



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Wayne Hannah, Sheriff

October 22, 2010

Press Information

Sheriff Wayne Hannah

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770-716-4800

Located Alzheimer's Patient

The Fayette County Sheriff's Office received a call of a missing person at approximately 6:17 a.m. on Friday, October 22, 2010. A 73 year old man who resides in the Country Lake Subdivision, located off of Georgia Highway 279 in northern Fayette County, had apparently walked away from home. The man, who suffers with Alzheimer's disease, was thought to have only been wearing light clothing consisting of a pair of shorts and a t-shirt.

Responding deputies searched the immediate area but were unable to locate the elderly Fayette County Resident. Concerned for his safety, they requested the assistance of both the Fayette County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit Tracking Team and the Sheriff's Office Helicopter Hawk 1. Fayette County Sheriff's Office Bloodhound Handler Sergeant Shane Head and Sue, a six year old Bloodhound, responded to his home. I.

Sergeant Head and Sue started a scent track in an effort to locate the missing Alzheimer's patient. The Tracking Team successfully located him in only 9 minutes after having started their search. He was located, entangled in a vine and briar covered wooded thicket, not far from his home. Fayette County Fire Department emergency medical personnel were called to the scene; other than being very cold and disoriented due to his illness, he was found to be good condition. Due to his advanced age and medical condition, Fayette County Fire Department personnel transported him to Piedmont Fayette Hospital as a precaution.

The Fayette County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit was established in 1992 and began with three bloodhounds. Sheriff Wayne Hannah expanded the original program; the K-9 Unit now includes three Bloodhounds, six Full Service Patrol Dogs, and one narcotics only Detection Dog. These animals are available for duty at anytime of the day or night. All of our canines, with the exception of the narcotics detection only dog, are trained to locate missing people among their other duties.

The problem of missing individuals suffering with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Epilepsy, Autism, Downs Syndrome and other related illnesses is a potentially life threatening issue. The Fayette County Sheriff's Office has partnered with Project Lifesaver to help those in our community struggling and coping with the issues related these debilitating and heart breaking illnesses. Project Lifesaver is a program using electronics and

specially trained search teams to locate missing person's who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and other similar illnesses.

For More information of Project Lifesaver and the Fayette County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit and their capabilities, please visit our website at www.fayettesheriff.org.

A Fayette County Sheriff's Office provided photograph of Sergeant Head, Sue, and the Unit Commander Lt. Dan Thamert, in a jpeg format, is attached to the email notification.

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