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Richard C. Scholl
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- PRESS RELEASE -

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: February 24, 2011

Source: Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team (SAR)

Subject: Aid to a fatigued snowshoer in the Mammoth Lakes area

The morning of February 23, 2011, the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called out to check on the welfare of an overdue snowshoer. Michael Gaffney, 47, of Bishop, CA, began a snowshoeing trip on Tuesday, February 22, from the Mammoth Lakes Basin to Reds Meadow to Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge. He intended his trip to be relatively non-stop without a planned camp. Mr. Gaffney called his wife at 4:00am on Wednesday, February 23, to provide an update and noted that he was fatigued from traveling through soft, deep snow that he encountered during the descent from Mammoth Pass. She became concerned and contacted the Sheriff's Department, who, in turn, dispatched the SAR team. A SAR snowmobile team launched from Main Lodge to investigate and encountered Mr. Gaffney on the road north of Pumice Flat. He was in good conditions, and after providing him with some additional water, the SAR team left Mr. Gaffney to continue his trip.

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18-years-old) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger at (760) 932-7549.