

5039

From: Doug Ridenour
To: Exec. Group; STAFF
Date: 12/30/02 4:35PM
Subject: SEARCH FOR LACI YIELDS NO LEADS

NEWS RELEASE

City of Modesto
Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police
Monday, December 30, 2002
4:30 p.m. For Immediate Release
Author: Doug Ridenour

SEARCH FOR LACI YIELDS NO LEADS

Modesto, CA - Modesto Police investigators have virtually left no stone unturned and still, any leads as to Laci's whereabouts have not been revealed. Modesto Police Department, along with other law enforcement agencies and hundreds of volunteers have searched for Laci Peterson since her disappearance on Christmas Eve morning.

Modesto Police Department has searched vacant homes and buildings in search of Laci Peterson. Investigators have also contacted 155 registered sex offenders that live in the southeast area of Modesto. Police received information that Laci may have been in the Copeland's Sports Store on McHenry Avenue in the evening or late afternoon of December 24. Police are still viewing the surveillance tape.

Police detectives do have a Berkeley marina receipt from Scott Peterson, Laci's husband. Scott Peterson went fishing in the marina on the morning of Laci's disappearance. He was the last person reported to see Laci around 9:30 that morning.

Laci Peterson is eight months pregnant, about 5'1" tall, 140 pounds, shoulder length brown hair, and has a sunflower tattoo on her left ankle. She was last seen wearing black pants and a long sleeve white shirt. Detectives do believe that Laci did not voluntarily leave her home and is not the type of person to not contact her family. Detectives continue to look at all possibilities of her disappearance, including foul play.

The public is encouraged to call the police hotline at 209-342-6166 to provide any information they may have on the disappearance of Laci Peterson. Police have received over 500 tips on the hotline and continue to investigate all credible leads. Police need to speak with anyone who had contact with Laci from Sunday, December 22 to Christmas Eve morning. The police are requesting the assistance of residents in rural areas to search their land, vineyards, and orchards.

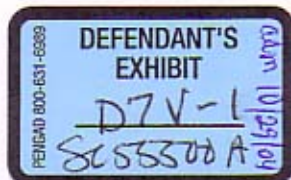
Volunteers are still encouraged and being utilized to search ground areas and pass out flyers. The volunteer center is located at the Red Lion Hotel at 1612 Sisk Road in Modesto.

The family of Laci Peterson is holding a candlelight vigil on December 31 at 4:30 p.m. The vigil will be at the tennis court area of East La Loma Park.

A press conference will be held on December 31 at 2:30 p.m. at the Modesto Police Department.

For additional information on this case, you may view the Modesto Police Department web page at www.modestopolice.com.

If you have any questions about this press release, please contact Detective Doug Ridenour, Modesto Police Department Media Relations, at 209-572-9579 or at pager number 209-492-3564.



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From: Doug Ridenour
To: Exec. Group; MPD All Personnel; STAFF
Date: 12/26/02 3:20PM
Subject: SEARCH CONTINUES FOR MISSING WOMAN

News Release
City of Modesto
Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police

Thursday, December 26, 2002
3:30 p.m. For Immediate Release
Author: Doug Ridenour

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR MISSING WOMAN

MODESTO, Calif. – Modesto Police continue to search for Laci Peterson, who was last seen on Christmas Eve morning about 9:30 a.m. Laci is eight months pregnant and was reported missing by her husband, Scott Peterson, on the evening of December 24.

There will be a press conference on December 26 at 3:30 p.m., at the Modesto Police Department, 600 10th St., to update the media and public on the search for Peterson and we will provide an ongoing schedule for further media updates.

On the morning of December 24, Scott Peterson went fishing in the Bay Area and Laci stayed home with plans to shop for dinner and walk their dog at East La Loma Park and Dry Creek. When Scott returned home that evening, Laci was not home. The dog was found earlier and returned to the backyard by a neighbor. The leash was still attached to the dog's collar.

Modesto Police Officers immediately began a search of the park and the Dry Creek River area. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department helicopter was called in to assist with the search. On Christmas morning, additional assistance was received from the Water Rescue Units from Modesto City Fire Department and Stanislaus Consolidated Fire. Modesto Police canines and equestrian teams were used to further the search along the creek bed and in the park. The search for Laci continues to expand beyond the park and river area. "We have organized volunteers for a systematic search and it is our hope to find Laci and bring her home," said Chief Roy Wasden.

