

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

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



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE January 25, 2008
TIME 9:00 PM

Victim Fights Off Suspect, Citizens Chase Him Away

Westley, CA- Stanislaus County Sheriff's Deputies and Officers from the California Highway Patrol responded to the Southbound Interstate-5 rest stop near Westley on an attempted rape call. Just before 12:30 this afternoon the California Highway Patrol received several 911 calls about a black male who attempted to rape a female victim in the woman's restroom. The victim was able to fight off the attacker and fled from the restroom. A group of citizens chased the suspect who ran across Interstate-5 and into an orchard where they lost him.

Once Sheriff's Deputies and Highway Patrol officers arrived, a perimeter was set up in the area where the suspect was last seen in. A search of the area was started using a Highway Patrol and Sheriff's K-9 unit and the Sheriff's helicopter. After searching for about one hour the suspect, 31-year-old Lester JONES of Sacramento was found and arrested. The victim and a witness were able to positively identify the suspect after the arrest. JONES is being charged with assault with the intent to commit a sexual crime. He is being held at the Stanislaus County Jail with a bail of \$25,000.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective Marc Nuno at (209) 525-7081. 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.