

Massachusetts State Police track suspect OUI driver into marsh

“Shortly after midnight Saturday morning, while on patrol out of the State Police-Danvers Barracks, Massachusetts State Trooper Thomas Hashem observed a 2007 Volkswagen Jetta off the roadway on Route 128 at the Grant Circle rotary in Gloucester. The Jetta, which had apparently just crashed, was amid some bushes and had heavy front end damage, and no occupant of the vehicle was present.

Trooper Hashem then observed a person in a black hoodie running in the area of the Jasmine Garden parking lot toward an adjacent marsh. Trooper Christopher Thurlow from the MSP K9 Unit responded to assist and deployed his partner Devaney (pictured) on a track from the Jetta. Devaney tracked across the rotary and into the marshland, leading Troopers Thurlow and Hashem through thick vegetation. Devaney and the Troopers soon located the man in the black hoodie lying face down in thick reeds.

The man, who had an unopened can of beer in the back pocket of his jeans, appeared to have fallen asleep. Trooper Hashem woke the man and detained him, and the Troopers made several observations indicating that the man was heavily intoxicated.

The Troopers were eventually able to identify the man as KENNETH COLLINS, 28, of Georgetown and transported him to the Danvers Barracks. COLLINS refused a breath test but complained of pain and was transported to Beverly Hospital. Trooper Hashem waited with COLLINS at the hospital for several hours while he was evaluated and treated. Upon his release from the hospital,

COLLINS was taken back to the Barracks and booked on charges

of operating under the influence of alcohol, operating a motor vehicle after suspension, and leaving the scene of a crash causing personal injury.