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Multi-state case continues with suspect shot in Bronson



A member of the team of law enforcement officers involved in the apprehension of the suspect packs up some equipment.



Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © June 4, 2018 at 10:08 a.m.

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BRONSON – A man who is wanted in Georgia on various charges, and is at least a person of interest in an infant's death was shot by an Alachua County Sheriff's Office SWAT member Monday morning (June 4) in Bronson, according to information from ACSO Public Information Officer Sgt. Brett Rhodenizer.

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ACSO Public Information Officer Sgt. Brett Rhodenizer speaks to members of media outlets based in Gainesville.



A member of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement picks up material to use in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting in Bronson by an ACSO SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) member.

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Part of the crime scene here shows the red SUV the suspect tried to leave the apartment complex in as it is stopped in the driveway. Some apartment complex residents may have been inconvenienced due to the need of investigators to keep the crime scene free from traffic or materials that would hamper the investigation.



A small patch of blue wildflowers grows near the sign to the apartment complex.

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Bronson Community Church is the place where the ACSO was meeting members of the press to release information about the shooting at the apartment complex. Immediately southeast of the church is the Levy County Transit Department. A bit northwest of the church is the location of the villas.

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The Hall County (Georgia) Sheriff's Office called the ACSO just after 8:30 p.m. last night (June 3), Rhodenizer said.

The HCSO told the ACSO that it had received information about an individual possibly involved in a possible infant homicide was in Alachua County at that time, Rhodenizer said.

The HCSO derived its lead to Alachua County, Rhodenizer said, from some OnStar vehicle information.

An immediate investigation led deputies to believe the suspect – Carlton James Mathis, 28, of Georgia was at the Bronson Villas Apartments, Rhodenizer said.

Mathis was wanted for Violation Of Probation, Rhodenizer said, and he had been put on probation as part of a sentence for burglary.



Carlton James Mathis *Mug Shot Provided*

The ACSO contacted the Levy County Sheriff's Office for assistance, Rhodenizer said, as well as deploying the ACSO SWAT.

"We observed Mathis in the Bronson Villas and Villages Apartments shortly after 4 a.m. this morning (June 4)," Rhodenizer said. "We were looking for him and developing this investigation throughout the night.

"When he was seen, again after four o'clock or so this morning," Rhodenizer continued, "he was seen getting into a vehicle. Based on the information, we attempted to stop the vehicle – a red SUV, to make sure he was in that vehicle. He was armed with a handgun."

The ACSO public information officer said the suspect was engaged (shot) by an ACSO SWAT team operator. The suspect was treated on scene and then was taken to a Gainesville hospital.

After the suspect is stabilized, Rhodenizer continued, he will be taken to the Levy County Jail where he will be booked on a charge of aggravated assault for pointing the gun at a person. Other charges from Georgia, such as VOP, are to be determined, and the role of the man in the alleged infant's homicide are yet another matter in this two-state, and possible three-state (Alabama) path left by this fugitive who is now in custody.

*** As events unfolded, Rhodenizer said, the Dothan (Alabama) Police Department served a search warrant in that city and located what are believed to be the remains of the child that prompted the search for Mathis.**

The investigation into both the child's case and shooting is ongoing, Rhodenizer said.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating the officer-involved shooting at the request of the ACSO, Rhodenizer said.

"Our policy (the ACSO) is always to have the FDLE investigate an officer-involved shooting," he said.

Shot suspect gets booked; Girl and deputy hit by shrapnel

Carlton James Mathis
Mug Shot By LCSO



By Jeff M. Hardison © June 8, 2018 at 2:38 p.m.

BRNISON -- A suspect who was shot Monday (June 4) was released from a Gainesville hospital to start his new place of residence at the Levy County Jail, Levy County Sheriff's Office Lt. Scott Tummond said in a Friday afternoon press release (June 8).

The LCSO booked Carlton James "C.J." Mathis, 28, of Georgia into the jail yesterday (June 6), Tummond said.

Mathis is suspected in the death of an infant in Alabama and he was wanted for violating his probation on a prior burglary case in Georgia, Tummond said.

Mathis was stopped by LCSO deputies and Alachua County Sheriff's Office SWAT members Monday at the Bronson Villas in a vehicle he was riding in with Otis Johnson, Amanda Oakes and a 14-year-old girl, Tummond said.

Mathis brandished a firearm when confronted by law enforcement officers, and this resulted in him being shot, Tummond said. The child and a deputy suffered minor injuries from shrapnel during the shooting, Tummond said.

(The story and photos from Monday are on the Home Page.)

Mathis has been charged with aggravated assault with a firearm with the intent to commit a felony, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, child neglect, possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana. Both of these drugs were found on his person at the time he was shot and taken to the hospital. Mathis had his first appearance in Levy County this morning and his bond has been set at \$650,000.

Additional charges were filed against Mathis earlier today (June 7) for trafficking in methamphetamines, Tummond said. This charge stems from a large stash of methamphetamine found in the vehicle on the evening he opposed law enforcement. Bond has not been set on this charge, Tummond said.

Mathis will be held at the Levy County Jail until these charges have been answered for in a Levy County Court. He is scheduled then to be extradited to Alabama to face the homicide charges awaiting him there.