

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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August 7, 2013

**CRESTVIEW HIT & RUN DRIVER CHARGED
WITH AGGRAVATED BATTERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON**



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has charged a hit and run driver with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon after learning she deliberately struck another woman with her car this morning in Crestview.

27-year old Heather Marie Heitger of 1649 James Lee Boulevard is accused of deliberately driving her car into 20-year old Melissa Bailey near the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Ferdon Boulevard around 8:30 a.m.

Witnesses say the pair appeared to be arguing before Heitger's black Dodge Durango accelerated rapidly and hit Bailey, propelling her into a nearby gutter.

Bailey suffered serious injuries and was taken to North Okaloosa Medical Center before being later transferred to Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. She was last listed in critical condition.

Okaloosa deputies located Heitger's car in an alleyway with several items placed in front of it as if to conceal it. They tracked down Heitger, who told them she accidentally struck Bailey. Deputies however gathered information indicating Heitger and Bailey may have been involved in a dispute over some Facebook messages.

(Arrest Report is Attached)

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ARREST REPORT

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR008306

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO13OFF008675	Other No OCSO13CAD127848	OBTS
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[SUSPECT]

<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Hgt</u>	<u>Wgt</u>
HEITGER	HEATHER	MARIE		W	F	5/19/1986	27	5'3	153
<u>Eyes</u>	<u>Hair</u>	<u>MNI Number</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>ID. No.</u>	<u>St</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>OCA/Agency ID</u>		
BRO	BRO	OCSO00MNI007061			FL		286433/2115610		

Birth Location: City: County: WASHINGTON State: PA Nation: U.S.A. Citizenship: U.S.
Address

1649 E JAMES LEE BLVD Apt/Lot: 5 CRESTVIEW FL 32539

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: , Job Title: UNEMPLOYED, Entered: 8/8/2008

Suite:

Business: HOMEMAKER, Job Title: , Entered: 3/8/2007

Suite:

Business: UNEMPLOYED, Job Title: , Entered: 9/22/2006

Suite:

Business: BAKER SCHOOL, Job Title: STUDENT, Entered: 9/26/2002

1369 14TH ST Suite: BAKERFL 32531

Business: BAKER SCHOOL, Job Title: STUDENT, Entered: 4/17/2000

1369 14TH ST Suite: BAKERFL 32531

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range:	8/7/2013	08:36	to	8/7/2013	08:36	Lat / Long	
No.	Di	Street	Apt/Lot	City	ST	Zip	(GEO)
1649	E	JAMES LEE BD	5	CRESTVIEW	FL	32539	1 - 4 - PG22 - O-17

[CHARGES]

784.045.

AGGRAV BATTERY

AGGRAVATED BATTERY

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
1	Felony	Second	Principal	130A		1318	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On August 7th, 2013, Charles Havens witnessed a black Dodge Durango strike a pedestrian, and then drive off. In a verbal interview and sworn written statement, he described this vehicle parked in the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Ferdon Boulevard, facing the stop sign. The driver of this Durango was in a verbal argument with a woman on the crosswalk, in front of the Durango. He witnessed this vehicle accelerate rapidly, striking the victim with the passenger side of the vehicle and throwing her into the gutter.

This incident was also witnessed by Rita Tate. Rita advised in a verbal interview and sworn written statement that she was across of Highway 85, waiting to pull into traffic, when she saw a woman talking and pointing at a person in a black truck. She observed this vehicle accelerate rapidly and striking the woman, causing her to hit the ground.

The victim of this offense was later identified as Melissa Bailey. When I arrived, I observed that Bailey was lying on the shoulder of the road, near the curb at the south end of the intersection. She was lying along a northwest to southeast axis, with her feet pointing northwest and her head pointing southeast. She had a large amount of blood on her body which appeared to be from a wound on her head. After she was transported to the North Okaloosa Medical Center,

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REPORT NO: **OCSO13ARR008306**

it was discovered that Melissa had scratch marks along her back, several scratches on her right ankle, and a bleeding wound on the back of her head, approximately 1 1/2 inch wide. The impact on her head caused bleeding in her brain, and she was transferred to Sacred Heart in Pensacola via helicopter.

