



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – **K9 Deputies Conduct Search & Rescue - Find Missing Man**

Putnam County Sheriff's Office deputies conducted a search and rescue this morning for a man in his forties who was lost in the woods near Beasley Lane and Clemmons Ridge Road in the western part of the County.

At approximately midnight last night, deputies responded to a domestic dispute between Steven Williams and his landlord at 13385 Beasley Lane of Clemmons Ridge Road in the western part of Putnam County. When deputies arrived, Mr. Williams had left the area. After securing the scene, deputies left the home. Later, Williams called his girlfriend and told her that he was in the woods and had fallen in a creek and thought his leg was broken. At approximately 6:38 a.m. when his girlfriend awoke and found that Williams had not yet returned home, she called the Sheriff's Office to report that he was missing.

Deputies Jennie Phillips, Matt Roberts, Dan Gragg and Sgt. Tony Branch responded along with K9 deputies Matt Scott and Tory Womack. They began to track Williams in the woods near the home on Beasley Lane. They were able to track him by the markings they found in the woods where he had walked as well as through his scent which Deputy Scott's bloodhound Maggie was able to follow. After searching for about an hour, they found Williams at approximately 8:15 a.m. in a ravine about 200-ft down about 1 mile into the woods. He was scraped up and dehydrated but not believed to be seriously injured. Both Williams and the deputies were checked out by EMS which was on the scene with the Putnam County Rescue Squad.

"I am always proud of our deputies but I am extremely proud of our K9 Unit this morning for their quick response and dedication to finding this subject," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "They demonstrated the utmost professionalism and effectiveness and helped us to find a missing person who could have been seriously injured."

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office K9 unit works closely with their dogs to enforce laws and apprehend criminals throughout the County. The Department currently has seven K9 deputies that are divided into four types – explosive detection (2), narcotics detection (2), tracking and dual-purpose patrol search/narcotics detection (2). Our bloodhound is primarily used for tracking human subjects due to its stamina and nose for human skin cells. This type of dog is especially helpful when used to track missing and endangered children and adults too. Our Dutch Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Labradors are usually specialized in narcotics or explosive detection and/or patrol search.

Our K-9 Unit is constantly training and receiving additional certifications to ensure that the dogs and their handlers can perform in a professional manner in a variety of situations. Since September 1, 2014, all of our K-9 handlers have achieved USPCA Certification for Narcotics and Explosive Detection.

Media contact:

Beth Nelson, PIO

sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

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