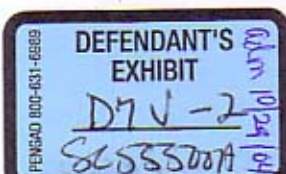
Police are also investigating any links to other unsolved disappearances.

A hotline number has been established for the public to call with any information pertaining to Laci Peterson's disappearance. That number is 209-342-6166. This hotline will be staffed 24 hours for at least the next two days.

The family and friends of Laci Peterson have established a \$100,000 reward for the safe return, or information leading to the safe return, of Laci Peterson. Additionally, an anonymous person has also established a \$25,000 reward through the Carole Sund-Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation.

Friends of the family have established a fund to assist with any search efforts. Donations can be made to:
AG Edwards and Sons
Laci Peterson Fund
1549 McHenry Ave.
Modesto CA 95350
Attn: Stacey Boyers/Jeffrey Sutton

For information about this news advisory contact Detective Doug Ridenour, Modesto Police Department



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NEWS RELEASE

City of Modesto
Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police
Wednesday, December 25, 2002
10:30 a.m. For Immediate Release
Author: Ed Steele

PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON EIGHT MONTH PREGNANT WOMAN MISSING

Modesto, CA – On 12-24-02 at about 5:48 p.m., Modesto Police received a phone call from a man claiming that his pregnant wife had not been seen since 9:30 a.m., Christmas Eve. Scott Peterson, of Modesto, left to the Bay Area to go fishing. His wife, Laci Denise Peterson, 26 years, stayed home to shop for dinner that evening and to walk their dog at Dry Creek Park.

After Scott was done fishing, he tried to call Laci from his cell phone but did not reach her. When he arrived home, he discovered his dog in the back yard of his house with the leash still attached. There was nothing unusual found in the house to indicate anything had happened and Laci's purse was still in the house. Scott and family members began searching the park for Laci and called the Police.

Modesto Police sent out a coordinated search team and employed the use of the Sheriffs Department helicopter and heat-seeking device to attempt to locate Laci.

Laci is described as a white female, 5'-1" tall, 140 lbs, with brown shoulder length hair. She was last seen wearing a white long sleeve shirt and black pants. She has a tattoo of a sunflower on her left ankle and she is currently eight months pregnant.

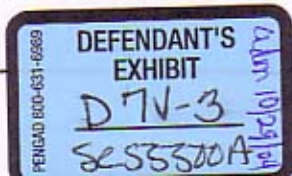
Modesto Police have activated the equestrian unit and officers' on horseback are searching the area of the park.

If you have any information about the location of this missing woman, please call Modesto Police at (209) 572-9500. Officers were held over past their regular shifts to continue looking for Laci. Detectives, K-9's and officers on bikes are converged on the park and will continue searching the area, looking for clues.

Modesto Police investigators and media personnel will hold a press briefing update at 12:30 p.m. at the Modesto Police Department Public Meeting Room.

If you have any questions about this press release, please contact Sgt. Ed Steele, Modesto Police Department Media Relations, at (209) 572-9500.

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NEWS RELEASE

City of Modesto
Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police
Saturday, December 28, 2002
3:00 p.m. For Immediate Release
Author: Doug Ridenour

SEARCH AND REWARD GROWS FOR LACI PETERSON

Modesto, CA – The Modesto Police Department continues the search for Laci Peterson, the 27-year-old Modesto woman who has been missing since Christmas Eve. The Carole Sund Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation also announced that the reward for Laci's safe return has increased to \$500,000.

At a press conference at Modesto Police Department at 2:30 p.m. today, Modesto Police explained that the search for the eight-month pregnant woman has expanded outside of the city limits and into the rural Stanislaus County area. Modesto Police, with the assistance of Stanislaus County Sheriff's deputies, equestrian teams from the Police Department and Sheriff's Department and members of the Valley Search and Rescue team searched the wetlands along Highway 132. Police explorers, members from special units and volunteers have been used to search the ground. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department helicopter has been used to search rural areas from the air.

