



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

418 Cecil G Costin Sr Blvd • Port St. Joe, Florida 32456 • www.gulfsheriff.com
850-227-1115 • 850-639-5717 • Fax 850-227-2097

Contact: Lt. Tim Wood
Telephone: 850-227-1115
Email: twood@gcso.fl.gov

MEDIA RELEASE
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GCSO LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

MAY 20, 2019 – JUNE 2, 2019

On Monday, May 20, Deputy A. White and Sgt. P. Williams responded to a report of a disturbance on Floating Bridge Road in Overstreet. While deputies were investigating the disturbance, they encountered James Irwin Murphy (66), who was part of the disturbance. Murphy was observed driving a vehicle by Deputy White and when Deputy White contacted Murphy, it was apparent that Murphy had been consuming alcohol. Deputy White conducted field sobriety assessments and determined that Murphy was above the legal blood alcohol limit to operate a motor vehicle. Murphy was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Murphy would later submit to a blood alcohol test where it was shown that he had a blood alcohol level of .144. No criminal charges stemmed from the disturbance investigation.

On Tuesday, May 21, Deputy S. Sheline went to a residence on Hunt Lane to arrest two subjects wanted out of Jackson County. Colton Blaise Willis (20) and Melissa Diane Cram (26) were both wanted for Attempting to Purchase a Controlled Substance and Giving False Information to Law Enforcement. Deputy Sheline located both Willis and Cram together and took them in to custody. Both subjects were transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Tuesday, May 21, Deputy P. Young was dispatched to the 2000 block of C30A to standby while an employee was being terminated from a job site. The person being removed from the property was identified as Kevin Patrick Dennis (33) from Pinellas County, Florida. While identifying Dennis, Deputy Young learned that Dennis was a convicted felon and did not have a valid driver's license. Deputy Young also learned that Dennis was in possession of a firearm so he was placed under arrest and charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. Dennis was observed by Deputy Young driving to the scene so he was additionally charged with driving with a suspended driver's license.

On Wednesday, May 22, Alan Wayne Royal (55) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility on a warrant for failing to appear in court on the charge of Possession of Marijuana.

On Wednesday, May 22, Chance Devon Lewis (22) was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility from Atkinson County Georgia after being apprehended on a Gulf County capias for failing to appear in court on charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance (x2), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Marijuana and Resisting Law Enforcement without Violence. Lewis also had a warrant for Violation of Probation. Lewis was on probation for Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Wednesday, May 22, Deputy C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 71 near the intersection of Hoover Drive in Wewahitchka. Deputy Harvey stopped the vehicle after he observed it passing another vehicle in a no passing zone, in a curve, as it was travelling south by the Ace Hardware on Hwy 71. The vehicle was also travelling 79 MPH in a 45 MPH speed zone. The driver was identified as Kyle Christopher Fromm (21) from Athens, Georgia. Fromm was placed under arrest and charged with Reckless Driving.

On Thursday, May 23, Zeikel Paul Pitts (40) was served with a warrant at the Gulf County Detention Facility for failing to appear in court on the charge of Driving While License Suspended/Revoked.

On Thursday, May 23, Deputy G. Goodman went to a residence on Dogwood Avenue to execute an arrest warrant on Arthur Ernest Marlin Lanier (25). Lanier was wanted for failing to appear in court on charges of Aggravated Battery on a Pregnant Person. Lanier was taken into custody and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he will be held without bond.

On Friday, May 24, Sgt. P. Williams responded to East Church Street to investigate a report of the location of a stolen vehicle out of Calhoun County. Sgt. Williams verified the presence of the vehicle that was reported stolen and identified the person who had the possession of the vehicle as Joey Eugene Martin (39). Sgt. Williams learned that Martin was wanted in Texas on multiple charges of drug possession and resisting/eluding arrest. Martin was taken into custody on the warrants in Texas and was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Calhoun County Sheriff's Office was notified of the recovery of the vehicle, which was later turned over to the owner.

