

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

August 26, 2024

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

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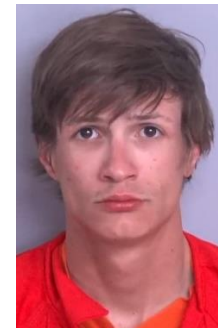
Kidnapper arrested child located safe

On Saturday, August 24, 2024, officers from the Lake City Police Department were dispatched to 3072 W US Hwy 90, Olive Garden, to the report of a disturbance between a male and a female.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with the complainant, who informed them of an incident involving an individual with whom she had previously been in a domestic relationship. During that relationship, a child was born, but the father has never established paternal rights with the state of Florida. Today, the mother had agreed to allow the father to see the child in a public location. During the visit, the father forcibly took the child, fled the restaurant with the child, entered a vehicle, and drove away in a reckless manner. The incident was witnessed by several citizens who provided statements to the officers.

Investigators interviewed the woman and the witnesses and prepared a warrant for Thomas Joseph Levasseur, who had fled to Bradford County. The warrant was reviewed by the State Attorney's Office and signed by a judge. Levasseur was located, arrested, and transported to the Bradford County Jail. The child was found safe and returned to the mother.

Name: Levasseur, Thomas Joseph
DOB: 12/16/2000
Sex: Male
Race: White
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 10551 US Hwy 301, Hampton, FL 33044
Charges: Kidnapping
Cruelty Toward a Child



**Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068
or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.**



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