

PRESS RELEASE



GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Kevin Phillips
Chief of Police

Aggravated Kidnapping with Deadly Weapon

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Arrested: BRANCH, Christopher Ray / 39 of Gainesville, Texas

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026 around 3:47 a.m., officers were dispatched to an assault in progress occurring at the Quik Trip located at 926 W Highway 82.

A preliminary investigation revealed that a 45-year-old female victim was walking in the 1500 block of N. Weaver Street when she was confronted by Branch, an individual with whom she had a prior relationship. The victim reported that Branch immediately assaulted her and, after displaying a knife in a threatening manner, forced her into his vehicle.

Branch then drove westbound on Highway 82 and, for reasons unknown, stopped at QuikTrip. At that point, the victim was able to exit the vehicle, enter the business, and contact the Police Department for assistance.

The victim had several facial injuries from the assault and was transported by ambulance for further medical treatment.

Branch was arrested for the offense of Aggravated Kidnapping with Deadly Weapon which is a First-Degree Felony.

The investigation into this case is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact the Gainesville Police Department by calling (940) 668-7777, or through Facebook at Facebook.com/GTPolice. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact the Crimes Tip Hotline at (940) 612-0000.

It is important to note that a complaint, arrest, or indictment should not be considered as evidence of guilt and that all persons charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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