



# **Gulf County Sheriff's Office**

## **Sheriff Mike Harrison**

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

August 1, 2016 – Augusts 7, 2016

On Monday, August 1, 2016, Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) Investigator L. Greenwood was contacted by telephone at the GCSO Criminal Investigations Division (CID) in reference to an ongoing burglary investigation. The complainant reported a neighbor's residence had been burglarized as well in the 400 block of Spruce Avenue in the Overstreet area. Deputy A. White responded to the scene to conduct a preliminary investigation. The investigation revealed a chainsaw had been stolen out of a storage shed. This case has been assigned to Investigator Greenwood who continues to investigate.

On August 1, 2016, the Bay County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) arrested Thomas Lavern Vanheiden (43) at his place of business in Panama City on an arrest warrant obtained by the GCSO for lewd or lascivious molestation. The arrest was the result of an ongoing investigation conducted by Lt. P. Beasley. Vanheiden is a registered sex offender and required to re-register every three months with the Gulf County Sheriff's Office pursuant to Florida State Statute 943.0435. Vanheiden has been charged with one count of Lewd or Lascivious Molestation on a Child under the age of 12. He has since been extradited to Gulf County and delivered to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF).

On August 1, 2016, the GCSO received a residential burglary complaint in the 6000 block of Highway 71 South in Wewahitchka. Deputy A. White responded to the scene and conducted an investigation. The complainant reported guitars, jewelry, and other miscellaneous clothing items were stolen from their residence during the burglary. This case has been assigned to CID and remains under investigation.

On August 1, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a black Ford truck driven by James Waylon Porter (37) for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license on Ganley Road in the Five Farm area. Porter attempted to flee and elude the Investigators subsequently crashing his vehicle into a residential privacy fence. Porter then fled the scene on foot to avoid apprehension. An inventory search of the vehicle revealed Porter was in possession of marijuana. Arrest warrants have

been applied for Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana, Fleeing and Attempting to Elude, Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Property Damage and Operating a Motor Vehicle While License Suspended or Revoked Habitual.

On Tuesday, August 2, 2106, Investigator L. Dickey began an investigation into possible sexual abuse of a child under twelve years of age. Investigator Dickey continues to investigate.

On Wednesday, August 3, 2016, the GCSO received an unknown disturbance complaint. The complainant reported a male was chasing a female on Jones Homestead Road. Deputy A. White responded and located the male and female. Through further investigation the male and female denied any domestic related offenses had occurred and did not require law enforcement assistance. Deputy White conducted a warrants check on both individuals and discovered the male identified as Willie Edward Pelt (34) had an active Violation of Probation warrant for his arrest. Pelt was arrested and transported to the GCDF.

On Thursday, August 4, 2016, the GCSO received a domestic disturbance complaint in the 200 block of Sandalwood Boulevard in Cape San Blas. Deputy M. Peek responded to the complaint and conducted an investigation. The investigation revealed Jeffrey P. Schlafke (47) committed battery against his paramour. Schlafke was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. He was transported to the GCDF.

On August 4, 2016, Lt. T. Wood served John Floyd Whitfield (46) with a Violation of Probation arrest warrant at the GCSO. Whitfield was arrested and delivered to the GCDF.

On August 4, 2016, Lt. T. Wood, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams with the assistance of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Officer M. Webb traveled by boat to a houseboat located near Howard Creek to serve an arrest warrant on Pamela Renee Griggs (34). Griggs was located and arrested for a Violation for Protection against Domestic Violence warrant. She was transported to the GCDF.

On August 4, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a white Mercury driven by Lacey Annette Lowery (28) for a moving traffic violation on West River Road in Wewahitchka. During the traffic stop Investigators smelled the odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A driver's license check revealed Lowery was driving on a suspended license. She was placed under arrest and admitted she had a bag of marijuana concealed under her clothing. Lowery retrieved a plastic bag of marijuana from underneath her clothing and turned it over to the Investigators. Lowery was charged with Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana and Operating a Motor Vehicle While License Suspended or Revoked. She was transported to the GCDF.

On Friday, August 5, 2016, Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop on a red Ford driven by Darius Jevon Williams (24) for an equipment violation on State Road 71 in Wewahitchka. A driver's license check revealed Williams was driving on a suspended license. He was arrested and charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle While License Suspended or Revoked. Williams was transported to the GCDF.

On August 5, 2016, Deputy M. Layfield served an arrest warrant on Joseph Michael Davidson (37) for Violation of Probation at the GCDF. He was arrested and delivered to the GCDF.

On August 5, 2016, Deputy C. Sanders arrived at the 200 block of West Orange Street in Wewahitchka to serve an arrest warrant on Lillie Mae Davis (42) for Failure to Appear on Bail. Davis was arrested without incident and 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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