



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017

**Contact:** Brittany Kershaw | (386) 586-2637 | bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com

## Voorhees Arrested in South Carolina

James Rex Voorhees, the 74-year-old man who fled from two crash scenes in Flagler County last week – one involving a Flagler Deputy, was arrested at his home in South Carolina Wednesday morning.

Voorhees contacted the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and indicated that he was aware of the warrant for his arrest. Corporal Scott Whetherhold of the Flagler County Sheriff's Fugitive Unit contacted the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and requested that they make contact with Voorhees.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office took Voorhees into custody without incident. Voorhees will be held at the Beaufort County Detention Center until extradited to Flagler County on charges of leaving the scene of an accident with injury, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, and driving with a suspended license with knowledge.

"Thank you to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office for their assist in taking this offender off the street," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "He will soon be in the Green Roof Inn."

*Original News Release below.*

**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2017

**Contact:** Brittany Kershaw | (386) 586-2637 | bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com

## UPDATE: Driver in Hit-and-Run Crash Identified, Warrant Issued for Arrest

A Flagler County Sheriff's deputy, Bret Wood, was injured on Wednesday when his motorcycle crashed while attempting to apprehend a fleeing driver from a previous crash. The driver has now been identified as 74-year-old James Rex Voorhees from South Carolina.

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office contacted the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, the county where

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Voorhees resides, to request mutual aid in locating Voorhees. Beaufort County was able to provide a driver's license photograph as well as phone numbers and addresses on file for Voorhees. Voorhees was unable to be contacted at all phone numbers and addresses supplied.

After a positive identification of Voorhees as the driver involved in the two crashes, it was discovered that Voorhees' driver's license has been suspended since July of 2016. An arrest affidavit was completed and a warrant signed for nationwide extradition for Voorhees' arrest.



Left: Photo of James Rex Voorhees; Right: 2000 Buick Rendezvous (not actual vehicle) South Carolina Tag Number 6043KX.

Voorhees is charged with leaving the scene of an accident with injury, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, and driving with a suspended license with knowledge.

"I am glad that we identified this man and we will track him down," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Thankfully, Deputy Wood is recovering from his injuries."

Anyone with information on Voorhees' location is asked to call FCSO at 386-313-4911 and reference case number 17-102609 or call Crimestoppers of Northeast Florida at 1-888-477-TIPS (8477). You will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.00.

*Original News Release below.*

**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2017

## **Flagler County Sheriff's Deputy Injured In Crash, Non-Life Threatening Injuries**

A Flagler County Sheriff's deputy was injured today when his motorcycle crashed while attempting to apprehend a fleeing driver from a previous crash.

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Bret Wood, a deputy on a motorcycle unit, responded to the scene of a crash at State Road 100 and Interstate 95. Once on scene, one vehicle involved in the crash fled. Deputy Wood attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle, an older model white Buick Rendezvous with a South Carolina license plate, as it entered the on-ramp for I-95 South. The vehicle stopped abruptly causing Deputy Wood to lose control of his motorcycle and strike the pavement. The vehicle then fled the scene.

Deputy Wood suffered non-life threatening injuries to his chin, chest and arms. Sheriff Rick Staly arrived at the crash scene to check on Deputy Wood as he was being placed in the ambulance to be transported to the hospital. Deputy Wood is expected to make a full recovery.



Left: Deputy Wood's motorcycle after the crash. Right: Cpl. Vedder and Sheriff Staly at the hospital with Deputy Wood.

“Thank God Deputy Wood was wearing his helmet because he took a hard hit to the head,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “I’m glad that he’s going to be okay. Now we need to track down the driver.”

A be-on-the-lookout for the vehicle that fled has been issued to surrounding counties. The driver has charges pending of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage, for the initial crash Deputy Wood was responding to, and leaving the scene of a crash with injury, a felony, for the crash involving Deputy Wood.

The driver was described as a white male in his 60s, approximately 5’7” with white hair, wearing a light colored shirt and brown pants. Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 386-313-4911 or call Crimestoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS (8477) to remain anonymous. You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.00.

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