



Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Harrison

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PRESS RELEASE
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ARREST MADE FOLLOWING THREATS TOWARD PORT ST. JOE HIGH SCHOOL

The Gulf County Sheriff's Office has identified and apprehended the individual responsible for two threatening phone calls made to Port St. Joe High School early Tuesday morning. Braden Wayne Jamal Thomas (16) of Port St. Joe was arrested and charged for the incident.

The call was received by the front office at approximately 7:40 AM as students arrived on campus for the school day. The call taker was told, "I'm going to shoot up the school today. If you open school, I'm going to shoot'em all up." The second call received, immediately after the first, informed the call taker that, "If there are any students in the school I will kill them all. If they come I will kill all of them." Port St. Joe High School was immediately placed on lockdown. Due to its close proximity, Port St. Joe Elementary School was placed on lockdown as well.

Deputies from the Gulf County Sheriff's Office, along with officers from the Port St. Joe Police Department and the FWC, responded quickly and secured both campuses. Students, faculty, and staff were safely escorted from the building and transported by bus to the designated reunification site where students were reunited with parents/guardians.

"I extend our sincere appreciation to our law enforcement partners, school administrators, teachers, and support staff for their teamwork and dedication to student safety," said Sheriff Mike Harrison. "The diligent work of Investigators to track down, locate, and arrest the caller brought this to a closure."

Thank you parents and community members for your patience and support throughout this incident. The Gulf County Sheriff's Office encourages parents and guardians to speak with their children about the serious and potentially life-altering consequences of making threats of violence—regardless of intent. "These threats disrupted our entire school district, impacted families, and created unnecessary fear," said Sheriff Harrison, "Threats of violence will not be tolerated."

Thomas faces charges of False Report of Use of Firearms in a Violent Manner (2nd degree Felony) and with Interfering with School Administration Function (2nd degree Misdemeanor). He was booked into the Gulf County Detention Facility and is currently held at the Bay Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

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Approved by: Captain Chris Buchanan