On Friday, May 24, Sgt. P. Williams was dispatched to a residence on Stone Mill Creek Road in reference to a well-being check on a mentally ill person who had been drinking heavily. When he arrived, he encountered Stacy Dewayne Burch (46), who was acting belligerent and appeared intoxicated. Burch, who was sitting on the porch of the residence, placed something in his pocket and made aggressive advances toward Sgt. Williams. Burch was ordered to stop advancing and calm down but Burch refused. Sgt. Williams drew his TASER from his holster and Burch stopped advancing. Burch continued

to act belligerently and retreated into the residence. Back up units arrived and Burch made threats to the deputies. Deputies entered the home and restrained Burch in fear that he was preparing to act on his threat. While in the home, they noticed marijuana and drug paraphernalia in plain sight. Burch was charged with Resisting Law Enforcement without Violence, Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Saturday, May 25, Sgt. D. Sanders travelled to the Bay County Jail to pick up Ian Christian Bradford (37), who was being held on a Gulf County warrant for failing to appear in court on the charge of Possession of Methamphetamine. Bradford was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Saturday, May 25, Sgt. P. Williams served an arrest warrant at the Gulf County Detention Facility on Thomas Edwin Johnson (29). The warrant for failing to appear in court on the charge of Driving While License Suspended/Revoked.

On Saturday, May 25, Deputy D. Goodman was dispatched to Pine Avenue to investigate a report of drug activity. When he arrived, he learned that a member of the household had discovered approximately 15.5 grams of methamphetamine inside of a woman's purse. Deputy Goodman identified the owner of the purse as Jessica Marie Mumford (24). During the investigation, Mumford acknowledged that she knew the methamphetamine was in her purse. Mumford was placed under arrest and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where she was charged with Trafficking in Methamphetamine.

On Saturday, May 25, Cody Allen Skipper (34) was arrested by Deputy Goodman while on a service call on Pine Avenue in Wewahitchka. Skipper was wanted on warrants for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (Habitual), Attached Registration Plate Not Assigned and Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement.

On Saturday, May 25, Deputy Young went to Johnson Lane in Wewahitchka to serve an arrest warrant on Michael Deane Ward for Aggravated Assault. The warrant stems from a report that was made on May 20, 2019, where Ward threatened to shoot two men with a cross bow. Ward was located and placed under arrest.

On Sunday, May 26, Deputy S. Sheline conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with no tag on CR 386 near the intersection of Spruce Road. The driver was identified as Silas Ruel Greene III (61). The vehicle Greene was driving was not registered and had no tag assigned to it. Greene also had an expired driver's license. Greene, who had a prior warning for driving the unregistered vehicle, was placed under arrest and charged for driving an unregistered vehicle. Greene was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility.

On Sunday, May 26, Deputy P. Young and Deputy C. Kesterson were patrolling the beach in the area of Salina's Park when they observed a dog roaming off a leash. They identified

the owner of the dog as Maria Jacoba Serfortein (45). Serfortein was extremely intoxicated and refused to cooperate with deputies as they tried to initially identify her. They told her that she was being issued a civil citation violating the leash ordinance and she walked away, still refusing to identify herself. She became loud and yelled profanities as she exhibited her middle finger for everyone to see. Deputies took Serfortein into custody and charged her with Disorderly Intoxication. She refused to cooperate all the way to the detention facility, where she had to be physically removed from the patrol car. They were finally able to identify her at the detention facility. She was also issued a citation for violating the leash law ordinance.

On Monday, May 27, Deputy J. Page went to a residence on Magnolia Avenue in Howard Creek to execute an arrest warrant on Allen Keith Dotson (47) for Criminal Mischief. Dotson was arrested and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. Dotson's arrest stemmed from a trespass complaint that Deputy Page responded to on April 29, 2019. During her investigation, it was alleged and probable cause was developed that Dotson was responsible for damaging restroom facilities at the Fisherman's Landing Campground in Howard Creek.

