



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

***Sheriff Mike Harrison***

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

OCTOBER 30, 2017 – NOVEMBER 5, 2017

On October 30, Deputy M. Peek was dispatched to the 6000 block of Farm Road to investigate a potential arson. It was reported to Deputy Peek that when the victim returned home from being away, he found that the front stairs to his home were on fire. The fire was extinguished before causing any major damage. The investigation revealed the possible presence of an accelerant of some sort, meaning the fire may have been set intentionally. The Fire Marshal's Office was notified and an investigator has been assigned to the case. A suspect has been identified but no arrests have been made at this time.

On October 31, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office administrative staff and deputies participated in Halloween activities in Port St. Joe and in Wewahitchka by handing out candy to children and even some grown-ups who are children at heart. We hope everyone had a safe night of trick or treating!

On October 31, Deputy P. Young was dispatched to Williams Street in Wewahitchka to investigate a report of a bear in the street. There have been previous bear sightings in this area in the last few days. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) have been notified following each of these reports. The FWC responded to the area and attempted to locate the bear but were unsuccessful.

On November 1, Deputy C. Sanders executed an arrest warrant on Kaleb C. Cowen (35) at the Gulf County Detention Facility. Cowen, an inmate the Gulf Correctional Institution, was charged with Battery on a correctional officer.

On November 1, Deputy C. Sanders located Rachel Louise List (28) on Oak Grove Avenue and arrested her on a warrant for Violation of Probation for the original charge of Grand Theft. List was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where she is currently being held without bond.

On November 1, Deputy C. Sanders executed two arrest warrants at the Gulf County Detention Facility on Todd Martin Cleaver (40) for Burglary of a Structure and Fraudulent

Use of a Credit Card. The charges were the result of an investigation by Deputy P. Baxley where he identified Cleaver as the man responsible for stealing a purse from a car on Gulf Aire Drive on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

On November 2, Amanda Lee Shipman (27) was arrested after a warrant was issued for her arrest for providing false information to law enforcement. Deputy D. Sanders made the arrest on Shipman on Texas Street in Wewahitchka.

On November 3, Deputy C. Harvey was assigned to investigate a report of a burglary in the 300 block of South Long Street. The residence is a vacation home and while the owners were gone someone forced their way into the residence and consumed drinks and food. Some canned goods were stolen, along with a DVD player and a beach bag. Evidence was collected from the scene but no suspects have been identified at this time.

On November 5, Deputy C. Harvey and Sgt. R. Burkett responded to a report of a burglary in progress on Sunray Court in Beacon Hill. When deputies arrived on scene, they found Roderick Griffin Catrett (50) laying on the ground on the front porch. Catrett, who was very intoxicated, forced open the front porch door and then attempted to enter the residence. The victim threatened Catrett with a firearm so he ceased what he was doing and laid down until law enforcement arrived. When asked what he was doing at this house he stated that he did not know where he was. Catrett was arrested and charged with Criminal Mischief and Trespassing.

On November 5, Deputy L. Greenwood was dispatched to the 200 block of Whiting Street to investigate information revealing the whereabouts of Joseph Daniel Turner (32). Turner had an active warrant for his arrest for Violation of Probation on the original charges of Sale of Methamphetamine and Felony Littering. Deputy Greenwood located Turner and placed him under arrest.

On November 5, The Gulf County Sheriff's Office joined the T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appreciation Day. The event allowed us to have some Q&A time with the public and hand out educational material and coloring books for the kids. The kids also enjoyed playing with the Sheriff's 4-wheeler!

On November 5, The Gulf County Sheriff's Office received a report of a hit and run accident off Hwy 98, across from the Lookout Lounge. The suspect vehicle left the scene traveling southeast on Hwy 98. The Port St. Joe Police Department located the vehicle on Flatwater West, which was being driven by Jerome Bill Mitchem Jr. (57). The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) investigated the accident, which resulted in Mitchem being placed under arrest by FHP for leaving the scene of a traffic crash.

On November 5, Deputy L. Greenwood was dispatched to Road 20 in White City in reference to vehicle that was found upside down in a ditch. Evidence at the scene led Deputy Greenwood to believe that the vehicle was involved in a rollover crash. The

Florida Highway Patrol was called to investigate the accident. The driver of the vehicle and sole occupant, Donald Monroe Burkett (76), was pronounced deceased at the scene as a result of the crash.

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. Tim Wood

Approved by: Sheriff Mike Harrison