

Stanislaus County  
**SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT**

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



**MEDIA RELATIONS**



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE** October 3, 2008  
**TIME** 1:30 PM

**Sheriff's Officials Identify Victim from a 37-Year Old Homicide Using DNA  
\*\*Press Conference\*\***

**MODESTO, CA-** On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1971 the body of a female homicide victim was discovered in the Delta Mendota Canal near Wesley, California. The victim was described as having numerous and major injuries to her face, neck, hands, and upper body. The victim was never identified.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, approximately 37 years after her death, Sheriff's Officials exhumed the remains of victim to hopefully utilize the advances in new technology such as DNA to try and identify victim. After the story went to the media, a family contacted the Sheriff's Department and said the victim might be her cousin. After comparing DNA from the victim and other family members, the victim was positively identified as Mary Alice Willey of San Francisco.

A news conference is scheduled for Monday October 6, 2008 at 1:00 PM for the news media to talk to the lead Homicide Detective on this case, the Chief Coroner, a representative from Department of Justice on the type of DNA test used in this case, and several family members of Mary Alice Willey. The news conference will be held at the Sheriff's Main Office located at 250 E Hackett Rd, Modesto CA.

**News Conference: Monday, October 6, 2008 at 1:00 PM  
250 E. Hackett Road  
Modesto, CA 95358**

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