

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

**For Immediate Release**  
June 30, 2023

**Ashley Hardison, Public Information Officer**  
**Ph. 386-752.4343**

## **Traffic Stop Uncovers Stolen Gun and Narcotics**

On Thursday, June 29, 2023 at approximately 7:51 p.m. officers conducted a routine traffic stop on NE Chestnut Ave. Circumstances lead to the consensual search of the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle, Nicholas Merritt, was in possession of the following:

- One Smith and Wesson .38 Airweight, which was loaded with six rounds, and reported stolen out of Festus County Missouri.
- A small clear plastic bag with a crystal-rock-like substance inside, which was tested and determined to be methamphetamines.
- A clear plastic bag rolled up and concealed in micro plastic bubble wrap containing a pinkish powder substance, which was tested and determined to be Fentanyl.
- A white plastic pill bottle with no markings containing a pink, broken in half round pill identified as Generic Adderall which is a controlled substance.
- One black electronic weight scale commonly used for the weight and measurement of narcotics, with visible trace amounts of white powder substances/residue.

The passenger of the vehicle, Billie Jo Mattson, was in possession of the following:

- A small clear plastic bag containing a white powdery substance, which was tested and determined to be Alpha PVP.
- A brown tobacco wrapped joint containing small white rock-like substance mixed inside, which was tested and determined to be methamphetamines.

Both Merritt and Mattson were arrested and transported to Columbia County Detention Facility without further incident.



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# LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler



## MERRITT, NICHOLAS WHITELEY (W/ MALE / DOB: 7/14/1978 )

Status:	In Jail		
Booking No:	CCSO23JBN001728	MniNo:	CCSO21MNI004247
Booking Date:	06/29/2023 09:47 PM		
Age On Booking Date:	44		
Bond Amount:	\$0.00		
Address Given:	13210 NW 56TH ST GAINESVILLE, FL 32653		

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CHARGES				
STATUTE	COURT CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	DEGREE LEVEL	BOND
[+] 812.019.1 PC (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)		STOLEN PROP-DEAL IN	S F	\$10000.00
[+] 893.13.6a PC (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)		DRUGS-POSSESS	T F	\$15000.00
[+] 893.147.1 PC (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)		DRUG EQUIP-POSSESS	F M	\$1000.00



## MATTSON, BILLIE JO (W/ FEMALE / DOB: 8/30/1979 )

Status:	In Jail		
Booking No:	CCSO23JBN001729	MniNo:	CCSO11MNI008841
Booking Date:	06/29/2023 09:57 PM		
Age On Booking Date:	43		
Bond Amount:	\$0.00		
Address Given:	241 SW MARGARITA GLN LAKE CITY, FL 32025		

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CHARGES				
STATUTE	COURT CASE NUMBER	CHARGE	DEGREE LEVEL	BOND
[+] 893.13.6a PC (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)		DRUGS-POSSESS	T F	\$5000.00
[+] 893.147.1 PC (LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT)		DRUG EQUIP-POSSESS	F M	\$1000.00

Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068 or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.



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