

Van Zandt Sheriff's Posse locates 78 year-old missing Alzheimer patient

The Van Zandt Sheriff's Posse along with the Twin Creek Tracking Bloodhound, Molly B, and handler Doug Daniels were called to Van Zandt County Road 3812, in reference to a lost patient with Alzheimer disease. The 78-year-old man had walked away from his residence earlier in the day.

Family members contacted the Sheriff's Office around 7:00 p.m. on July 23, 2007. Posse members were called to the scene at approximately 11:30 p.m. with 4-wheelers where they conducted grid searches, as they had been taught in a search and rescue class taught by then Lt. Jackie Buccafurno, Posse President and K-9 Handler.

Daniels gathered items of clothing used by the victim to scent his bloodhound with. The dog was scented in back of the

residence and picked up the victim's trail in front of the residence. Daniels was accompanied by Sheriff's Deputies Raymond Keener and Lt. Sonny Still as well as back handler and posse member Jack Bickle. The K-9 tracked for four and a half miles locating the victim in Kaufman County. "I am so proud of this K-9 team," stated Deputy Keener. Keener told Daniels that if his dog found the victim he would kiss her.

Daniels stated that all the years of training his dog have been worth every minute. "This girl is amazing," Daniels said. The Doug Daniels and Dog Duo



Doug Daniels and Molly B

have been attending training together since 2001. Officer Jackie Buccafurno, who is now with the Edgewood Police Department stated the entire search and rescue team was very proud of them. They brought a

loved one home alive and well. "We are an all volunteer team that is available to police departments and the general public," Buccafurno added.

Posse members who assisted with the search on 4-wheelers are Jesse Bean, Bill Dean, Kathy James, and Hayward Stone. Karen Mullins, Bobby Sapp, Jack Johnson, John Murry and Lloyd Erwin made the initial callout of all posse members. Buccafurno stated that the Sheriff's posse is of great assistance to the sheriff's department. "They have a command center, 4-wheelers, horses, K-9's and a great deal of concern for their community. Giving back to your community is something everyone should think about, and they do it well," Buccafurno pointed out.