

# **BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**JERRY W. SMITH**  
**SHERIFF-CORONER**



**DATE : September 26, 2012**

**RELEASED BY: Sgt. Anthony Borgman**

**CONTACT: Sgt. Borgman or Watch Commander, 530-538-7322**

**SUBJECT: C12-15679-Oroville Area Pursuit and School Lockdowns**

On Monday September 24, 2012, Heather Brewer was arrested by CHP in Yuba County subsequent to a vehicle pursuit that started in the Oroville area. Officers developed information that 35 year old Honcut resident Joseph Kenneth Simpson ran from the vehicle after the pursuit, and may have been armed with a firearm. Simpson is also wanted for violating the terms of his release.

On Wednesday September 26, 2012 at approximately 10:45 am, Butte County Sheriff's Detectives and Deputies were checking a residence on Stump Drive in Oroville, looking for Simpson. While checking the residence, Simpson drove by the house in a green BMW 535, with Brewer in the front passenger seat. Deputies returned to their vehicles to pursue the BMW, but Simpson had pulled into a yard on Farley Street near Monte Vista, and run away.

Brewer was taken into custody on unrelated matters on Lincoln Blvd. just north of Monte Vista. Evidence at scene indicated that Simpson ran east from Farley St. and into the field between Oakdale Heights Elementary School and Las Plumas High School, and between Las Plumas Ave. and Monte Vista. Due to the possibility of Simpson being armed, and Oakdale Heights Elementary being in the immediate proximity of the incident, Oakdale Heights Elementary was placed in lockdown. Las Plumas High School was advised of the incident, and they also voluntarily locked down as a precaution.

With the assistance of CHP and Oroville PD Officers, a perimeter was set around the area and the field was searched by Officers, K9's and the Butte County Sheriff's Helicopter. When the field had been searched and Simpson was not located, Deputies contacted Oakdale Heights Elementary and Las Plumas High administrators, and the lockdowns were subsequently lifted. At no time were students at either school in immediate harm's way. Rather, the schools locked down to protect students and staff from

the suspect being able to access the school facilities, students or staff, and to prevent the students from inadvertently getting into the incident area on recess or lunch break.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office is releasing the attached photographs to help people identify Simpson, based on what he looks like with short or longer hair. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Joey Simpson should contact the Butte County Sheriff's Office, with the information on where he is, what he is wearing, and what he may be driving. If someone has immediate information, they may call 911.



