

Stanislaus County  
**SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT**

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



**MEDIA RELATIONS**



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 02/16/11  
TIME 10:45 PM**

**Sheriff's Deputies Arrest Burglary Suspects With Help of K9 Teams**

**Modesto, CA-** At 3:00 PM today, Deputy Sheriff Jason Cook responded to a residential burglary in progress which had just occurred in the 4000 block of Langworth Road near the City of Riverbank. The victim arrived home and noticed a vehicle, later determined to be stolen, parked in the driveway outside of the gate, leading to the residence. As the victim pulled into the driveway, a suspect was seen running from the residence.

Deputy Cook arrived and checked the perimeter of the residence while waiting for additional deputies to arrive. Cook saw an entrance at the back of the residence was standing open and several items scattered throughout the back yard including a television, computers and other personal property. In checking for evidence, Cook found fresh shoeprints leading away from the victim's residence.

Two K9 teams arrived and began to track the suspect. The track, which lasted over an hour and covered nearly a mile, resulted in the location of the suspect who fled on foot. Deputy Lloyd MacKinnon and his canine partner Kiko located 34 year old Sergio Gomez of Oakdale who was apprehended by Kiko.

Deputy Brock Condit and his canine partner Gizmo also assisted in the search efforts.

During the investigation, a vehicle with two occupants drove into the area. The vehicle was stopped by deputies and both occupants initially denied any involvement. One occupant, 48 year old Rochelle Pitassi of Oakdale, later admitted receiving a phone call from Gomez asking her to come pick him up.

Gomez and Pitassi were arrested and booked for residential burglary and Pitassi was also charged with being an accessory after the fact to a felony.

Deputies recovered two televisions, three laptops, I pods, cameras, Wii and Wii accessories along with other personal property which was returned to the burglary victims.

"This is another example of the great work our deputies are doing to protect the community", said Sheriff Adam Christianson, "excellent team work. I'm proud of them".

For information regarding this press release please contact:

Sheriff Watch Commander  
Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department  
(209) 525-7188