



# HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TROY J. PETERSON  
SHERIFF

P.O. BOX 1480 ♦ GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39502 ♦ 228-896-0606

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**For Immediate Release**

On Friday, August 31, 2018, Sheriff Troy Peterson announced the arrest of 28yo Wayne Claude Adams of 18052 Canal Junction Drive, Gulfport, on a felony charge of First Degree Murder.

According to Sheriff Peterson, on Thursday, February 22, 2018, family members of Amber Barnett reported her missing to the Biloxi Police Department. Biloxi PD Investigators were able to determine Ambers last known location was on County Farm Road in Harrison County.

On Wednesday, March 28, 2018, Investigators with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office began their investigation into the disappearance of Amber Barnett. Investigators were able to determine that Wayne Claude Adams had been the last person to be in contact with Amber Barnett on February 18, 2018. After following up on multiple leads, conducting several interviews and search warrants, on August 30, 2018, Investigators obtained information and evidence that lead them to a wooded area to the west of Cemetery Road north of George Ladner Road in Harrison County.

On Friday, August 31, 2018, Harrison County Investigators along with Gulf Coast Search and Rescue deployed search dogs which located human remains within the search area. These remains are believed to be that of Amber Barnett. More arrests are expected in connection to the murder of Amber Barnett. Although we believe these remains to be that of Amber Barnett, the remains will be sent to the Mississippi Crime Laboratory for positive DNA results.

Wayne Claude Adams was booked into the Harrison County Adult Detention Facility and charged with one count of First Degree Murder and held in lieu of a \$1 million dollar bond set by Justice Court Judge Dianne Ladner.

Investigative Officer: Inv. William Wescovich

Approved For Release: \_\_\_\_\_

Troy J. Peterson, Sheriff, Harrison County, Mississippi