



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mike Wood, Sheriff

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[www.leoncountysos.com](http://www.leoncountysos.com)

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Media Contact:** Lt. Grady Jordan

**Date:** September 7, 2016

## Multi-Agency Gambling Investigation Results in Numerous Arrest and Seizures

The Leon County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Second Judicial Circuit Office of the State Attorney, the Florida Department of Revenue, the Florida Department of Financial Services, and the Florida Department of Lottery, announce the arrest of Wondwossen Gizaw-Tessema 57, Eyerusalem Hiluf 31, Firehiwot Gebre 35, and Christabel Ekhosuehi 29, on numerous charges related to Racketeering, Fraud, Gambling and Money Laundering.

In January 2016, the Leon County Sheriff's Office began investigating illegal gambling occurring at the Wondu Marathon Convenience Store located on W. Orange Avenue in Tallahassee, FL. Through the course of the investigation, undercover detectives went into this location and played the illegal gambling machines. These machines are electronic style slot machines where the player pushes a button to play the games for cash. LCSO Detectives along with Agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement then discovered additional illegal gambling activities occurring at the Euro Fashions Boutique (W. Tennessee Street), One Stop College Market (W. Tennessee Street) and Pretty Game Boutique (Crawfordville Road). These businesses are also associated with the owners of the Wondu Marathon.

As the gambling investigation continued we learned the Wondu Marathon was also committing Public Assistance Fraud. This occurred through purchasing of EBT cards from the card holders, as well as, giving the card holders lists of items to purchase for the store in return for cash. Wondu Marathon would pay the card holder half of the total EBT purchase in cash. In all, 117 individuals were linked to the EBT fraud in relation to Wondu Marathon.

Detectives and agents continued the investigation and learned large sums of cash were moving through their bank accounts which were not consistent with records from the Florida Department of Revenue.

Gator Tail Amusement was identified as the supplier of the illegal gambling machines. In June 2016, at Gator Tail Amusement on Crossway Road members of the State Attorney's Office, Leon County Sheriff's Office, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement seized numerous items indicating the illegal gambling machines were placed in the Wondu Marathon, One Stop College Market, Pretty Game Boutique, Euro

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Fashions Boutique, Don's Meat Market, and Belen Mart (Blountstown Highway) by Gator Tail and its employees. Over sixty illegal gambling machines were recovered from that property.

In July 2016, search warrants were executed at the Wonda Marathon, Euro Fashions Boutique, and One Stop College Market. Detectives and Agents seized six illegal gambling machines from the Wonda Marathon, ten illegal gambling machines from Euro Fashions Boutique, and six from One Stop College Market.

Throughout the investigation Detectives and Agents seized large sums of U.S. Currency and several vehicles.

Detectives and Agents began making arrests yesterday with more arrest forthcoming. In total, there are 132 are defendants in this case (see attachment).



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First Name	Last Name	DOB	SPN	CHARGE 1	CHARGE 2	CHARGE 3
Wondwossen	Gizaw-Tessema	1/1/1959	107314	Racketeering (F1)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F1)	Money Laundering (F1)
Eyerusalem	Hiluf	8/18/1985		Racketeering (F1)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F1)	Money Laundering (F1)
Firehiwot	Gebre	9/18/1980		Racketeering (F1)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F1)	Money Laundering (F1)
Victor	Angeles	1/28/1992		Racketeering (F1)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F1)	Money Laundering (F1)
Vera	Warren	10/22/1975	229581	Oraganized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Ateref	Kasa	1/21/1976		Oraganized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Moussa	Kiekiet	10/29/1993		Oraganized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (3 counts) (M1)	Petit Theft (3 counts) (M1)
Aster	Negatu	12/12/1973		Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (6 counts) (F3)
Blessing	Ekhosuehi	11/25/1985		Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (6 counts) (F3)
Christabel	Ekhosuehi	12/25/1986		Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (6 counts) (F3)
Stephen	Kabah	3/3/1989		Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (6 counts) (F3)
David	Foshee	11/22/1947		Racketeering (F1)	Establishing Gambling Place (3 counts) (F3)	Lottery Operating Set Up Promote For Money (3 counts) (F3)
Christian	Foshee	2/21/1990		Racketeering (F1)	Establishing Gambling Place (3 counts) (F3)	Lottery Operating Set Up Promote For Money (3 counts) (F3)
Terrance	Johnson	3/22/1985		Racketeering (F1)	Establishing Gambling Place (F3)	Lottery Operating Set Up Promote For Money (F3)

