

# Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

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



## MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 9-22-10  
TIME 11:45 AM**

### **ELDERLY WOMAN REUNITED WITH FAMILY AFTER EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH**

**Newman, CA** – An 83-year-old woman was located and happily reunited with her family early Wednesday morning after an exhaustive search coordinated by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department. The elderly Newman woman, whom was reported missing by family members shortly after midnight, was classified at-risk because her family indicated she suffered from dementia. Sheriff's Department authorities responded to the 25000 block of Jorgensen Road in Newman at approximately 12:30 a.m. The property on Jorgensen Road consists of a roughly 30-acre ranch, with three separate houses that needed to be thoroughly checked.

Given the fact the woman had no prior instances of ever being reported missing, and was not properly dressed for the cool overnight conditions, the Sheriff's Office began to deploy numerous resources to aid in the search. They included a number of patrol personnel in marked units, a helicopter equipped with state-of-the-art FLIR thermal imaging, canine units to help work a scent track, robbery/homicide detectives, a bloodhound provided by the Modesto Police Department, and four-wheel drive vehicles operated by the Special Vehicle Operations Unit. Deputies were deployed to search the area not only in their vehicles, but also searched nearby Orestimba Creek, outlying creek beds, ponds, out buildings and other rural parts on foot as well.

The search lasted for nearly eight-hours and even required dayshift patrol personnel to respond in order to relieve graveyard deputies whom were still working the investigation. Investigators were able to breathe a sigh of relief after daybreak when a passerby and Good Samaritan called in to report spotting the woman walking alone and possibly in need of medical treatment. Once the woman was safely returned home, family members made their own private arrangements to have her transported to a nearby healthcare facility for treatment and evaluation.

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Each year the Sheriff's Office investigates hundreds of reported missing persons cases. Many of them are merely instances of miscommunication between friends or family, or they involve teenaged juveniles that are habitual runaways. Missing person cases oftentimes result in a quick resolution once the preliminary report is taken, the person is entered into the missing persons database, and the person is eventually located. With the cooperation of family members and other allied agencies that work succinctly in collaboration with one another, which was the case with this most recent Newman incident, missing persons cases have a much higher probability of resulting in a successful outcome. An elevated law enforcement response and certain added resources are typically allocated in cases where the elderly or young, at-risk children with special needs are involved.

Sheriff Adam Christianson explained how pleased he was with outcome by saying, "We're grateful the family was reunited, and I'm proud of our team for their efforts."

For further information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).