



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

John Zanoni, Sheriff

May 14, 2025

News Release

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Missing Camper Miraculously Found Alive

On Wednesday afternoon, 27 year old Tiffany Slaton of Jeffersonville, Georgia was found safe near Lake Edison in Fresno County. The owner of Vermilion Valley Resort was checking on his property near the lake when he found one of his cabins was occupied by a woman. He was aware of an ongoing search for a missing woman and she matched the description. The owner immediately contacted the Fresno County Sheriff's Office to report his discovery. Deputies traveled up to Kaiser Pass Road and met with the owner who had driven Tiffany out to the staging point. Deputies confirmed it to be Tiffany and medics arrived with an ambulance to examine her. She was dehydrated, but was otherwise in good condition. Medics transported her to a hospital for further treatment and observation. The detective handling the investigation immediately reported the good news to Tiffany's parents who were in Georgia.

It is important to note that the road from Kaiser Pass back to Lake Edison was impassable due to the snowpack. Snowplows cleared the road on Wednesday, which allowed the resort owner to access his property so he could begin preparations to open it up to the public for the summer season. The owner said he had left a cabin unlocked as a precaution for this exact situation where someone who is lost could seek shelter and increase their chances of surviving the outdoor elements and harsh weather.

Tiffany's family reported her missing on April 29th after not hearing from her for the past nine days. The Sheriff's Office began searching for her, along with distributing alerts to the public to be on the lookout for the missing woman. The community provided several tips to the Sheriff's Office. During the process, we confirmed she was seen at Huntington Lake on April 20th and near the old Cressman's General Store on April 24th. There were no confirmed sightings since the 24th.

From May 6th - 10th, the Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) team conducted a full scale operation in the mountains looking for Tiffany. The search spanned nearly 600 square miles, stretching from Mono Hot Springs to Wishon Reservoir, Pine Flat Lake to Auberry and all areas in between. Due to the snow filled road at Kaiser Pass, SAR equipment was unable to make it through. However, we did utilize our helicopter to fly the Mono Hot Springs and Lake Edison areas, but the crew never found any trace of Tiffany or her belongings.

Detectives are now arranging to meet with Tiffany to learn more about her timeline of events and overall experience.