<b>Timothy</b>	<b>Byrd</b>	<b>8/20/1985</b>		<b>Racketeering (F1)</b>	<b>Establishing Gambling Place (F3)</b>	<b>Lottery Operating Set Up Promote For Money (F3)</b>
Stephanie	Arbuthnot	12/9/1984	189066	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Debralyn	Bostick	1/14/1982		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Alphonso	Jefferson	10/4/1961	36350	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Sanyika	Townsend	4/22/1985	181715	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Alexus	Addison	3/6/1994	232241	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Kristie	Bailey	06/21/75	180702	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	
Sheldon	Barber	8/24/1984	128326	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Gretchen	Barineau	2/4/1984	243971	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Tiffany	Barkley	08/11/90	237998	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	
Kenneth	Bennett	10/18/1960	312	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Wiley	Blankenship	10/16/63	33489	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Nicholas	Brent	5/13/1996	238912	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Leslie	Brent	10/15/1985	156103	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Ebony	Brinson	07/19/82	217340	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Grand Theft (F3)
Trenton	Brinson	07/11/89	189998	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Sheldrick	Brown	4/5/1989	195183	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Melissa	Brown	5/10/1973	126034	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Lawanna	Brown	8/13/1988	225125	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Angie	Bryant	5/23/1981	167573	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Willie	Burke	4/9/1960	8110	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Felony Theft (F3)
Antwan	Byrd	7/23/1990	199238	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Joseph	Chapman	5/17/1973	67429	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Telvin	Chapman	04/28/94	244318	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Anthony	Chapman	11/18/1970		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Alphonso	Clayton	02/09/73	50518	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)

Antwain	Coates	12/23/1984	223578	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Oliver	Cole	06/05/55	18124	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Derwin	Collins	09/14/92	232448	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Mia	Cooper	8/28/1993		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Donnie	Copeland	12/23/1961	158491	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Izell	Crawford	01/23/55	42715	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
James	Crews	5/8/1958	227472	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Grand Theft (F3)
Shanica	Cromartie	6/16/1992		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Sarah	Crosby	7/17/1990	217425	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Felony Theft (F3)
Shaunkia	Cross	4/5/1984	156325	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Kimberly	Davis	06/07/88	226947	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Grand Theft (F3)
Leonard	Deloney	12/27/1990	221910	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
James	Edwards	10/18/89	215930	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Tashay	Ellison	3/24/1981		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Naomi	Fudge	1/12/1979		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Cheryl	Garner	9/25/1989	196423	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Kimberly	Gee	01/28/78	181554	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)		
Latoya	Glover	2/10/1985	174427	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Zack	Goodwin	1/20/1957		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Teresa	Griffin	04/05/66	67679	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Grand Theft (F3)
Tiffany	Hayes	12/03/86	233620	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Latoya	Henderson	5/29/1986	158031	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Jerry	Hill	6/10/1954		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Ketra	Hill	10/26/88	225026	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Kendra	Hills	12/19/1986	180918	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Calvin	Hills	12/21/85	174571	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Zeleka	Houston	9/16/1990	214111	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Felony Theft (F3)
Darrel	Houston	07/24/89		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Darryl	Huewitt	11/17/88	184001	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Christa	Hughes	10/17/1986		Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Lykestea	Jackson	02/05/85	205621	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)

