



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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MEDIA RELEASE
August 23, 2016

GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

August 15, 2016 – Augusts 21, 2016

On Tuesday, August 16, 2016, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a 911 call from a complainant in the 100 block of Griffin Road in the Stone Mill Creek area. The complainant reported a female knocked on their door and then fled running down the road. Deputies C. Smith and C. Sanders responded to the area to investigate the complaint. Deputies located the female identified as Brittany Nicole Hoover (26) in a ditch in Stone Mill Creek Park. Hoover was arrested and charged with Loitering and Prowling, Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest without Violence. She was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF).

On August 16, 2016, Deputy M. Layfield executed a transported order and transported Veronica Lynn Pickron (42) from the Bay County Jail to the GCDF. Pickron was served with a Failure to Appear arrest warrant.

On August 16, 2016, Deputy C. Sanders arrested Candice Anita Meredith (40) in the 100 block of Honey Hill Road in the Dalkeith area. Meredith had a warrant for her arrest for Public Assistance Fraud. She was transported to the GCDF.

On August 16, 2016, the GCSO received a suspicious person complaint in the 600 block area of Brian Setterich Road in the northern area of Gulf County. The complainant reported Tonya Denise Slade (46) was knocking on doors of residences asking for money. Deputy C. Sanders responded to the area and located Slade. Deputy Sanders reported Slade became irate and began yelling and cursing causing a breach in peace. She was subsequently arrested and her pursed searched incident to arrest. The search revealed Slade was in possession of drug paraphernalia. She was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Slade was transported to the GCDF.

On Wednesday, August 17, 2016, Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop on a red Mitsubishi driven by Ladarious O'Bryan Myers (27) for an equipment violation on Highway 22 and Yons Drive in Wewahitchka. A driver's license check revealed Myers

did not possess a driver's license. Myers was arrested and charged with Driving with No Valid Driver's License. Myers was transported to the GCDF.

On Thursday, August 18, 2016, a seventeen-year-old juvenile from Franklin County surrendered himself at the GCSO accompanied with his parent and attorney on four pick-up orders for his arrest. The pick-up orders are the result of an ongoing investigation by Lt. P. Beasley into numerous vehicle burglaries that occurred in the Cape San Blas area during the weekend of July 16, 2016, where several firearms were stolen from unsecured vehicles. During the course of the investigation two of the five stolen firearms were recovered as well as a Yeti Cooler, a video camera and two pairs of Costa Del Mar sunglasses. The juvenile was arrested and transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in Bay County. Lt. Beasley continues to investigate.

On August 18, 2016, Deputy P. Baxley arrested Anthony James Hammond (26) in the 200 block of McGlon Drive in Wewahitchka on an active warrant for Lewd or Lascivious Molestation on a Child under the age of 12. The arrest warrant was the result of an investigation conducted by Investigator L. Dickey. Hammond was transported to the GCDF.

On August 18, 2016, the GCSO received a report of a single vehicle traffic accident with no injuries at the intersection of State Road 71 and Old Transfer Road in Wewahitchka. Deputy B. Smith responded to the scene to conduct the accident investigation. The investigation revealed Willie Denzel Hill (20) lost control of his vehicle and collided with a culvert in the ditch. While conducting the accident investigation Deputy Smith observed a clear plastic bag with marijuana exposed in Hill's pocket. Hill admitted to Deputy Smith the plastic bag contained marijuana. He was arrested and charged with Possession of Less Than 20 Grams of Marijuana. Hill was transported to the GCDF.

On August 18, 2016, the GCSO received a trespassing complaint in the 6300 block of Highway 98 in St. Joe Beach. Deputy M. Peek responded to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported that alcoholic beverages were consumed from outdoor refrigerator located on their front porch. The residence had been vacated for over two weeks. Deputy Peek continues to investigate.

On August 18, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a white Mercury vehicle driven by Kayla Suzanne Pratt (26) and occupied by Tommy Randolph Turner (29) on Highway 22A & Richards Avenue in Wewahitchka for failing to stop at a stop sign. Also inside the vehicle were two infant children. A consent to search of the vehicle revealed Pratt and Turner were in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Pratt was arrested and charged with Trafficking in Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Violation of Probation. Turner was arrested and charged with Trafficking in Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The infant children were turned over to the custody of a family member. Pratt and Turner were transported to the GCDF.

