



Fresno County Sheriff's Office
Margaret Mims, Sheriff **April 1, 2008**
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Sheriff Sergeant To Receive Award

The Fresno-Madera Chapter of the American Red Cross will honor Fresno County Sheriff Sergeant Kathy Curtice tomorrow morning at their 6th Annual Heroes Breakfast.

Sergeant Curtice will be honored for the Kings River rescue of a Fresno woman and her 6 year old daughter last summer.

On June 16th, 2007 at approximately 4:00pm, Sergeant Curtice was working in the area of Winton Park in eastern Fresno County.

As she drove southbound on Trimmer Springs Rd, along the west side of the Kings River, Sgt. Curtice noticed something pink bobbing in the water across the river near Winton Park. While trying to identify the object, she immediately noticed people on the shore yelling and motioning towards the river.

Believing that someone was probably in the water, Sgt. Curtice notified dispatch as she attempted to get downstream ahead of the possible victim. Bystanders across the river continued to guide Sgt. Curtice to the possible victim by motioning to their location.

When she knew she was ahead of the victim, Sgt. Curtice grabbed her personal flotation device and a river rescue throw bag. She ran to the bank of the river where she observed two subjects floating motionless in the swift current approximately 20 feet from shore.

An adult female was drifting approximately five feet up river of a juvenile female. The adult appeared to be unconscious and unresponsive, floating in the

water face up. The juvenile also appeared to be unconscious and unresponsive, and was floating face down.

Handing one end of the throw bag to a bystander, Sgt. Curtice jumped into the river and swam towards both victims while holding the other end of the throw bag. Sgt. Curtice was able to grab onto the juvenile's arm and roll her over to get her face out of the water. Sgt. Curtice then attempted to grab onto the adult but could not do so.

As bystanders started to pull her and the juvenile back to shore, Sgt. Curtice could see two men down river, jump into the river and grab the adult.

Once on shore, Sgt. Curtice administered aid to both victims. Both gained consciousness and were later transported to Fresno Community Regional Medical Center for observation and treatment.

The Heroes Breakfast will take place tomorrow morning, (April 2nd), at the Fresno Convention Center from 7:00 am to 9:00 am.