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Press Release

Missing Person Found – Preston Stevens

On June 28, 2018, Preston Stevens, WM 22 years of age, of Coldspring Texas, was reported missing by family members. The initial report and subsequent information led the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office to numerous locations conducting searches of the areas for Stevens. At one point a family member accused another family member of doing harm to Stevens and possibly dumping his body into the Trinity River. Detectives reached out to every venue possible to assist in searches for Stevens. Stevens was entered into several national databases, including the missing person clearinghouse managed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). The DPS system is set up to alert us if anyone runs the name entered or processes any government document in the missing persons name. All resources available were utilized to help locate this young man.

On February 8, 2019, The San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau located a post on Facebook regarding Preston Stevens. It advised he had returned home and showed a picture of him with his mother. After determining where Stevens was, a patrol unit went to the location and confirmed Stevens was home, alive and well.

Stevens met with Lt. Kean and advised he was 'depressed and needed to get away' in June 2018. He lived in several different locations while in California and worked for a car wash which paid in cash only. The Sheriff's Office learned, after the interview, that California does not participate in any of the missing person protocols the rest of the country uses, therefore, hiding the fact that our missing person was in California.

Stevens stated he never contacted anyone while he was gone and never knew he was reported as missing. His poor judgement in this matter diverted hundreds of man hours in report and search efforts by the Sheriff's Office and other Rescue Groups. While we are very glad that Mr. Stevens is alive and well, we hope that others who may decide to "just leave" will at least let someone know in the future so valuable resources are not wasted.

There will be no other notifications regarding this incident.