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For Immediate Release:
KCSO Press Release #04-028/125

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Ref: Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Press Release #-04-027

Missing Poulsbo woman found after 22 hour search

Poulsbo, Wash. -- A 66 year-old Poulsbo woman, suffering from dementia and missing since sometime Monday evening (08/09/2004), was located just before 4:00 p.m. this afternoon.

Marilyn Carol Smith, of the 16000 block of Noll Road NE, Poulsbo, was found on a dirt access road underneath electrical power lines, in the vicinity of NE Kevos Pond Drive, Poulsbo, approximately 2.5 miles from her residence. Smith was unharmed.

A resident of the area had gone for a walk on the dirt road when he heard a cry for help. He soon found Smith sitting on the dirt road asking for some shoes to wear. The man comforted Smith and notified 9-1-1.

Shortly after Smith was found her family was notified and Smith was reunited with her loved ones. Family members have made arrangements to have Smith evaluated medically.

The Sheriff's Office was notified of Smith's absence Tuesday afternoon and, soon afterwards, a search and rescue (SAR) mission was established by Sheriff's deputies.

Smith's family reported that Smith was recently diagnosed with vascular dementia after suffering from a number of "mini-strokes" with consequent memory loss. Smith was last seen by her family at approximately 6:30 p.m. Monday evening. A report was later received by Sheriff's deputies that a woman was observed walking barefoot on Noll Road late Monday evening.

The SAR effort commenced around 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, and continued until approximately 2:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, then resumed again after daybreak. More than 60 volunteers from various agencies responded to the SAR command post established at Poulsbo Junior High School. Agencies assisting in the search effort included:

- Kitsap County Sheriff's Office SAR Unit
- Kitsap County Explorer SAR
- German Shepard Search Dogs of Washington State
- North West Blood Hounds of Pierce County
- West Coast Search Dogs of Grays Harbor
- King County Explorer SAR
- Mason County Explorer SAR

- Mason County Mobile SAR
- Olympic Mountain Rescue
- Seattle Mountain Rescue
- Area residents & neighbors
- Kitsap County Alternative Communications (amateur radio operators)
- Kitsap County Sheriff's Office & Poulsbo Police Department's Citizens on Patrol
- Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Explorer Cadets
- Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management
- Kitsap County Geographic Information Systems
- American Red Cross
- North Kitsap School District

There is not reason to suspect that criminal activity was involved concerning Smith's disappearance.

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