Travis	Jackson	7/11/1983		Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Candice	Jackson	5/17/1993		Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Willis	James	10/8/1969	27104	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
Tyease	Jefferson	12/21/78	129774	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	
Laprishia	Johnson	8/17/1979	117261	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
John	Johnson	03/23/88	237678	Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Ashley	Johnson	10/20/1984		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1) Petit Theft (M1)
Donquvious	Johnson	06/15/95	233571	Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Shawn	Johnson	09/08/74	106538	Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Laqreshia	Kelly	07/09/89		Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Christopher	Kenon	7/28/1984		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1) Petit Theft (M1)
Tyrone	Knight	6/2/1986	167645	Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Nikki	Lindsey	12/2/1984	183141	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
JESSICA	MCBRIDE	11/21/1990	173887	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
Octavius	Mcdonald	06/11/88	234901	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud Grand Theft (F3)
Lavelle	Miller	4/15/1970	33543	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3) 2 counts	Public Assistance Fraud (M1) 2 counts Felony Theft (F3)
Jessica	Moore	10/12/88		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	
Sierra	Moore	07/29/86		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	
Ronterrius	Moore	8/2/1982		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
Lamario	Morris	10/10/82	151497	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud Grand Theft (F3)
Shameka	Myles	10/21/1980	143679	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3) Petit Theft (M1)
Niquita	Payne	10/13/1981	164613	Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Alexus	Perry	1/10/1997		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1) Petit Theft (M2)
Felicia	Peterson	6/6/1984		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
Tashina	Phillips	11/05/84	151495	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud Petit Theft (M1)
Darius	Pleas	09/19/94		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1) Petit Theft (M1)
Latashia	Powell	5/23/1982	150287	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (F3) Grand Theft (F3)
Darryl	Powell	04/15/60	8027	Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Tony	Pruitt	12/3/1988		Organized Scheme to Defraud Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)

Neporshe	Reed	3/31/1993		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Dante	Rhodes	10/27/75	82917	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Felony Theft (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)
Felicia	Richardson	8/18/1978	145933	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Mercedes	Richardson	8/14/1990	205366	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Sofia	Rivera	1/13/1990		Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Dealvin	Roberts	05/02/91		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)		
Tiffany	Roberts	11/02/89	206876	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Edward	Robinson	12/3/1984	207282	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Brandy	Rogers	1/6/1991		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Tawanda	Roseborough	1/21/1977	149395	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Stacey	Rowls	4/2/1989		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Carl	Sanders	8/17/1986	231838	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Sade	Sanford	06/04/88	238338	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Samantha	Shaw	09/20/72	195122	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)		
Ivory	Sheffield	08/20/62		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)		
Latarshela	Sherman	9/25/1974	82683	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Wesley	Smith	7/6/1966	88345	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Felony Theft (F3)
Alcaree	Sumner	8/9/1956	26169	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Robert	Taylor	03/18/92		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)		
Earnest	Taylor	2/6/1935	30070	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Raleigh	Thomas	06/03/87	185742	Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Petit Theft (M1)
Lee	Thomas	10/17/1987	183779	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Fredtonya	Tutt	08/28/77		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Dexter	Vickers	04/12/73	57321	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Melissa	Walker	02/11/73		Public Assistance Fraud (F3)	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Grand Theft (F3)
Antonio	Ward	11/28/84	199662	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Felony Theft (F3)	
Anastasia	Ward	07/02/85	161593	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Felony Theft (F3)	
Tiawana	Watson	1/15/1985	185152	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M1)
Brittany	Williams	03/08/91		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	

Joshua	Williams	9/16/1979	112514	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	
Janie	Williams	8/10/1983		Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)
Diana	Williams	12/18/1983	185069	Organized Scheme to Defraud (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud (M1)	Petit Theft (M2)



CHARGE 4	CHARGE 5	CHARGE 6	CHARGE 7	CHARGE 8	CHARGE 9
Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (3 counts) (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (3 counts) (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (22 counts) (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud More Than \$200 (6 counts) (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud Less Than \$200 (34 counts) (M1)	Grand Theft (F3)
Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (2 counts) (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (2 counts) (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (16 counts) (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud More Than \$200 (9 counts) (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud Less Than \$200 (18 counts) (M1)	Grand Theft (F3)
Lottery Operating Set Up Promote for Money (F3)	Establishing Gambling Place (F3)	Gambling Own Store Slot Machine (6 counts) (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud Less Than \$200 (13 counts) (M1)	Grand Theft (F3)	
Grand Theft (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud More Than \$200 (F3)	Public Assistance Fraud Less Than \$200 (F3)			

Gambling Own Store Slot Machines (83 counts) (M2)  
Gambling Own Store Slot Machines (83 counts) (M2)  
Gambling Own Store Slot Machines (6 counts) (M2)

**Gambling Own Store  
Slot Machines (67  
counts) (M2)**