two warrants for Non-Support out of Gulf County, one warrant was out of Bay County, and one warrant out of Calhoun County. Holmes was transported to the GCDF.

On May 10, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a black Ford truck driven by Paul Jock Causey (32) for a traffic violation in the 6000 block

of Ganley Road in the Dalkeith area. The vehicle was occupied with one passenger, James Waylon Porter (37). A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed Causey and Porter were in possession of marijuana, methamphetamine, and drug paraphernalia. A further search of the vehicle revealed a suspicious blue cylinder wrapped with tape, epoxy and a fuse. Porter told investigators the blue cylinder was a homemade explosive device and did contain an explosive powder. Bay County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Bomb Squad was contacted and responded to the scene to assist. BCSO Bomb Squad confirmed the device was in fact a destructive device and were able to defuse it. Causey and Porter were arrested and transported to the GCDF. Both were charged with Possession of a Destructive Device, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Thursday, May 12, 2016, Investigator L. Dickey assisted the Mexico Beach Police Department (MBPD) in authoring a search warrant for a travel trailer in the 300 block of Madison Street in Oak Grove. MBPD developed probable cause during their ongoing investigation that evidence would be found inside the travel trailer. GCSO Investigators and Deputies executed the search warrant at the aforementioned location. Evidence from the MBPD investigation was recovered during the search. As part of the ongoing MBPD investigation, arrest warrants were obtained by their agency for, James Raymond Heath Jr (48), Mark Andrew Gay (49), and Sheryl Marice Gay (47). Heath was at the scene of the search warrant execution and placed under arrest. M. Gay and S. Gay were located in the 600 block of Maddox Street in Oak Grove and both were arrested. All were transported to the GCDF and held on out of county warrants. M. Gay was also served with a Gulf County warrant for Failure to Appear.

On May 12, 2016, the GCSO received a complaint of a burglary of a structure in the 500 block of Old Bay City Road in Howard Creek. Deputy M. Manley responded to the scene and conducted an investigation. The investigation revealed equipment use to extract honey was stolen during the burglary. The investigation has been assigned to the GCSO Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and is ongoing.

On May 12, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams executed a narcotics search warrant in the 100 block of Chapel Lane in Overstreet. The search revealed the homeowner, Joshua Lee Knapp (38), was cultivated marijuana. Knapp is also had an active warrant for his arrest out of Gulf County for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon on an unrelated GCSO case. Arrest warrants were applied for charging Knapp with Cultivation of Marijuana, Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. On May 16, 2016, Deputy M. Peek arrested Knapp in the 100 block of Chapel Lane in Overstreet. He was transported to the GCDF.

On Friday, May 13, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a blue in color motorcycle on County Road 381 in the Dalkeith area for unlawful speed, but lost sight of the motorcycle. A short time later investigators located the aforementioned motorcycle in the 200 block of Poplar Avenue in Burgess Creek and made contact with the driver. The driver identified himself to investigators as, Eric Tyler Merrill. Through further investigation it was discovered the motorcycle had been reported

stolen out of Tallahassee, Florida, and the individual who identified himself as, Eric Tyler Merrill, had provided a false name. The individual was then positively identified as Joshua Brian Merrill (27) by his Florida Driver's License. Merrill was arrested and taken into custody. During a search of his person incident to arrest, investigators discovered Merrill was concealing a .25 caliber handgun in his rear pocket, and was also in possession of drug paraphernalia. Merrill was charged with Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Giving False Identification to a Law Enforcement Officer, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was transported to the GCDF.

On May 13, 2016, the GCSO received a theft complaint in the 200 block of Tennessee Street in Wewahitchka. Deputy B. Smith responded to investigate the theft. The complaint reported a steel beam had been stolen from the backyard of his property. Deputy Smith continues to investigate.

On May 13, 2016, the GCSO received a theft complaint from a vacation property located in the 3000 block of Cape San Blas Road in Cape San Blas. Deputy C. Sanders responded to investigate the theft. The complainant reported a custom wood stain picnic table valued at approximately \$1,000.00 had been stolen from the front yard of the property. Deputy C. Sanders continues to investigate.

On Saturday, May 14, 2016, Deputy C. Smith responded to the 100 block of Sierra Drive in Stone Mill Creek in reference to a domestic disturbance. The investigation revealed Charles Edward Kinney (41) and his cohabitant, April Denise Strickland (43), engaged in a mutual physical altercation with one another. Deputy C. Smith observed physical injuries to Kinney and Strickland that substantiated their allegations against each other. Kinney and Strickland were both arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Both were transported to the GCDF.

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. Paul Beasley  
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