



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: K-9 Valor Apprehends Suspect Who Battered Deputy

Date: March 30, 2017

On 03-29-17, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call from Nathen Strauss who advised that his three children and their mother were missing.

Strauss advised the deputy via phone that he, the children, and their mother (Strauss' girlfriend) all live on Grear Hope Street in Brooksville, but he (Strauss) was currently doing contract work at a residence in Timber Pines. Strauss advised that he was unable to meet the deputy at his residence to make the report.

Through investigation, Deputy James Devorak was able to determine the location of the three children and their mother, Natasha Vega. Upon meeting with Vega to check her well-being, Vega revealed that Strauss battered her in their home on 03-25-17. After the battery, Vega and the children left the residence and went to stay elsewhere.

Noting visible injuries to Vega that were consistent with her story, Deputy Devorak proceeded to Strauss' job-site in Timber Pines to speak with him about the incident.

Deputy Devorak questioned Strauss regarding the Domestic Battery allegations; Strauss advised that he never touched Vega. Strauss was placed under arrest for Domestic Battery and placed in handcuffs.

While placing Strauss into the rear of the marked patrol vehicle, Strauss battered Deputy Devorak, knocking him off balance. Strauss then fled in a westerly direction. Deputy Devorak gave chase, ordering Strauss to stop. Strauss refused to comply with commands and continued to flee, handcuffed behind his back.

Multiple units were dispatched to the area to set up a perimeter. A K-9 team and the Aviation Unit were dispatched in an effort to locate Strauss who would now be charged with Escape.

Upon arrival, Deputy Jeff Andrews along with his K-9 partner Valor began a track. Moments later, deputies assisting with the K-9 track advised that K-9 Valor had located the suspect hiding in a drainage culvert in the area of Broadmoor Lane and Medinah Court. Numerous commands were given to Strauss to exit the pipe he was hiding in; however, he refused. K-9 Valor was deployed to apprehend Strauss. During the apprehension, Strauss received a dog bite.

Hernando County Fire/Rescue was dispatched to the scene to provide medical treatment for the dog bite.

Strauss was then transported to Oak Hill Hospital where he was treated and released (into HCSO's custody).

Nathen Emerson Strauss W/M DOB/10-01-1983 was then transported to the Hernando County Detention Center, charged as follows:

- Domestic Battery
 - o No Bond
- Battery on LEO
- Escape
 - o Bond \$15,000.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.