

Texas EquuSearch Holidays Newsletter

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P. O. Box 395

Dickinson, Texas 77539

Office: (281) 309-9500

Fax: (281) 534-6719

www.texasequusearch.org



Each of our newsletters contains information that might be of interest to our members ... such as a Search Tip, case summary of a few of our recent cases, special announcements, training schedules and a "Final Thought." The purpose of our newsletter is to keep you better informed on what's happening in our organization. Whether your resource is searching on foot, ATV, horse, boat or "Special Operations" ... you are a very important part of this organization. And we gratefully thank you for your tremendous efforts, and what you do to bring missing persons home to their worried families and friends.

Newsletter Search Tip: The discovery and preservation of potential evidence is a very important part of any search. A small piece of located evidence such as a person's glasses, purse, wallet, watch or any other possession could lead you into a very specific area to search for a missing person. But it's equally, if not more important to preserve that evidence and not let it get contaminated or moved. If you ever locate any kind of potential evidence, no matter how big it is - or how insignificant it may seem ... do not touch or handle it under any circumstances. It could very well be connected to another crime or missing person. If you touch, handle or move any kind of evidence, it's very likely that the potential items can't be used in future court proceedings; and it could also result in the dismissal of charges against a suspect. So if you come across anything that appears out of place - or is of interest, notify your team leader immediately. They will then notify the Search Coordinator for further instructions. But never pick-up, touch or move any possible evidence - even if it doesn't seem to be related to the search you are on. **DO NOT TOUCH.**

Though 2012 has not yet come to an end, our newsletter contains brief summaries of some of the many, many searches we have conducted throughout the year. Many details can't be revealed because some of the cases are still under investigation or they may have pending court trials, and we do not want to jeopardize any part of any law enforcement investigation or case. But we will attempt to keep you informed on what we can.

Recent Case Summaries:

Kathy Lawson-Arrendondo: 37 year-old Kathy Lawson-Arrendondo disappeared from her home at about 10:30 p.m. on February 11th 2012. Kathy, wearing only pink pajama bottoms and a white T-shirt, had apparently stepped outside in the cool weather to smoke a cigarette because she is not allowed to smoke inside the home where she lived with her boyfriend. The family members have repeatedly said that Kathy and her boyfriend had some type of verbal argument just before she disappeared, and that he left to go spend the night in a friend's storage facility. A search was soon conducted on all accessible areas within 1 mile of Kathy's home, but no significant evidence relating to Kathy was found. We expanded our search to about a 4 mile radius and searched ponds, bayous, wooded areas, large weeded fields and trash dump sites, but neither Kathy nor any evidence was found in these

locations. We have been touch with hospital emergency rooms, mental health facilities and the Medical Examiner's Office, but Kathy has still not been found. We are still waiting for that one piece of information that can lead us to Kathy.

Devin Davis: Two ½ year-old Devin Davis disappeared on March 27th 2012 in Tarkington Prairie, Texas, just outside of Cleveland, Texas. The young boy had apparently slipped-away from his mother and wandered out of their home on a horseshoe-shaped piece of land that is almost surrounded by a nearby creek. The barefooted toddler was unknowingly facing many treacherous obstacles in an area where the environment is full of venomous snakes, alligators, wild hogs and other dangerous wildlife and elements. The Liberty County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene and immediately requested more help to find Devin. The Liberty County Sheriff's Department was soon joined by other law enforcement agencies including the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Rangers, Texas Department of Emergency Management, FBI Missing Child Response Team, Houston Police Department (HPD) Dive Team, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, multiple other law enforcement agencies and 17 responding Fire & Rescue crews from various Liberty County area Fire Departments. H.P.D. divers began sweeping the cypress stump-filled creek; moving shoulder to shoulder as they slowly crept along underwater, while feeling around the bottom of the creek with their hands in the desperate search to find Devin. The area was soon swarming with law enforcement and search & rescue personnel using boats, divers, scent dogs and searchers on horse, foot and ATV. Frank Huff of the Texas Rangers immediately activated the NIMS Protocol, and the Texas Rangers became the Incident Commander of Operations. For those not familiar with the Texas Rangers; they are a very elite, highly respected and world renowned investigative branch of the Texas Department of Public Safety (Texas DPS). David Popoff of the Texas Department of Emergency Management assisted the Texas Rangers by coordinating and directing the resource operations for Devin. A DPS Infrared equipped helicopter soon joined the search. An Amber Alert was issued for Devin. Texas EquuSearch was contacted on March 28th 2012, and requested that we assist in the search for Devin. Texas EquuSearch member and underwater sonar imaging expert, Dennis Watters soon arrived and started scanning the shallow creek near Devin's home. Texas EquuSearch members Gene & Angelique (Angel) Robinson arrived with their high-tech, un-manned remote controlled photographic drone that he uses to locate missing persons. The Texas Department of Public Safety Dive Team joined the search for Devin as well. They were assisted by two highly-trained DPS snipers with high powered rifles to guard the divers from alligators and other dangerous wildlife. One sniper did have to kill an alligator when it became an immediate threat to divers while they were searching for Devin. Although weather conditions delayed Gene and Angel Robinson in being able to search for a couple of days, over 100 other Texas EquuSearch volunteers continued to search through densely thick wooded areas looking for any sign of Devin. On March 31st 2012, ground search operations were about to be discontinued ... when the weather cleared enough for Gene Robinson to launch his drone and start his search for Devin. It wasn't long before the drone obtained an image from a nearby lake that showed a great likelihood of it being Devin. A DPS helicopter was already preparing to return to the area to continue their search when they were requested to fly low over the site where Gene and Angel Robinson thought they had spotted Devin's image. The helicopter soon arrived, flew over the area where the image was recorded, and confirmed the image that Gene & Angel Robison had recorded ... was little Devin. The lake where Devin's body was found was about 300 yards from his home, and about 50 feet from shore. Texas EquuSearch members logged-in almost 820 hours of searching, and put well-over 10,000 miles of traveling to search for Devin. The die-hard and tremendous efforts of all of the various law enforcement agencies, the Texas Department of Emergency Management, the many Fire & Rescue personnel, the Texas EquuSearch members and other searchers involved in the exhausting search for Devin can be very proud of themselves for their extraordinary, selfless and dedicated attempts to find him. Thank you to you all, because you are all heroes.

