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Fake bomb threat defused by dogs



Gilchrist County Sheriff Bobby Schultz at the scene Friday afternoon (June 24) in front of the courthouse that some person said had a bomb in it.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © June 24, 2016 @ 8:27 p.m.

TRENTON – A non-specific bomb threat was called into one of the offices in the Gilchrist County Courthouse at about 1:45 p.m., Gilchrist County Sheriff Robert “Bobby” Schultz III said.



A GCSO cruiser, an FHP cruiser and part of another FHP cruiser are seen near the southeast corner of the courthouse. County sheriff's deputies and state troopers kept people a safe distance away from the courthouse during the search for a bomb.

Everyone was evacuated from the courthouse, he said, in a seamless, smooth and orderly way. The evacuees were taken to a more comfortable location rather than having to stand in the hot

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sun. Several law enforcement officers were in the heat of the day, assuring the safety of the public.

This cruiser transported the bomb-detectors from the ACSO.

Bomb-detecting dogs and officers to handle them came from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the University of Florida Police Department. Sheriff Schultz said he greatly appreciates

the quick response to his request for mutual aid.

Two units from the Florida Highway Patrol help control traffic around the courthouse,

supplementing the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office contingent that kept passersby out of harm's way.



This is the method for transporting a UPD human officer and a UPD canine officer to assist in Trenton.

The officers and dogs completed a very thorough check of the courthouse by 4:15 p.m., GCSO Public Information Officer Capt. Sheryl Brown said.

An investigation to determine who called is still active, the sheriff said.

The sheriff said everyone at the courthouse and in the GCSO knew their roles in dealing with this situation. The GCSO team will have an after-action review of what went right and anything that may be improved for responses in the future.