On Friday, August 19, 2016, the GCSO received a criminal mischief complaint in the 200 block of Ward Street in St. Joe Beach. Deputy M. Layfield responded to the complaint. The complainant reported someone caused damaged to the swimming pool of the rental property in their care. The pool ladder had been damaged and black scuff marks were made on the pool's liner. Deputy Layfield continues to investigate.

On August, 19, 2016, the GCSO received a criminal mischief complaint in the 400 block of Palmetto Drive in the Overstreet area. Deputy M. Layfield responded and conducted an investigation. The complainant reported the damage while at their full time residence in Michigan. A neighbor had alerted them to the damage. The investigation revealed the window to the entry door of their travel trailer has been busted out. Deputy Layfield continues to investigate.

On August 19, 2016, the GCSO received a walk-in complaint of a theft that occurred in the 400 block of Redfish Street in Highland View. Deputy M. Layfield responded to the complaint. The complainant reported a check made out to pay utilities was stolen out of their mailbox prior to the postal carrier collecting. Deputy Layfield continues to investigate.

On August 19, 2016, the GCSO received a theft complaint that occurred in the parking lot of IGA in Wewahitchka. The complainant reported while inside shopping their Stihl gas leaf blower was stolen from the bed of their truck. Deputy Layfield continues to investigate.

On August 19, 2016, Gulf County fugitive Deonte James Ray (24) was apprehended in the Panama City Beach area after the Bay County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) received a tip. On July 28, 2016, GCSO Investigator L. Dickey began a sexual battery investigation where Ray was named as the perpetrator. During the course of the investigation probable cause was developed Ray committed the offense and an arrest warrant was obtained.

On Saturday, August 20, 2016, the GCSO received a theft complaint in the 8800 block of Cape San Blas Road in Cape San Blas. Deputy M. Layfield responded and conducted an investigation. The complainant reported their 2012 Mercury Marine 25hp had been stolen off of their vessel while parked at the St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. Deputy Layfield continues to investigate.

On August 20, 2016, the Gulf Correctional Institution Annex (Gulf C.I.) requested the GCSO assistance with an individual attempting to smuggle contraband into the institution. Deputy G. Desrosier responded to conduct an investigation. The investigation revealed Jateka Shawna Foster (37) was in possession of synthetic marijuana. The synthetic marijuana weighed more than 28 grams and was wrapped with black electrical tape inside a condom. Foster uttered the statement she was going to give the synthetic marijuana to her brother who is incarcerated at Gulf C.I. Annex. Foster was arrested and charged with Possession of New Legend Drug. She was transported to the GCDF.

On August 20, 2016, Deputy C. Sanders was dispatched to the Dollar General Store located in St. Joe Beach in reference to a wanted person identified as Robin Alan Vathis (48) inside the store. Deputy Sanders responded to the store where he located and arrested Vathis. He was wanted on an outstanding Failure to Appear warrant. Vathis was transported to the GCDF.

On Sunday, August 21, 2016, Deputy B. Smith conducted a traffic stop on a black Ford driven by Robert Jeffery Matthews (22) on Highway 98 in the St. Joe Beach area for a moving violation. During the traffic stop Deputy Smith observed Matthews to be extremely nervous with him stating, "I have a curfew and I am on probation". Deputy Smith deployed K-9 Brix to conduct an open air sniff of the exterior of the vehicle for the detection of illegal drugs. K-9 Brix gave a positive alert for the presence of illegal drugs. Deputy Smith informed Matthews he was going to conduct a probable cause search of his vehicle and at that time he drove off attempting to elude the deputy. Deputy Smith initiated a vehicle pursuit and Matthews subsequently crashed his vehicle in the area of the 100 block of Highway 98 in Mexico Beach. Matthews fled the scene on foot with Deputy Smith continuing to pursue on foot. After a short foot pursuit Deputy Smith apprehended Matthews in a backyard. He was transported to Bay Medical in Bay County for minor injuries he sustained during the traffic crash. During a probable cause search of Matthews vehicle Deputy Smith located a bag of marijuana inside a cooler that was in the trunk. The marijuana was discovered in the same area K-9 Brix gave a positive alert. Charges against Matthews are pending.

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
Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison