

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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John D. Idleburg
Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Sheriff's Canine Ryker and Sheriff's Deputies Locate Hypothermic Woman

On March 17, 2022, at approximately 10:15 a.m., Lake County Sheriff's deputies responded to the area of Route 173 and Venn Road, Unincorporated Antioch, for a domestic dispute. The caller, a 30-year-old woman of Racine, Wisconsin, called 911 to report she was being followed on foot by an ex-boyfriend. Sheriff's deputies arrived in the area but were unable to find her.

Lake County Sheriff's Telecommunicators repeatedly attempted to call the 911 caller back, but she was not answering her phone. Due to the unknown circumstances, Sheriff's Deputy Craig Somerville and his canine partner, Ryker responded to the scene. K9 Ryker was deployed to conduct a track to search for her.

K9 Ryker tracked for approximately one mile to a channel near Lake Marie. As Canine Ryker and sheriff's deputies got closer to Lake Marie, they could hear a woman calling for help. Canine Ryker and the sheriff's deputies waded through heavy marsh conditions and saw the woman near a duck blind approximately 75 yards from the shore, in a channel of Lake Marie. The woman was hypothermic due to being in the water and soaking wet for approximately one to two hours.

Sheriff's deputies requested the assistance of the Antioch Fire Protection District, due to the watery and marshy conditions. Firefighters arrived and utilized dry-suits to wade to the woman and rescue her. She was subsequently transported to St. Catherine's Hospital in Kenosha, Wisconsin, due to her exposure. She is expected to be okay.

Sheriff's deputies spoke to both the woman and the ex-boyfriend. It was determined the argument between the victim and her ex-boyfriend was regarding personal property that she allegedly took from him. It is likely the woman fell into the water during the incident and was unable to free herself due to the conditions. There are no indications she was pushed or forced into the water.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg added, "Our deputies and our canines are truly second to none. This is another example of

how our staff works diligently to protect the community. I am excited we are adding two additional canine teams to our Canine Unit, to make a total of seven sheriff's canine teams.”

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