

Elderly patient remains missing

LUCEDALE — More than two days after an elderly nursing home patient disappeared from his rooms, and despite a massive search effort, he remains missing.

As woods, fields and ponds in several counties were scanned, the fate of 72-year-old Ervin McDonald remains uncertain.

McDonald vanished Thursday afternoon and since that time officers and volunteers have worked around the clock.

Lucedale Police Chief Bill Garwood said his department is aiding the George County Search and Rescue Team by furnishing manpower and radio equipment.

George County Sheriff Eugene Howell said he doesn't know what to make of it but believes the missing man will be found nearby.

Everett Dickerson, head of the local search and rescue group, reported checking out several tips including one in Benndale where the description fit McDonald. But the clue drew a blank on Mississippi 57.

Meanwhile McDonald's family keeps a vigil at the nursing home, awaiting any word concerning his whereabouts.

McDonald, who is tall and slim, was last seen wearing a blue shirt and gray pants with an orange wrist band bearing his name. Persons having information concerning the missing man should contact the George County Sheriff's Department at 947-4811 or the Lucedale Police Department at 947-3261.

Search for elderly man is called off

LUCEDALE — The search for 72-year-old Ervin McDonald, who wandered away from a nursing home on Sept. 30, has been called off, according to Everett Dickerson, head of George County search and rescue units. McDonald was last seen wearing a blue shirt and gray pants and described as being in poor physical condition.

Dickerson said men from his unit had spent approximately 400 hours checking out tips in George and surrounding counties without any luck. Helicopters from the National Guard and highway patrolmen from Lucedale also aided in the search.

Dickerson said his unit would be available if anything new turned up.

Anyone having information concerning McDonald should contact local