On Tuesday, May 28, Gulf County Deputies responded to a report of a shooting at a residence on CR 386, in the vicinity of Borders Road. Initial reports given to deputies were that a man was shot in the face. When deputies arrived, they identified a victim and the shooter, who were both still on scene. The victim, who had a gunshot wound to the face, and the shooter were interviewed separately and both stated that the shooting was an accident. Investigators arrived on scene and began interviewing witnesses, including the shooter, who was identified as Xavier Floyd Bateman (20). Investigators determined that Bateman and the victim were playing around when the gun accidentally fired, striking the victim in the face. With there being no indication that Bateman had intent to harm the victim, Investigators decided to charge Bateman with Improper Exhibition of a Firearm and Tampering with Evidence. Bateman was placed under arrest and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility. The victim was transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and was treated and released.

On Wednesday, May 29, Kenneth Donald Weaver (68) was arrested at his home in Wewahitchka on a warrant for violation of probation. Weaver was on probation for failing to properly register as a sexual predator. Weaver violated is probation by failing to follow the rules of electronic monitoring. Weaver was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he is being held without bond.

On Thursday, May 30, Investigator S. Ferrell and Investigator C. Harvey conducted a traffic stop on East River Road on a vehicle being operated by Curt Larson Johnson (35). Investigators knew that Johnson did not have a valid driver's license and is considered a habitual traffic offender. Johnson was informed that he was being placed under arrest for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (DWLSR). Because of his driving record, this offense would be classified as a felony. Johnson refused to willfully surrender himself

so investigators had to forcefully put him in handcuffs. Johnson was found to be in possession of a digital scale with narcotics residue on it. Johnson was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility and charged with Felony DWLSR, Resisting Arrest without Violence and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Friday, May 31, Deputy M. Peek conducted a traffic stop on Americus Ave near the intersection of Coral Drive. Deputy Peek contacted the driver, who was identified as John Anthony Fields (58). Fields explained to Deputy Peek that he did not have a valid driver's license. During a license check, Deputy Peek verified that Fields' license was suspended and was considered a habitual traffic offender. Field's was placed under arrest at that point. During a search of a waist bag Fields was wearing, Deputy Peek found a personal amount of methamphetamine inside it. Fields was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where is was booked for Driving While License Suspended/Revoked (Habitual) and Possession of Methamphetamine.

On Saturday, June 1, Deputy M. Manley was responded to a report of a disturbance on Jeffery Drive at Pine Ridge Apartments. When Deputy Manley arrived, he observed two men arguing in the parking lot. The most aggressive of the two was identified as Mitchell David Harvey (44). Harvey, who was also intoxicated, was detained until Deputy Manley could sort out what had occurred. During his investigation, he learned that Harvey was the aggressor throughout the event. Harvey had agitated a physical disturbance involving a co-inhabitant and then agitated another with a neighbor, which in the process, Harvey broke his neighbor's door. Harvey was arrested and transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where he would be charged with Battery and Criminal Mischief.

On Saturday, June 1, Deputy M. Peek was assisting FHP with a single vehicle traffic crash on CR 386, just north of 15th Street. While assisting with an inventory of the vehicle, officers found a small baggie of methamphetamine inside the vehicles center console. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Jennifer Diane Anderson (44). Johnson was already in custody as part of a DUI investigation by the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). Ultimately, Anderson was transported to the Gulf County Detention Facility where she would be charged with DUI by FHP. Deputy Peek additionally charged Anderson with Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

On Sunday, June 2, David Allen Clark (35) was arrested at the Gulf County Detention Facility on a warrant for failing to appear in court on charge of Battery.

On Sunday, June 2, Deputy J. Page was dispatched to Rich's IGA in Wewahitchka in regards to someone violating a trespass warning. Deputy Page contacted the suspect, William Johnson Riddel Jr. (58), who was sitting outside. Riddel has an active trespass warning against him to stay off the property of Rich's IGA. Riddel had already been inside the store and purchased some items. While Deputy Page spoke with Riddel, it was suspected that he may have stolen some items as well. With Riddel violating the active trespass warning,

he was placed under arrest and charged with Trespassing. Charges of Retail Theft will be pending against Riddel also.

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