The vehicle was later found hidden in an alleyway to the south of 1649 E James Lee Boulevard, Lot 5, Crestview, Florida. It should be noted that this area is not easily visible from the driveway of the mobile home park, and there were several items placed in front of it, as if to conceal the vehicle. The back end of this vehicle was parked towards the trailer, blocking view of the license plate.

The driver was later identified as Heather Heitger. Post Miranda, Heitger originally denied any involvement in the offense. After being confronted with the information about the scene, Heitger claimed that she would "black out" when she was angry and would forget what would happen over large periods of time. Eventually, she admitted that she had been in an argument with her boyfriend, Thomas, while she was driving. This caused her to get upset, and she ended up getting into an argument with a pedestrian crossing the street for a reason that she could not remember. She noted that she did not know who this woman was. After the argument, she went to drive away to the doctor's office. She believed that this woman had cleared her car; however, she did not and she accidentally struck her. She was afraid to call for help, believing that her kids would be taken away. She also provided me with a sworn written statement.

There was also a passenger, identified as Thomas Robinson. In a verbal interview and sworn written statement, Thomas stated that he had been in the Durango with Heather. As they were going southbound on Highway 85, she saw a woman walking alongside the road. Heather turned around in a nearby car wash, and then got into an argument with the woman. She went to go pull into traffic, and as she did, she ended up striking the woman. Afterwards, he told her that she needed to stop and entered into an argument with her.

Carri Thomas lives with Heather Heitger. According to Carri, she had seen Heather driving the vehicle during the day. Just prior to Heather's arrest, she observed Heather pull the vehicle into the back alleyway, where Heather told her that she needed to wash the car. Carri also verified that Heather knows who Melissa is, and that Heather had threatened to "beat Melissa's Bailey's butt" in the past over Facebook messages. She also noted that Melissa Bailey also goes by the name of "Missy."

It should be noted that during my interview, Heather told me that she was having an ongoing dispute with a woman named "Missy Gray." Checking MNI, I found that Melissa is known to be in a relationship with a man named Bobby Gray Jr. Due to Melissa's relationship with Bobby, and the fact that she goes by the name of "Missy," it is very likely that she was referring to Melissa Bailey.

This is a violation of F.S.S. 784.045, Aggravated Battery. This case occurred in Okaloosa County, Florida.

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature (Arresting Officer) _____ SELF, MATTHEW J _____ 231
Name ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 7 day of August A.D., 2013 by _____
who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature _____ Notary Public _____ LEO _____ CO

Commission No: _____ My Commission Expires _____

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[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested 8/7/2013	13:35	Residency Within jurisdiction	Injured Other Person	Extent of Injury Critical	Resist No
			Arrested Prior Yes	Arrest Jurisdiction Within jurisdiction	Alcohol Unknown
No.	Di	Street	A/L	City	ST Zip
1649	E	JAMES LEE BD	5	CRESTVIEW	FL 32539
Arresting Officer 231 SELF, MATTHEW J			Unit OCSSO/FSV/NORTH/AC/A-SHIFT		(GEO) 1 - 4 - PG22 - O-17 Officer Type
Reporting Officer 231 SELF, MATTHEW J			Unit OCSSO/FSV/NORTH/AC/A-SHIFT		Original Offense Jurisdiction OCSSO
Forward to for approval OCSSO/FSV/NORTH/AC/A-SHIFT					

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

- None
- ROR
- Cash
- Pro

Bond Set by Judge None ROR/Sign
 Cash PTR
 Any
 Pro
 PtIQ
 Purge
 SC

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: 9/10/2013 Time: 13:30
 Instructions: COURTROOM "A"

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
		<u>Printed</u> <u>Printed By</u>
		No
<u>Released To</u>		

<u>Court Disposition Type</u>	<u>Court Disposition Description</u>
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[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

WITNESS STATEMENT

Last	First	Middle	Title	R	S	DOB
HEITGER	HEATHER	MARIE		W	F	05/19/1986

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OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ARREST REPORT

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR008306

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ID / SSN HEITGER , HEATHER MARIE

COURT DISPOSITION: _____

(right index)

- No Bill / Petition
- Issue Warrant
- Prosecution Approved

Signature of Assistant State Attorney Date

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