Isabel Alvarado: 39-year-old Isabel Alvarado was last seen on March 30th 2012 as she sat at a traffic light in the western part of Harris County, just outside Houston Texas. A fellow employee where she worked last saw her as she

waited at the traffic light to turn left and go home. Her family became worried when she never came home that night and began looking for her and her vehicle the next morning. During her family members search for her the next day, they found her vehicle abandoned about 1 mile from where she was last seen at the traffic light, and approximately ½ mile from her own home. A witness that lives close to where Isabel's vehicle was found said she saw a man get out of the vehicle the vehicle and walk away about 45 minutes after Isabel was last seen at the traffic light. However, the witness did not see the man clear enough to be able to identify him. But there were apparently no signs of a struggle or foul play in or around the vehicle. Harris County Sheriff's Department Homicide investigators contacted Texas EquuSearch on April 3rd 2012 and asked for our help to find Isabel. A command post was soon established at the Bear Creek United Methodist Church. Texas EquuSearch volunteers began scouring woods, fields and waterways. Well over 100 of Isabel's family members and friends soon began a vigil outside of the church command post, while waiting for word that Isabel had been found. Several family members and friends provided the detectives and Texas EquuSearch with important information concerning Isabel's husband's volatile relationship with her. They told us that there was a long history of physical and mental abuse. This information was quickly relayed to the detectives. But much of the information that we have received cannot be revealed in this newsletter. On April 7th of 2012, our search was suspended after learning that remains thought to be Isabel's had been found in Fresno, Texas, about 31 miles from where she was last seen by her fellow employee. It was soon learned that Isabel's husband, Carlos Alvarado had taken Isabel's already butchered remains to a relative's home in Fresno, and asked the relative if it is to use their burn pit to burn some trash. Carlos told the family members that he wanted to burn paper and a dog that he had run over earlier in the night. Carlos was soon arrested and charged with Murder. Isabel's family members have pulled together as strength for her four young children. On the last day of our search, over 100 family members and friends of Isabel's came to us outside of the command post and shook the hands of every Texas EquuSearch member, and gratefully thanked them for their help in trying to find Isabel. Carlos' trial is still pending, and he awaits his trial date while being held in the Harris County jail.

7 year-old Zachary and 13 year-old Ishmael (Trey) Porrata: Zachary and Ishmael (Trey) Porrata suspiciously disappeared on April 28th of 2012 in the Northwest part of Harris County, Texas. Investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Department quickly contacted Texas EquuSearch and requested our immediate assistance in locating the two young boys. Searchers soon began arriving at the scene to start searching on foot, ATV and yon horse. They began looking in fields, wooded areas, abandoned buildings, reservoirs, drainage canals or any other place that the young boys could be. Several hours later on the same afternoon, detectives with the Harris County Sheriff's Department came to the command post and informed searchers that the boys had been located, and that they are safe and okay. The boys had been found several miles away from where they live. Investigators learned that a man in the neighborhood had taken the boys to a wooded area behind a building and left him there. Though these two boys were found safe, it could have easily turned out to be much more serious. The boys are now back with their family.

Clyde Morgan: 69 year-old Clyde Morgan was last seen on June 4th 2012 when he left to go fishing at Lake Sam Rayburn in Jasper County, Texas. Clyde was reported missing to authorities with the Jasper County Sheriff's Department when he failed to return home after the fishing trip. Clyde's unoccupied boat was found near the north end of Rock Island which is about 2 miles from where he launched it. The boat was found with the keys still in the on position, and the steering mechanism broken. Texas EquuSearch was soon requested to join the search for Clyde. Texas EquuSearch joined other searchers from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Jasper County Sheriff's Department, Jasper County Emergency Corps and the Army Corps of Engineers in their efforts to find Clyde. Texas EquuSearch began using a boat equipped with underwater sonar in their search, while other boat crews dragged the bottom of the lake in an attempt to locate Clyde. The water depth varied from 30 – 60 ft. in the general area where Clyde disappeared. A private individual volunteered to fly his plane to Illinois and pick-up a piece of specialized sonar equipment that we to needed search. At about 4:00 a.m. on the fourth day of the search,

Tim Miller received a very distinct image of Clyde on his sonar receiver screen. Tim kept the search boat in the area where the image was detected. At 8:30 a.m. that next morning, Texas EquuSearch member Paul Kovach was looking out on to the lake's waters when he spotted Clyde's body floating on the water's surface about 300 feet away. Clyde's body had apparently drifted away from where it was detected on sonar after being caught in a slight current. Clyde was a well-known and highly respected community leader. His distraught family stood a constant vigil during the entire four-day search.

