

MANHUNT

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manhunt. They and the initial responding deputy were treated at Cozby-Germany Hospital in Grand Saline.

The tracking took place over approximately a 3/4-mile area, Buccafurno said.

"Zues works on freshest human scent. That means we get him to the last known spot as to where the deputies were, then get beyond where they have searched and you have uncontaminated areas," she explained.

The previous night, Buccafurno and Fasco, a Belgian Malinois, were called to assist a DPS traffic stop on Van Zandt County Road 3204, north of Myrtle Springs.

"DPS Trooper Jason Matura stopped a truck, requested to search the vehicle and was denied permission by the driver," Buccafurno said.

Fasco found out why, she added.

"He alerted us to something on both the driver and passenger side doors. Inside, we found marijuana and 4.7 grams of methamphetamine," Buccafurno said.

Both suspects in the truck were arrested at the scene. Their identifications were not available as of press time Thursday.

Local Police Dogs Assist In Manhunt, Drug Arrests

By Terry Britt
Staff Writer

Edgewood Police Officer Jackie Buccafurno and two of her police canines were quite busy last weekend.

Buccafurno, who trains and deploys both search and rescue dogs and drug dogs, assisted in two arrests within a 24-hour period.

On Sunday evening, Buccafurno and Zues, a German shepherd, helped in a manhunt near Van Zandt County Road 1126. The suspect was hiding in a small ravine after allegedly assaulting a Van Zandt County Deputy in Fruitvale.

"It was a small ravine and a DPS (Department of Public Safety) trooper had seen a cigarette that had just been put out, so the dog got down on that ravine," Buccafurno said. "The suspect was hiding in some thick vines."

Moments later, they had their

man, identified as Randy Harris.

Buccafurno said the initial call was to the sheriff's office about a criminal trespass violation in the Fruitvale housing area. The suspect allegedly shoved down a sheriff's deputy who approached him and then started running, she said.

"The dog worked beautifully and the agencies worked together beautifully. We did a grid search at one point and it went well," she said.

Rachel Miller, an Edgewood PD reserve officer, was Zues' handler on the manhunt while Buccafurno took the role of back handler, the officer who picks up any evidence and watches out for the dog's handler during the manhunt.

Buccafurno said she suffered an injury when she got tangled in vines and fell. She added that another deputy suffered a small laceration on one arm during the

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