Modesto Police Detectives with the assistance of Contra Costa County Search and Rescue did conduct a search of a marina in Berkley. "It's a logical step in the investigation in an attempt to investigate all possibilities," said Sgt Michael Zahr of the Modesto Police Department Investigations Division. "As of this time, we haven't found anything conclusive. It is still our hope to find Laci and bring her home to her family safely."

The public is encouraged to call the police hotline at 209-342-6166 to provide any information they may have on the disappearance of Laci Peterson. Police need to speak with anyone who had contact with Laci from Sunday, December 22 to Christmas Eve morning. The police are requesting the assistance of residents in rural areas to search their land, vineyards, and orchards. Police have received over 260 tips on the hotline and continue to investigate leads.

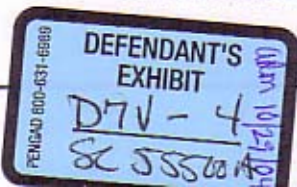
Laci Peterson is still considered to be missing and police are using all resources to locate her safely and bring her home to her family.

An anonymous donor made a generous contribution to the reward for Laci's safe return. Kim Peterson, Executive Director of the Carole Sund Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation, announced at the press conference that the reward for Laci Peterson's safe return is now \$500,000.

For additional information on this case, you may view the Modesto Police Department web page at www.modestopolice.com.

If you have any questions about this press release, please contact Detective Doug Ridenour, Modesto Police Department Media Relations, at 209-572-9579 or at pager number 209-492-3564.

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NEWS RELEASE

City of Modesto
Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police
Wednesday, December 27, 2002
1:19 p.m. For Immediate Release
Author: Ed Steele

PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD REGARDING MISSING WOMAN

Modesto, CA – On 12-24-02 at about 5:48 p.m., Modesto Police received a phone call from a man stating that his pregnant wife had not been seen since 9:30 a.m., Christmas Eve.

The Modesto Police Department is continuing their investigation into the next phase. Last night, a search warrant was served at the Peterson residence. The focus of the search warrant was to attempt to locate evidence of any activity before or after Laci's disappearance and evidence of a stranger intrusion. FBI agents assisted the Modesto Police Department in processing the residence for evidence.

On 12-24-2002, Scott Peterson, of Modesto, left to the Bay Area to go fishing. His wife, Laci Denise Peterson, 26 years, stayed home to shop for dinner that evening and to walk their dog at Dry Creek Park. After Scott was done fishing, he tried to call Laci from his cell phone but did not reach her. When he arrived home, he discovered his dog in the back yard of his house with the leash still attached. There was nothing unusual found in the house to indicate anything had happened and Laci's purse was still in the house. Scott and family members began searching the park for Laci and called the Police.

Modesto Police have coordinated an extensive search in the area and employed the use of the Sheriff's Department helicopter and heat-seeking device to attempt to locate Laci.

Laci is described as a white female, 5'-1" tall, 140 lbs, with brown shoulder length hair. She was last seen wearing a white long sleeve shirt and black pants. She has a tattoo of a sunflower on her left ankle and she is currently eight months pregnant.

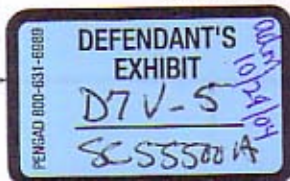
If you have any information about the location of this missing woman, please call Modesto Police at (209) 342-6166. Investigators would also like to speak with anyone who personally spoke with Laci anytime between Sunday and her disappearance on Tuesday.

The Modesto Police Department is also asking for help from the community. Investigators are asking that any property owners check their properties, orchards, fields, etc. for any evidence that may help in this investigation. This is especially important in remote areas.

Modesto Police investigators and media personnel will hold a press briefing update at 3:30 p.m. at the Modesto Police Department Public Meeting Room.

If you have any questions about this press release, please contact Detective Doug Ridenour, Modesto Police Department Media Relations, at (209) 572-9579.

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News Release
City of Modesto
Police Department
Office of the Chief of Police

Thursday, December 26, 2002
3:30 p.m. For Immediate Release
Author: Doug Ridenour

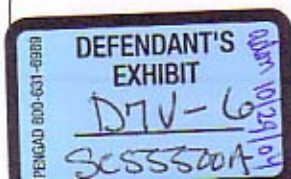
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