Norma Jean Scott: 48 year-old Norma Jean Scott was last seen on August 30th 2012, in Houston, Texas. Norma's family contacted Texas EquuSearch on September 2nd 2012 and asked for our help to find her. Neighbors told Norma's family that they saw Norma being led from her home by a man that lives in their neighborhood. The neighbors said the man was holding Norma by the arm and that she had a very frightened look on her face. The neighbors said the man was wearing an ankle monitor, and they recognized him as a man that lives a few blocks away named Abe McFarland. The family told Texas EquuSearch that the same man had been threatening Norma for several weeks before her disappearance. They also said that he had physically assaulted her. Shortly before Norma disappeared, she told several family members that if anything happened to her, that Abe McFarland did it. Shortly before Norma disappeared, Abe had put a knife against her body and asked her how she wanted to die. Abe was wearing an ankle monitor because he was on parole at the time. Abe lived nearby Norma's home. After speaking with a detective from the Police Department, Texas EquuSearch began actively searching for Norma. It was thought that if foul play had come to Norma, that she would be found nearby because the last time she was seen, she was being led away from her home by a man on foot and he was wearing an ankle monitor. Ankle monitors do not allow the person wearing them to go very far without setting off an alarm at a monitoring station. The searchers started their initial search in a large area that has the woods and is nearby Norma's home. That location was searched the first because an unidentified female's body had recently been found there. But Norma or nothing significant was found at this location. Searchers were then deployed into all areas surrounding Norma's home on a short radius. About 15 minutes after being sent out on their second search assignment, ATV Team Leader Alvin Tipps notified the Search Coordinator that they had found Norma's body on some property very near her home. Houston police were immediately notified. It was later determined that Norma's body was found directly across the street from Abe McFarland's home. Norma's body was found on a fenced-in lot with high weeds, less than two blocks from her home and approximately 130 feet from Abe McFarland's front door. Abe McFarland was soon arrested on charges unrelated to Norma's disappearance. In late November, police investigators and authorities with the medical examiner's office informed Norma's family that the cause of Norma's death is being documented as "Undetermined". Due to these findings, Abe McFarland will not be charged in Norma's death.

Barbara Griffitts: 73 year-old Barbara Griffitts disappeared from her family's travel trailer on the West Beach in Galveston, Texas at about 2:00 a.m. on September 1st 2012. Several of the family members and Barbara were camping at a trailer park near the beach. A fisherman reported seeing and talking with Barbara soon after she left her trailer, but he did not see where she went after he talked with her. The family immediately called police and a search began for Barbara. Several police officers, a dive team, a search dog, a Coast Guard helicopter, fire department rescue personnel and several others volunteers searched through high weeds, sand dunes and some nearby ponds looking for Barbara. They also searched other travel trailers in the RV Park and any vacant beach homes in the area, but Barbara was not found. Early that night, Galveston, Texas police and Barbara's family contacted Texas EquuSearch and asked for our help. We met with Barbara's family and police officers early the next morning and discussed our search plans. Search teams were soon deployed into sand dunes and fields with high weeds, and along the roadways. About four hours into the search, two searchers on an ATV did locate a very young child on the beach that was alone and crying. They notified the Search Coordinator, who called the police. The police asked for the description child, and quickly told the Search Coordinator that the child had been reported missing from the immediate area of where Barbara had disappeared. A police officer arrived to take custody of the

child. A short time later, searchers observed several emergency vehicles traveling very quickly down the highway with their emergency lights and sirens on. At about the same time, one of the police that had been working with us on the case pulled into our staging area. He informed us that Barbara had been found alive. She had been found by a retired police officer and his wife that works as a nurse at the UTMB Hospital in Galveston, Texas. The couple had been taking an afternoon walk, and found Barbara lying in a ditch about 2 miles away from where ever disappeared. She was immediately transported to the hospital in serious condition. When found, Barbara was barely breathing and unconscious. She had insect bites all over her body and was suffering from exposure and dehydration. Those issues have caused Barbara to suffer multiple other medical problems resulting from the incident. Barbara still is recovering, but we are all hoping and praying for her full recovery.

Michelle Warner: On September 26th 2012, the family of 31 year-old Michelle Warner contacted Texas EquuSearch and desperately sought our help in finding Michelle. Michelle's family members told Tim Miller that Michelle's boyfriend explained to them that he had got into an argument with Michelle, and that she left her Houston, Texas apartment and never returned. However, Michelle's family members grew very suspicious after seeing Michelle's vehicle parked in the parking lot. The family then entered the apartment where Michelle lived with her former boyfriend, Mark Castellano. Michelle and Mark had a three-year-old son. Michelle had another child from previous relationship before her relationship with Mark. But Michelle and Mark's relationship was over and Michelle was dating other men. Just hours before she disappeared, Michelle had gone out to dinner with another man on Friday – September 21st 2012. After Michelle's date left, Mark claimed that an argument began between the two of them and that Michelle stormed out of the apartment and never returned. Michelle's family said when they entered the apartment; they immediately noticed significant indications of foul play. Homicide investigators with the Houston Police Department soon entered the case but were not able to substantiate that any foul play had occurred in the apartment. But they did however continue their investigation and the questioning of possible witnesses. Investigators did locate a resident of the apartments that saw Mark loading several boxes and other property into his and Michelle's mid-size vehicle in the early morning hours of the day Michelle disappeared. It was soon learned by investigators that Mark had taken their three year-old son to his father's home in central Texas. Investigators contacted Mark Castellano and asked him to return to Houston and answer some of their questions. By this point, the investigators had grown suspicious of Michelle's disappearance and some very important questions to ask Mark. A couple of days later, Mark returned to Houston and met with investigators from the Houston Police Department homicide division. Mark was soon questioned by Sgt. Brian Harris of the homicide division. Within a very short time, Mark confessed to Sgt. Harris that he did kill Michelle. Mark claimed that they got into an argument and he broke Michelle's neck. After he killed Michelle, their three year-old son came into the bedroom where Michelle was lying dead on the bed. Mark told his son that Michelle was asleep. Mark went to work just a few hours later. After returning home from work, Mark loaded Michelle's body into their vehicle and drove around for two days looking for a place he could dump her body so it could not be found. Because he couldn't find a place he felt was good enough, he drove the vehicle with his son, Michelle's body, and some other belongings to his father's home in the Midland – Odessa, Texas area. Mark told Sgt. Harris where the body could be found, and gave him directions to the location. Sgt. Harris contacted the local law enforcement authorities in that particular area and they quickly recovered Michelle's body from a shallow grave in an oil field dominated area. Mark has since been charged with "Murder" and is awaiting trial.

