

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE November 16, 2007
TIME 6:00 PM

Detectives Looking for Victims of Identity Theft After Recent Arrest

RIVERBANK, CA- Riverbank Sheriff's Detectives are looking for recent victims of burglaries and identify theft after two people are arrested for making and using false ID's. Detectives were investigating a case where a fraudulent check was cashed at a local Target store. After reviewing video surveillance Sheriff's detectives recognized the suspect as Jimmy NEWELL, 33-years-old of Riverbank. NEWELL was arrested for using a false ID on October 16, 2007 but was out on bail. Detectives passed on the information to other law enforcement agencies that NEWELL was wanted by the Sheriff's Department.

Yesterday Modesto Police officers arrested Gilliam STEPHENS, 30-years-old of Riverbank, in the 2000 block of Viola Street in Modesto for a burglary warrant. During the arrest at STEPHENS home Modesto Police officers found and arrested NEWELL inside the home. The officers notified Sheriff's Detectives who responded to the home on Viola. After obtaining a search warrant, detective searched the inside of the home. Inside they found equipment used to make false California drivers licenses, Social Security Cards, and checks. Also inside the home were 22 different false California drivers' licenses. Detectives say that NEWELL was using the false drivers licenses by replacing the photo of the victim with his own and then using and cashing false checks at local businesses. "We have stolen property identified from a few recent burglaries in Modesto," said Riverbank Detective Priscilla Woods, "but there are more victims from this case that we are looking for." Detectives believe that NEWELL and STEPHENS have been using false ID's in cities between San Jose and Modesto.

Both NEWELL and STEPHENS were arrested and booked into the Stanislaus County Jail. NEWELL is being charged with one count each of Burglary, Forgery, Criminal Conspiracy, and 22 counts of Unauthorized use of ID to get Credit and 22 counts of Forgery of a drivers license. STEPHENS is being charged with Burglary, Criminal Conspiracy, Forgery, and several arrest warrants.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective Priscilla Woods at (209) 869-7162. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.

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