



# HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## **PRESS RELEASE: March 14, 2017**

### **Woman charged with attempt to sell 50 oxycodone pills**

SEBRING -- A woman who was booked in January on drug charges is now facing a much more serious stay in the Highlands County Jail after having new charges added to the list Monday, March 13.

Melanie Sue Gaskins, 43, was arrested Jan. 27 after arranging to meet an undercover detective to make a sale of 50 oxycodone pills. Gaskins was taken into custody at the spot she arranged to meet with the detective (via text messages) with the intention of taking the detective to another location to purchase the pills. She was arrested while walking along State Road 17 near Assembly point due to having an active warrant.



Gaskins was carrying the cell phone that contained all the text messages exchanged with the undercover detective, as well as text messages where she was trying to locate enough pills to meet the order from the undercover detective -- asking for a "blueberry pie," which is slang for a large amount of oxycodone pills, known on the street as "blues."

During the arrest for violation of probation, Gaskins was asked twice if she had any illegal drugs on her and denied it. A search at the jail turned up a partially smoked marijuana blunt and a clear plastic baggie containing methamphetamine tucked between her breasts. She told deputies she "forgot" those items were there. She was booked on that day for possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug equipment and violation of probation.

The text messages and other information were turned over to the state's attorney, and on Monday, Gaskins -- who was still in jail -- was also charged with solicitation to sell oxycodone and using a two-way device to facilitate a felony. Her bond was set at \$6,000.

*.Note: Not all arrests lead to a conviction. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in court.*