Paige Johnson: 17-year-old Paige Johnson was last seen about 1:00 a.m. after being dropped off on a dark street corner by a male acquaintance in Covington, Kentucky on September 23rd 2010. Police quickly opened the investigation into Paige's disappearance. During the course of the investigation, police arrested the male acquaintance that Paige was last seen with on charges unrelated to her disappearance. However police do not consider him a suspect in the case. Information led police and searchers to a large 4, 870 acre park that has a very large and deep lake as part of the park. Police and Texas EquuSearch members from Ohio combed throughout the

thick woods, brush, and through fields in their efforts to find Paige, but neither Paige nor any significant evidence relating to her case was ever found. Texas EquuSearch members in Ohio have continued working with the lead detective on the case and conducting low-profile searches without the knowledge of the public. The last search was conducted in 2012 in a heavily wooded area near a remote road that was about 230 miles from where Paige had disappeared. Paige Johnson is still missing, and no significant evidence has yet been found that would lead us to her. The Texas EquuSearch members in Ohio continue to work with law enforcement on the case - and have not given up that commitment and efforts to find Paige.

Vilet Torrez: 38-year-old mother of three, Vilet Torrez of Miramar, Florida went out to have dinner with a friend on March 30th 2012. That is the last time that anyone has said they have spoken to, or had seen Vilet. A security video showed Vilet entering her gated community at 5:17 a.m. on March 31st 2012. Just a few moments after entering the gated community, her phone records indicated that she called her husband twice. It is thought that Vilet was calling her separated husband Cid to unlock a security latch at the home. Vilet never showed up at work that day. Her co-workers became very concerned because Vilet is such a reliable and responsible employee. Vilet's vehicle was later found at her home in the gated community, but no one could find or make contact with her. Two days later on August 2nd 2012, her husband called the police to report her missing. During the 911 call, Cid was recorded as saying "I definitely did it". Vilet and Cid had a very explosive 15 year marriage, and Vilet had separated from Cid just a few months before she disappeared. The weekend that Vilet disappeared, was the first time in about three months that Cid had stayed at the home. Some of Vilet's family members allege that Cid had previously made several threats on Vilet's life and that she was in the planning stages of divorcing him. In July of 2012, investigators on the case requested the help of the Florida chapter of Texas EquuSearch to help them find Vilet. Police did not have a lot of solid information, but they provided what information they could. Vilet's home sits on the edge of the Everglades that contains over 100 canals and lakes. Ten experienced foot searchers and two searchers in a boat equipped with underwater-sonar searched for two days, looking for any sign of Vilet as they combed through the dangerous finger tributaries that are filled with aggressive venomous snakes and large, hungry alligators. However, nothing significant relating Vilet's disappearance was found. The searchers also scoured through thick wooded areas, canals and lakes that are on, or near the same route that Cid Torrez had traveled-on during the same weekend that Vilet disappeared. Unfortunately, Vilet was not found during that search either. Even though Vilet's body has never been found, in November of 2012, police arrested and charged Cid Torrez with first-degree murder. The Texas EquuSearch members in Florida are ready to search for Vilet again, should the police gather some information and request their assistance again.

Christian Aguilar: 18 year-old Christian Aguilar was last seen on a security video with a former classmate and alleged friend at a Gainesville, Florida Best Buy store on September 20th 2012. Christian's girlfriend reported him missing soon after he disappeared the Gainesville Police Department immediately began investigating. During questioning by police, Pedro Bravo claimed that he left Christian in a patch of woods after he beat him up over a girl. Police soon learned that Pedro Bravo had bought a shovel and duct tape about the time that Christian disappeared. This information increased the fears Christian family and friends even more than before. Search and rescue teams from all over Florida soon started converging on Gainesville. The Gainesville Police Department then called the Florida chapter of Texas EquuSearch, and asked for their help in the search for Christian. Between seven and 10 searchers came out and combed through dense wooded areas and difficult lime rock quarries for five days. During the weekends, they were joined by other searchers. But sadly, Christian's body was never found. Tragically, Christian's body was found a few weeks later by hunters on a private hunting club lease about 60 miles from where he disappeared. The hunters were searching for firewood when they come upon his partially covered remains lying in a shallow grave. Pedro Bravo has since been charged with murder and kidnapping.

