



***Gulf County Sheriff's Office***

***Sheriff Mike Harrison***

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

DECEMBER 12, 2016 – DECEMBER 18, 2016

On Monday, December 12, 2016, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a walk-in theft complaint at the GCSO Sub-Station in Wewahitchka. Deputy C. Harvey responded to the complaint. The complainant reported their tag was stolen off their vehicle in the 600 block of Chipola Avenue in Wewahitchka. Deputy Harvey continues to investigate.

On December 12, 2016, the GCSO received a residential burglary complaint in the 100 block of Sting Ray Lane in the St. Joe Beach area. Deputy P. Baxley responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported their residence is for sale and remains unoccupied. The complainant reported a .12 gauge shotgun and liquor were stolen from the residence. A witness reported seeing a full size black truck (no further description) in the driveway. This case has been assigned to the GCSO Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

On December 12, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a white Chevrolet SUV driven by Richard K. Helms Jr. (43) on Highway 22A & Freeman Rouse Road in Wewahitchka for unlawful speed. When the investigators asked Helms for his driver's license he stated he did not possess one and provided an identification card. A records check revealed Helms was driving on a suspended license and subsequently placed under arrest. During an inventory search of the vehicle the investigators discovered methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Helms was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Driving While License Suspended or Revoked. Helms was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility (GCDF).

On Tuesday, December 13, 2016, the GCSO received a residential burglary complaint in the 300 block of Santa Anna Street in the St. Joe Beach area. Deputy C. Harvey, Investigator L. Dickey and Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) R. Zemlock responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The investigation revealed during the night

someone entered the residence and stole a safe containing US Currency. Investigator Dickey continues to investigate.

On December 13, 2016, Deputy P. Baxley arrested David Shane Watts (25) at the GCSO Sub-Station in Wewahitchka for a Violation of Probation warrant. Watts was transported to the GCDF.

On Thursday, December 15, 2016, the GCSO received a retail theft complaint at the Family Dollar Store in Wewahitchka. Deputy M. Layfield responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The investigation revealed Jarrett Cleveland Pridgeon (35) shoplifted a bottle of men's cologne on December 10, 2016. The theft was captured on store video surveillance. An arrest warrant charging Pridgeon with Retail Theft has been applied for.

On December 15, 2016, Investigator P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a green Toyota occupied by three persons on E. Lakeview Drive in the Land's Landing area for seat-belt violations. Investigator S. Ferrell arrived on scene to assist. During a probable cause search Aaron Shane Whitehurst (32) was found to be in possession of methamphetamine, a concealed knife, ammunition and possession of drug paraphernalia. Whitehurst was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Carrying a Concealed Weapon and Possession of Ammunition by a Convicted Felon. Whitehurst was transported to the GCDF.

On December 15, 2016, Investigator S. Ferrell conducted a traffic stop on a white Toyota SUV driven by John Buford Lynn (40) on State Road 71 for a moving violation. A records check revealed Lynn was driving on a suspended driver's license and was subsequently placed under arrest. The vehicle was occupied with three other individuals. Deputy B. Smith arrived to assist Investigator Ferrell the traffic stop. Deputy Smith deployed K-9 Brix to conduct an open air sniff of the exterior of the vehicle for the presence of illegal drugs. K-9 Brix gave a positive alert for the presence of illegal drugs. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed a passenger Michael Lance Huff (39) was in possession of a bag containing methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Huff was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Lynn was charged with Driving While License Suspended or Revoked. Huff and Lynn were transported to the GCDF.

On December 15, 2016, the GCSO received a domestic disturbance complaint in the 100 block of James Pitts Road in Wewahitchka. Deputy C. Smith responded to the disturbance to conduct an investigation. The investigation revealed the complainant was battered by their brother Remy Babe Miller (22) during a verbal dispute. Deputy Smith observed injuries to the victim to substantiate the allegations. Miller was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Miller was transported to the GCDF.

On Friday, December 16, 2016, Deputy P. Baxley conducted a traffic stop on a blue Scion driven by Amado Castillo Dominguez (39) on County Road 30A in the Indian Pass area for unlawful speed. A driver's license check revealed Dominguez was driving without having a valid driver's license. The owner of the vehicle Aimer Gomez (35) who was the passenger admitted to Deputy Baxley he had knowledge Dominguez did not have a valid license when he permitted him to drive. Dominguez and Gomez were placed under arrest. Dominguez was charged with No Valid Driver License. Gomez was charged with Permitting Unauthorized Operator to Drive Motor Vehicle. Both were transported to the GCDF.

On December 16, 2016, the GCSO received a theft complaint in the 200 block of Highway 22 in Wewahitchka. Deputy C. Harvey responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported their bicycle had been stolen during the night. The bicycle is described as a 6 speed mountain bike black in color. There is an American Flag decal on the side. Deputy Harvey continues to investigate.

On December 16, 2016, the GCSO received a walk-in theft complaint at the GCSO Sub-Station in Wewahitchka. Deputy C. Harvey responded to the complaint. The complainant reported their registration decal had been stolen off their trailer. Deputy Harvey continues to investigate.

On December 16, 2016, Investigators S. Ferrell and P. Williams conducted a traffic stop on a red Toyota driven by Sherrie LaDonna Whitfield (38) on State Road 71 and Jehu Road in Wewahitchka for a registration violation. Whitfield admitted to the investigators the vehicle was not registered and she was driving it to Calhoun County. An inventory search was completed prior to towing the vehicle. The inventory search revealed Whitfield was in possession of prescription medication that did not belong to her. Whitfield was arrested and charged with (4) counts of Possession of New Legend Drugs. Whitfield was transported to the GCDF.

On December 16, 2016, the GCSO received a disturbance complaint involving a driver who crashed their vehicle in the 1300 block of Pleasant Rest Cemetery Road in the Overstreet area. Deputy M. Peek responded to conduct an investigation. The investigation revealed Dustin Jeffrey Kilpatrick (34) was involved in a disturbance at a residence. Witnesses reported Kilpatrick left the residence colliding with a mailbox then fleeing the scene prior to law enforcement arrival. Deputy Peek patrolled the area attempting to locate Kilpatrick subsequently locating his vehicle that had left the roadway coming to rest in a wooded area near the Pleasant Rest Cemetery bridge area. Kilpatrick was arrested and charged with Driving under Influence Alcohol or Drugs, Refusal to Submit to Breath Test, Expired Registration (4 months or less) and Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Damage to Vehicle/Property. Kilpatrick was transported to the GCDF.

On December 16, 2016, the GCSO received a hit & run accident complaint in the 600 block of West Creekview Drive in the Stone Mill Creek area. Deputy P. Baxley responded to the

complaint to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported a red Monte Carlo was traveling at a high rate of speed leaving the roadway and colliding with a mailbox. The complainant reported the vehicle then fled the scene. The investigation revealed Doris Ann Chastain (64) was the driver who left the scene. Chastain admitted to Deputy Baxley she was the driver who collided with the mailbox and left the scene. Chastain was issued citations for Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Damage to Vehicle/Property and cited for Careless Driving with a mandatory court appearance required.

On Sunday, December 18, 2016, the GCSO received a vehicle burglary complaint in the 100 block of Henry Avenue in Wewahitchka. Deputy C. Harvey responded to the complaint to conduct an investigation. The complainant reported during the night \$200.00 in US Currency was stolen from inside their vehicle. The vehicle was left unsecured. Deputy Harvey continues to investigate.

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