



# News Release

*Alachua County Sheriff's Office*

*Sadie Darnell, Sheriff*

*P.O. Box 5489 Gainesville, Florida 32627*

*Office (352) 367-4050 • Fax (352) 374-1808 • <http://www.alachuasheriff.org>*

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Today's Date: April 13, 2016**

**Prepared by: Lt. Brandon Kutner**

**Release #: 2016-023**

**Manslaughter Charges Filed in 2007 Cold Case Surrounding the Disappearance of Heather MacCrossen:**

On December 8, 2008, Heather Ann MacCrossen was reported missing to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. At the time of her disappearance, Ms. MacCrossen had been involved in a long-standing, abusive, domestic relationship with Andrelo Witcher. Multiple documented cases of domestic violence were reported to law enforcement officials in both Columbia and Suwannee Counties.

On July 23, 2007, Suwannee County Deputies filed a report which documented allegations against Andrelo Witcher in which he brandished a handgun, threatened Ms. MacCrossen, and proceeded to hit her with his hands and fists. The report also detailed that Witcher then held Ms. MacCrossen hostage in a home in Lake City for two (2) days before she was able to escape. The same report indicated that, at the time the report was filed, Ms. MacCrossen's visible injuries included two (2) black eyes and bruises on her arms, back, neck, and behind her ears. A medical examination at a local hospital confirmed Ms. MacCrossen suffered a broken eye orbit and a broken rib as well.

The following day, Ms. MacCrossen left Florida on a Greyhound bus headed to stay with family members in Michigan. Approximately three weeks later, however, Ms. MacCrossen returned to Florida on the same bus to attend to an unrelated court matter scheduled for August 21, 2007. Although originally scheduled to be picked up at the bus station in Lake City by a close friend, Ms. MacCrossen continued to Gainesville instead where she met up with Andrelo Witcher on August 18, 2007, never to be heard from again.

Today, Alachua County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Detective Kevin Allen, along with the assistance of several Special Agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, traveled to the Walton Correctional Institution in Defuniak Springs to serve Andrelo Witcher with a warrant for his arrest, charging him with one (1) count of manslaughter for the 2007 death of Heather MacCrossen. Witcher is currently incarcerated and serving a sentence of five (5) years for a 2012 burglary conviction out of Suwannee County. Witcher was set to be released on December 4, 2016, but instead will be scheduled for arraignment on May 16, 2016 in Columbia County where a bond will be set for charges in the MacCrossen case.

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The investigation into the disappearance and death of Heather MacCrossen has been a painstaking endeavor involving the collaboration of several city, county and state law enforcement agencies from Florida and Michigan to include Alachua, Brevard, Clay, Jacksonville, and the Suwannee County Sheriff's Offices as well as the Tampa field office of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The case against Andrelo Witcher will be prosecuted by a special prosecutor, Designated Assistant State Attorney Cass M. Castillo, out of the office of Third Judicial Circuit State Attorney Jeffrey Siegmeister.

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***PIO Lt. Brandon Kutner***  
***Office: (352) 367-4041***  
***Cell: (352) 260-7681***

***PIO Art Forgey***  
***Office: (352) 367-4045***  
***Cell: (352) 538-0861***