Rosemarie Hutchinson: On September 24th 2012, Texas EquuSearch was contacted by Sam Hutchinson asking for our help to find his missing wife, 52 Year-Old Rosemarie Hutchinson. Sam told Texas EquuSearch members that his wife had recently been having some mental issues. Sam said that four days earlier, he had gone to run errands, and when he returned, his daughter told him that Rosemarie had earlier fired a gun in the bedroom of their mobile home in East Harris County, Texas. Sam said that he asked Rosemarie where the gun was, and she allegedly responded that it was in the shed outside. Sam said he and Rosemarie went outside to the shed and he asked her where was, referring to the gun. Sam claimed he never saw Rosemarie anymore after that. Searchers from Texas EquuSearch soon began arriving and started a search in the densely thick woods directly behind Rosemarie's home. An Investigator with the Harris County Sheriff's Department Missing Person Division soon arrived and began his investigation into Rosemarie disappearance. The woods behind Rosemarie's home very difficult to search because of its thickness. On the first day of searching, the search teams were sent into that area three different times to make sure that Rosemarie was not in there. Other Texas EquuSearch teams were deployed into areas of the surrounding neighborhood. Several of Rosemarie's co-workers and friends arrived at the search scene and volunteered to search for Rosemarie. Rosemarie's co-workers and friends all said that Rosemarie did not have any mental issues. Several members of an area VFW where Sam is a member also arrived to help in the search. The first day of searching resulted without any significant leads on where Rosemarie might be. Very early the next morning, a Houston Police Department K-9 scent dog arrived to assist the Harris County investigator in the search for Rosemarie. The search dog started to search at the back fence where Rosemarie was last seen walking into the woods. The dog searched on the side of the mobile home where Rosemarie had earlier walked by the shed and the steps of the front door. The dog then started walking into a private roadway and followed it around to the entrance of the mobile home park. The K-9 officer and his dog soon returned and said the dog stopped getting Rosemarie's scent stopped at the public roadway about 250 yards from her home. The K-9 officer told the Harris County investigator that Rosemarie had probably been picked up by someone and given a ride away from and out of the area. The Texas EquuSearch volunteers continued to scour woods, fields, abandoned buildings, ravines and any other place that Rosemarie could be. A nearby resident told Texas EquuSearch members that on the night that Rosemarie disappeared, he heard a few gunshots coming from the wooded area behind Rosemarie's mobile home. A friend of Rosemarie's told Tim Miller that three days after Rosemarie disappeared; the friend had walked near the corner of the mobile home where Rosemarie was last seen. The friend told Tim that she smelled a very foul odor like something had died, flies were swarming all over the area and there was a single plastic glove lying on the ground. After learning of this, Tim Miller was accompanied by two Texas EquuSearch members and went to look under Rosemarie's mobile home. It was somewhat difficult to see under the mobile home because the skirting that surrounded it. Tim Miller, Paul Kovach and Misty Garey began walking all around the mobile home until they got to the rear where Rosemarie was allegedly last seen. They noticed a very small crumpled up portion of skirting that was attached to the mobile home. This crumpled up part was in the same area where Rosemarie was last seen, and in the same area where Rosemarie's friend said she saw a single glove, smelled a foul odor and witnessed a swarm of flies in the area. Paul Kovach got down low to the ground and slightly pulled back the skirting only mobile home. As soon as Paul pulled the skirting back, he saw Rosemarie's body lying just inches on the other side of the skirting. Tim, Paul and Misty left the area so not to attract attention. Once he arrived back across the street at our staging area, he immediately called the detective, which was already back enroute to our location and was a short distance away. The detective arrived a short time later, as well as investigators with the Harris County Sheriff's Department Homicide Division. They took control the scene. Searchers soon began arriving back at the command post. Investigators soon ruled Rosemarie's death to be suicide.

Jacob Logan: 17 year-old Jacob Logan disappeared after jumping off a cliff with friends in Possum Kingdom Lake on October 14th 2012. Some of Jacob's friends said that he had briefly resurfaced after jumping from a cliff into the water below, but went under again was not seen again after that. Rescue personnel soon arrived and began a search for Jacob. Jacob was nicknamed "Superman" because of his physical abilities and achievements in sports.

The lake is managed by the Brazos River Authority, and they have said that the lake water levels vary from 25 to 80 feet deep and that the visibility in the murky lake's water is very low. Possum Kingdom Lake is a cold-water, spring-fed lake that had very cool water temperatures at the time Jacob disappeared. Search crews in sonar equipped boats searched in grid patterns, while divers searched underwater looking for Jacob. The Texas Parks and Wildlife sent more searchers with boats and sonar to the area. Texas EquuSearch was contacted four days later on October 18th 2012 and asked for our help to find Jacob. Dennis & Tammy Watters, Tim Miller and Paul Kovach all begin their travel to Possum Kingdom Lake to search for Jacob. They quickly met with law enforcement and other rescue personnel. Within 30 minutes of getting into the area to be searched, the Texas EquuSearch crew had located Jacob's image on sonar and marked it for divers. Jacob's body was lying 72 feet below on the floor of the cold lake. The Texas EquuSearch team worked with a law enforcement team from the Dallas, Texas area to guide a "Sea Otter ROV" down to Jacob's body and use the small arms of the ROV to grasp ahold of his clothing. After the ROV secured a good hold on Jacob's clothing, divers followed the ROV cable down the 72 feet to Jacob's body and began the recovery process. The expertise of the Texas EquuSearch crew made it possible for Jacob's family and friends to begin a healing process and have some form of closure.

Jeremy Brewer: On November 8th 2012, 35 year-old Jeremy Brewer was fishing with his uncle and cousin on Lake Oologah in Rogers County, Oklahoma. They were traveling south on the lake in 30 miles-an-hour winds, when a large wave came over the bow of their 16 foot Challenger V-hull bass boat and swamped it, causing it to start taking on large amounts of water. Jeremy's uncle and cousin were able to get their flotation devices on, but unfortunately, Jeremy was unable to get his on before the boat began to sink. Jeremy soon went underwater and never resurfaced. Jeremy's uncle and cousin were able to swim in the frigid water and make it to shore. Rescue personnel soon arrived and moved Jeremy's uncle and cousin to the top of a cliff area. One of the victims was taken to the hospital by medical helicopter, while the other was transported by ambulance. Law enforcement official, rescue personnel and other volunteers began using sonar detection equipment to search for Jeremy, while others volunteers began searching the area in grid patterns. Other volunteers walked the shoreline in hopes of seeing Jeremy. Almost a week later, Texas EquuSearch was contacted and asked if we could assist in search Jeremy. Within a very short time, Texas EquuSearch members, Dennis and Tammy Watters had loaded their sonar equipment and supplies, were on the road and enroute to search for Jeremy. After briefly speaking with law enforcement and search & rescue personnel, Dennis and Tammy launched their boat into the waters of Lake Oologah. Less than three minutes after arriving in the area where Jeremy was last seen; Dennis and Tammy located the distinct image of Jeremy on their sonar. Dennis took several pictures, from different angles, to confirm the image was a human body. Jeremy's body was lying on the lake's floor, 32 feet below. Dennis and Tammy have located dozens of drowning victims, evidence in unsolved cases or other submerged human remains such as homicide victims. Because of their extraordinarily high success rate of finding submerged victims; Dennis and Tammy Watters are respected ... and sought-out for their high-degree of expertise by rescue personnel, law enforcement and distraught families throughout the United States. Texas EquuSearch is lucky to have Dennis and Tammy Watters as part of our dedicated team.

