



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Monday, November 6, 2017

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K-9 Takes Bite Out of Crime - and Suspect's Leg **Suspect in Custody and Stolen Vehicle Recovered**

Matthew Scott Nesbitt, 44, is in custody after a nearly two-and-a-half hour chase through the woods of Palm Coast's "Z" section after he abandoned a stolen vehicle and threatened deputies with a large open-blade knife. The vehicle was recovered on Zebulahs Trail.



Left: Flagler County EMTs bandage Nesbitt's wounds from dog bite. Right: Sheriff and Deputy escort Nesbitt into patrol car.

Sheriff Rick Staly joined deputies, detectives, the K-9 Unit, and Flagler County's Fire Flight Helicopter to set a perimeter around Zebulahs Trail, Zaun Trail, and Zelda Court. Belle Terre Parkway was also shut down southbound. Flagler County Schools were notified and bus drop-offs were temporarily delayed in the area until the suspect was in custody.

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The suspect was seen jumping a fence and running toward the wood line on Zebulahs Trail. He was located by Deputy Jon Duenas and K-9 Deputy Valor, but fled. He was apprehended a short time later by K-9 Deputy Marko and Corporal Fred Gimbel in the woods behind 10 Zelda Court.

“Our deputies did a great job apprehending him quickly to protect the community and school children getting home,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “K-9 Marko took a bite out of crime today so let this be a warning to future dirtbags: if you threaten my deputies, we will come after you in full force and we will get you.”

Nesbitt is currently being treated for his wounds at Florida Hospital Flagler. Once medically cleared, he will be booked into the Flagler County Detention Facility on charges of grand theft auto, two counts aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest without violence, and fleeing and attempting to elude law enforcement. His bond will be set to none.

Nesbitt is currently on probation and has an arrest history in multiple counties in Florida.

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