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Photo by Donna Limberger

Edgewood Police Officer and K-9 handler Jackie Buccafurno (right) gets ready to help conduct a search on the property of Johnson Walter Burris, 43, Mabank, during the execution of a search warrant of Burris's property. Cadaver dogs from the search and rescue group Mark 9 from Dallas came to assist in the search for missing Mabank woman Diane Hopson. Blood evidence led officials to recently arrest Burris and charge him with Hopson's murder. Hopson's body has not been found.

Search Intensifies For Missing Mabank Woman

By Donna Limberger
Staff Writer

MABANK—Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office authorities executed a search warrant on the house and property of Johnson Walter Burris, 43, Mabank on Friday. Burris has been arrested and remains in the Van Zandt County Jail for the murder of Mabank resident Diane Hopson, 62.

Hopson has been missing from her residence on VZCR 2815 since November 18. Blood evidence from Burris's truck led to his recent arrest.

Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office investigators and deputies were at Burris's home on Friday morning, along with Texas Ranger Kenny Ray, the Department of Public Safety helicopter and a dog search and rescue

team from Dallas.

"Mark 9 is a search and rescue team that has helped us in the past," said Edgewood Police Officer Jackie Buccafurno.

Buccafurno said that the group is nationally recognized and had six cadaver dogs on the scene Friday.

"This is still an open, active investigation and we will continue to search for her body."
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