Richard Fisher: Near the midnight hours of November 25th 2012, Texas EquuSearch was contacted by a female that was desperate for our help. The woman told us that her friend's husband is missing and they were very worried that something bad had happened to him. We soon made contact with the missing man's wife, and she told us that the missing man, Richard Fisher had disappeared in the Tomball area one week earlier (November 19th 2012). Richard's wife, Sherry Fisher said that her husband had been depressed for multiple reasons. We will not divulge those reasons in this public newsletter. But our concerns at EquuSearch grew also. Things on this case began progressing so quickly, that Texas EquuSearch was never able to get a picture of Richard and other personal information. Tim Miller spoke with investigators and a small team of Texas EquuSearch members soon staged at the Living Stones Church on Peden Rd. in Tomball, Texas. Richard's vehicle had been found at the church about six days

earlier. Our first plan was to recon the area for places that we felt needed to be searched. There was one area of concern near the church that contained a clump of woods and a field. A team of searchers were deployed to recon that area and see if it was an area that we need to be concerned with. Within six minutes of leaving the staging area, the Search Coordinator was notified that the recon team had found Richard's body. Richard was found so quickly that some of our recon team did not make it to the staging area before he was found. Tomball police were notified immediately upon the find. Investigators with the Tomball Police Department soon arrived and took control of the scene. As part of their investigation, the investigators wanted to get aerial views of the surrounding area. About 30 minutes later, the Tomball Police Department Gyro-copter began flying over the scene while taking pictures for investigators. Tim Miller and Texas EquuSearch have had a good working relationship for several years with the Tomball Police Department. A couple of days after the search for Richard, Tim Miller met with Tomball Police Chief Robert Hauck and several other pilots. After the meeting, Police Chief Hauck demonstrated the effectiveness, abilities and efficiency of the Gyro-copter by giving Tim a ride in the aircraft. Tim strongly believes that if Texas EquuSearch obtained a Gyro-copter; that our searchers would be much more effective and would increase our successful record of locating missing persons. So Tim Miller is now researching various options to see if Texas EquuSearch can get one of these tools for locating missing persons. Maybe if Tim puts it on his wish list, Santa might answer this request.

Hulon Reed: On September 16th 2012, Texas EquuSearch received a request to help find a missing 86-year-old man that had walked away from a southeast Houston nursing facility. The missing man, Hulon Reed had apparently followed a visitor out of a door the day before and wandered away un-noticed. The nursing facilities employees had already been searching for Mr. Reed who had been missing for more than 12 hours before Texas EquuSearch was contacted. Mr. Reed had several medical complications and other issues which cause concern for Texas EquuSearch. Search Coordinators Beverly Ramos and Vaedra Bragg soon obtained authorization the Houston Police Department Missing Persons division to activate a search. Tim Miller arrived soon afterwards. Searchers were soon deployed into multiple areas surrounding the nursing facility. One of the areas searched was a huge city park that was about ½ mile away from where Mr. Reed had disappeared. An investigator assigned to the case from the Houston Police Department Missing Persons division arrived and began discussing the case with Tim Miller and other staff from Texas EquuSearch. A Houston Police Department K-9 search dog was used but was unable to locate Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed's shirt was found about 20 feet from a bus stop that was located one block from the nursing facility. The police investigator soon learned through a witness that Mr. Reed had boarded a Metro bus on the corner. The bus driver said Mr. Reed kind of stumbled as he got on the bus, then went straight to the back of the bus and went to sleep. We were informed of residences that Mr. Reed had lived previously, or other locations he was very familiar with. So small teams of searchers were assigned to drive along the bus routes to conduct windshield searches in the areas of his previous residences. It was also thought that Mr. Reed may have stayed on the bus that was going into the downtown area, so several searchers from the nursing facility gathered-up flyers and started driving through downtown Houston. Late that afternoon, one of the nursing facility's employees spoke with a Metro bus driver at the central Metro Terminal Center in downtown Houston. The Metro bus driver said that he recognized Mr. Reed's photo that was on our flyers. The bus driver had apparently picked-up Mr. Reed near the nursing facility on the day he disappeared. He said Mr. Reed slept all the way to the downtown Transit Center, and had to be awakened and told it was at the end of the line. Mr. Reed exited the bus, but the driver did not see which way he went. With this information, we suspended the search until further information could become available. We provided the family with a list of soup kitchens, homeless shelters, hospitals and mental facilities where they could look for Mr. Reed. Early the next morning, we were contacted by Mr. Reed's family members saying that he had been found safe outside of a homeless shelter. The homeless shelter was approximately 8 - 10 blocks from the Metro Center where the bus driver last saw Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed is in good condition and has been reunited with his family.

