

COUNTY FAMILY APREHENDS CRIMINAL AFTER EXTENSIVE MANHUNT

ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25, AT 07:30 AM, GRADY COUNTY DEPUTIES AND STATE TROOPERS WERE CALLED ABOUT A STOLLEN CAR. CHEVROLET ONSTAR ADVISED GRADY COUNTY "911" OF A STOLEN WHITE CHEVY TRAILBLAZER HEADING NORTH BOUND ON HIGHWAY 81. ONSTAR LATER NOTIFED GRADY COUNTY DISPATCH THE VEHICLE STOPPED IN ALEX NEAR A CONVENIENT STORE ON HIGHWAY 19C. COUNTY DISPATCHED THE CALL FROM ONSTAR IN THE VEHICLE TO ALL LAWMMEN IN THE AREA. A STATE TROOPER FELL IN BEHIND THE VEHICLE AND MADE THE STOP. WHILE ON THE STOP EDDIE DON STRATTON DRIVER OF THE STOLEN TRAILBLAZER SPED OFF TRYING TO ELUDE TROOPERS AND DEPUTIES. THE STOLEN VEHICLE TURNED ON COUNTY ROAD 1370 OFF OF 19C AND DROVE INTO A PASTURE. STRATTON EXITED FROM THE VEHICLE, RAN INTO A WOODED AREA. LAWMMEN SUROUNDED THE AREA, WHILE OHP AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER THE AREA SEARCHING FOR SEVERAL HOURS. RESIDENCE WAS NOTIFIED BY LAWMMEN OF THE SUSPECTS DESCRIPTION. "WE STOPPED AND SEARCHED VEHICLES LOOKING FOR THE SUSPECT, CITIZENS WHERE NOTIFIED TO TAKE THEIR KEYS FROM THEIR VEHICLES AND LOCK THEIR DOORS," SAID SHERIFF KELL. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF SEARCHING, THE MANHUNT WAS CALLED OFF.

DEPUTIES AND TROOPERS STAYED IN THE AREA SEARCHING THE ROADS TO SEE IF THE SUSPECT WOULD SHOW UP. AROUND 1:00 PM A PERSON CALLED "911" AND SAID HER HUSBAND WAS IN THE YARD FIGHTING A MAN THAT MET THE DESCRIPTION. SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES MOVED IN ON THE RESIDENCE AND TOOK CUSTODY OF THE SUSPECT FROM THE CITIZEN. "WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE HUSBAND AND WIFE FIGHTING THE SUSPECT AND HOLDING HIM DOWN ON THE GROUND, I WAS THRILLED. THIS IS GOOD COMMUNITY POLICING," SHERIFF KELL SAID. CHANCE KENDALL AND HIS WIFE WAS AT HOME WHEN A MAN CAME TO THEIR DOOR ASKING TO USE THEIR PHONE. CHANCE SAID; "MY WIFE RECOGNIZED HIM AS THE MAN THE POLICE WERE SEARCHING FOR. I GRABBED HIM BY THE SHIRT AND TOLD HIM NOT TO MOVE OR I WOULD HURT HIM." THE SUSPECT TRIED TO FIGHT CHANCE BUT CHANCE TOOK HIM TO THE GROUND AND

HELD HIM WHILE HIS WIFE CALLED "911". ON THE "911" TAPE YOU CAN HEAR HIS WIFE YELLING AT THE SUSPECT TEAMING UP WITH HER HUSBAND IN THE FIGHT, SAID SHERIFF KELL. DEPUTIES CAME IMMEDIATELY AND WERE SURPRISED TO SEE CHANCE ON TOP OF THE SUSPECT IN A NECK RESTRAINT. UNDERSHERIFF JIM WEIR SAID, "STRATTON TANGLED WITH THE WRONG PERSON AND PAID THE PRICE." EDDIE DON STRATTON WAS HANDED OVER TO THE HIGHWAY PATROL WHERE HE WAS BOOKED INTO GRADY COUNTY JAIL ON CHARGES OF UNAUTHORIZED USE OF VEHICLE, ELLUDING AN OFFICER, DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION AND COUNTY WARRANTS.