Vinshay Lewis: On the morning of December 13th 2012, Texas EquuSearch was contacted by Peter Davis of the Galveston, Texas Beach Patrol asking for our help in locating a 39 year-old male that had drowned a week earlier on December 6th 2012 after jumping off the Galveston Causeway Bridge. Peter said they had already made several attempts to locate the missing man and asked if we could extend our resources to assist them in the search. Peter later told Tim Miller that Vinshay Lewis' had been parked on the top outside lane of the Galveston Causeway. A wrecker driver soon pulled up behind Vinshay' vehicle. The wrecker driver got out and asked Vinshay if he had problems with his vehicle. There was a very brief conversation between Vinshay and the wrecker driver. Less than a minute into conversation, Vinshay turned and jumped over the safety railing of the Causeway Bridge and dropped into the Galveston Bay 77 feet below. We will not reveal what the conversation was between Vinshay and the wrecker driver in this newsletter. The shocked wrecker driver saw Vinshay apparently try to swim to a piling in the water under the bridge, but he quickly went underwater and never resurfaced. The wrecker driver contacted 911 and police soon arrived. Rescue personnel also arrived as a search immediately began for Vinshay. The Galveston Beach Patrol, the Galveston Police Department, the Galveston fire Department and several other agencies assist in the search for Vinshay. The search continued for several days but his body was never found. Tim told Peter he would be glad to assist in the search and immediately start loading equipment to start their short travel to Galveston. Tim was assisted in his search by Misty Garey and Paul Kovach. Tim Misty and Paul searched throughout the day using side-scan sonar to search under and near all of the nearby bulkheads, piers, pylons and other open water areas. The search was suspended as they neared dark, and a call-out was issued for early the next morning for anyone with boats that could assist in the search. Peter has an excellent and very successful reputation in being able to predict when and where a drowned body will be located. After studying currents, winds, tides and other valuable information, Peter had pretty much predicted that Vinshay had probably already re-surfaced and was in or near the shoreline areas. On December 14th 2012 searchers in boats from various agencies began searching all of West Bay in an attempt to locate Vinshay. The search was joined by a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter. A Galveston Police Department supervisor rode in the helicopter as an observer to spot for Vinshay' body. Shortly before 12:00 p.m. on December 14th 2012, the helicopter crew spotted Vinshay' body floating in the shallow water on the south side of Galveston Bay near 8 Mile Road. Again, Peter Davis was successful in his predictions. The DPS helicopter crew directed authorities to Vinshay' body for recovery.

Reminders:

- Confidentiality of information is essential on any missing person case.
- If a missing person is found during a search, whether they are deceased or alive, no searcher except for the Search Coordinator is to notify anyone by phone, text or any other form of communication.
- No searcher is allowed to take pictures with cameras, cell phone or any other device on an active search unless you have prior verbal authorization from the Search Coordinator.
- No Texas EquuSearch member is to ever contact law enforcement, media or the family of a missing person unless you had been specifically instructed to do so by Tim Miller.
- No person is to give or provided information, give an interview or a statement to any news media source without prior authorization Tim Miller.
- All team members are to stay together when on an active search. No searcher is to wander-off or go searching on their own. Violations of this policy will not be tolerated.

- If you should get a call-out on your phone and didn't understand or receive the complete message, you can call **1-877-698-3261** ... and press 1 to hear the latest call-out message. You will be prompted to enter the phone number you currently have listed on our call-out roster. The message will then be played back to you. When a search call-out is activated, the call-out information will also be posted on the website as soon as possible.

POLICY REGARDING UNAUTHORIZED SEARCHES AND/OR DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Texas EquuSearch (“TES”) is a nationally recognized and respected, search and recovery organization. Membership in TES is an honor and a privilege.

TES may authorize “mutual aid” to assist law enforcement, governmental agencies or other search organizations upon request by such agencies or families. Individual TES members are prohibited from acting on behalf of TES, or as an independent searcher on an unauthorized search. **DO NOT SEARCH, OR ORGANIZE A SEARCH - UNLESS YOU HAVE EXPLICIT VERBAL PERMISSION FROM TIM MILLER AND THE ASSIGNED SEARCH COORDINATOR ON THE CASE. NO EXCEPTIONS**

TES members are not allowed to hold dual memberships in other search and recovery organizations. This does not include CERT or fire departments, etc.

An unauthorized search constitutes a liability due to unauthorized use of the TES logo, as well as potential litigation brought against participating teams. Additionally, unauthorized searches tie up valuable resources.

We are proud of the dedication of TES members and ask for your continued support.

Special Announcements:

Tim Miller has been nominated and his story has been approved for inclusion in The Rare Life Award, presented by Eagle Rare Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey. This honor is given to those who exhibit Courage, Leadership, Survival, Heroism, Devotion and/or Character. Winners will receive a medal, presented at a reception given in their honor, and be featured in Eagle Rare promotional materials.

In March 2012, Texas EquuSearch suffered a big loss when longtime Texas EquuSearch member Fred Niday died after a long illness with heart disease. Fred was an average searcher and horsemen who participated in many searches throughout Texas. Fred was a dedicated law enforcement officer for many decades in the Harris County in Houston area. He most probably remembers his service with the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff’s Department. Fred was a lifetime member of the Houston Rodeo and rode in his cold saddle on many bitterly cold trail rides throughout Texas. Fred had a horse and mule pulled wagon that he would pull in various parades while representing Texas EquuSearch. Fred was a big man, and he had a big heart.

Texas EquuSearch was shocked and devastated to learn that longtime member and pilot, Allen Vossler and his son, Michael had been killed in an experimental-plane crash in the late October 2012. The experimental- aircraft they were flying was being flown for the very first time. Allen had previously flown other aircraft for Texas EquuSearch on many occasions to assist us in locating missing persons. Allen was a devoted member that would drop whatever he was doing to assist Texas EquuSearch if they needed him. Several members of Texas EquuSearch have been deeply affected by the loss of Allen and his son. A recent fundraiser was held to help raise funds so that Michael’s surviving family members can pay some bills and the funeral cost. Michael’s wife, DD and his daughter Ceole have since joined Texas EquuSearch in memory for Michael’s passionate work with Texas EquuSearch. At the fundraiser, Michael daughter, Ceole expressed to several Texas EquuSearch members that she wants to carry-on in her daddy’s footsteps as a searcher with Texas EquuSearch. Ceole said she doesn’t fly planes like her dad, but would like to be a foot searcher or serve in some other capacity. Whenever Ceole is ready ... the EquuSearch family will warmly welcome her in our open arms and tender hearts. Allen, Michael and their family will always be in our prayers. Please keep them all in your prayers too.



The Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Debbie Drury, has been published in the Houston Business Journal (pictured above Courtesy of the Houston Business Journal). We are very proud of Debbie for her accomplishments in the business world, and for her continued support of Texas EquuSearch

Houston-based and woman owned company, Market Doctors Direct has been providing valuable marketing services to over 330 enterprises nationwide for over 15 years. They have combined the best of traditional advertising with innovative digital technology, resulting in a rock-solid branding solution that delivers. How fitting it is then that Deliver Magazine, with a circulation of over one million subscribers, recently featured Market Doctors Direct calling them “a high tech advertising solution that’s right on target”. This was the first time in over 10 years for a Houston, Texas based company to be written up in Deliver Magazine. Attention was brought to the forward thinking and innovation shown by Market Doctors’ President and founder, Debbie Drury, in her purchase of Text-USA and the creation of iTextDirectory.com. As strategic partners, both Market Doctors Direct and iTextDirectory.com according to Deliver have “found a niche in the high-tech world, combining traditional direct mail with innovative digital technology to deliver solutions for clients.” Also featured in the Southwest Area Update, Kelvin Jackson, Houston Direct Mailing Solutions Specialist, spoke of Market Doctors Drury as “[bringing] direct marketing visions to life for her clients”. The article also spoke of Drury’s dedication to developing a product that brings the highest “return on investment for the advertiser and value for the end user.” Additional recognition recently received: Market Doctors Direct won the 2012 USCA Houston Award, and was nominated by the United States Postal Service for the Direct Mail Innovation Award for 2012.

You Asked: Some searchers and many other people from the general public have often asked if we only search for deceased people since we have located such a high number of deceased missing persons. The answer is NO. Texas EquuSearch has found many, many missing people alive and well. Unless you have someone you love go missing, it’s hard for a person to understand the depth of the family’s sadness, pain, frustration, desperation and feeling of helplessness. We get many calls on missing persons such as Alzheimer’s or Dementia patients, Special Needs Persons, lost children and many other types of missing person cases. In most cases, the missing person just happened to walk away and may be lost. But we also take into consideration that many Alzheimer’s or Dementia patients, as well as some Special Needs persons can’t make rational or logical decisions that you and I may make. It is not their fault. Most Alzheimer’s and Dementia patients were once productive and highly respected members of their communities. But to make it simple, they developed an illness that they did not choose to have. But we must realize that they are lost and they need to be found before something very bad happens to them. We need to find the person before any kind of tragedy happens. Many Special Needs persons are very child-like and sometimes make very poor decisions in their safety or security. They just don’t realize what can happen to them. And it’s not rare for some of these people to be victimized by bullies on the street while they are lost. Many times, a very young child has more rational thoughts and can make better decisions that a lost Alzheimer’s or Dementia patient ... or a Special Needs person. These lost victims have families that love them too. And once you see the happiness on the face of a family member - after learning that you have found their lost loved-one ... and that they are safe and alive, is something that you will never forget. Locating deceased victims is just a small part of what Texas EquuSearch is about.

Sun Coast Resources, Inc, a Houston TX-based wholesale petroleum marketer and emergency fuel response company, proudly supports and recognizes Dickinson TX-based Texas EquuSearch (TES) for their long hours, hard work, dedication and mission of returning missing persons back to their loved ones. Since its founding in 2000 by Director Tim Miller, following the abduction and murder of his daughter, Laura, TES's all volunteer organization has conducted over 1,300 searches and has found 23% alive. TES trains volunteer search teams on the spot in the field. They search by foot, by horse, by helicopter, and utilize radar, sonar and scuba equipment, all-terrain vehicles, boats, airplanes, remotely operated vehicles and SAR dog teams in their searches. TES has been involved in searching for many high profile victims, including Natalee Holloway, Caylee Anthony, and Randy and Denim Sylvester.

Miller credits Kathy Lehne and Sun Coast for "being there when we needed them the most". He says: "During these tough economic times we have seen a substantial drop off in donations and financial support and to be quite honest ... if Kathy had not stepped in when she did our doors would be shut today". In addition to financial donations, Sun Coast has provided fuel, transport, and other logistics support as needed. Kathy Lehne, Sun Coast's founder and president, says she "is proud to support TES and Tim Miller's compassionate and determined commitment to finding those who are missing or have been abducted or murdered. Losing a child or any loved one is beyond comprehension. Thanks to Tim Miller and his awesome volunteers, who never give up looking for those lost, many families have been helped when they need it most, during their darkest hour. I encourage every business and private citizen to make a donation to TES in support of their acts of heroism."

Final Thought: Just days before this newsletter was Made, Texas EquuSearch received a very unique call from a man that asked for our help to locate two un-marked graves that held the bodies of his infant son and daughter that died over 5 ½ decades earlier. Listening to this man's story overwhelmed Tim Miller was emotions that he can relate to. Since the remains of Tim's daughter, Laura was found many years ago, he has maintained a wooden cross at where she was found. Tim traveled to the Texas town of Lytle and began the search for the two babies'. After the Ground Penetration Unit was turned on; it only took eight minutes to find the babies graves and bring a great deal of relief to the baby's father and other family members. The reason for Tim starting Texas EquuSearch was to help other individuals and families. Tim never realized that Texas EquuSearch would grow to the size and be needed as much as we are. Though money is very tight poor us at times, we still try our best to serve the families of missing persons the best that we can, and all we can. If a person is missing, and not of their own choice, we will do whatever possible to find that person. If needed, and if possible for us to do so, we will search for a missing person without any regard to their age, gender, race, financial income, social status, political affiliations, religious beliefs, sexual preference or any other kind of associations. Our goal is only to find the missing person. We will do whatever necessary to bring that person home to their family, whether they are found safe or deceased. We want to thank you all for the help and support you have given us during this year and we hope that you continue to do so in the upcoming year. Unfortunately, you can look more cases to come up that will require your help.

From the staff at Texas EquuSearch:

Merry Christmas and have a healthy, prosperous and Happy New Year.