

# County News

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

## *Alzheimer's Sufferer Found In Dark, Rocky Creek Bed*

READINGTON TWP. — An 87-year-old woman who suffers from Alzheimer's disease was missing for about eight hours Monday before a search party found her, wet and suffering from exposure, in a rocky creek bottom less than a half-mile from home.

The woman, who township police declined to identify, walked away from her home on Latourette Road at about 2:30 p.m., according to police. Her family searched for her for two hours then called police.

The search drew on- and off-duty police officers, K-9 and volunteer canine handlers with dogs, the State Police Aviation Unit, fire and rescue squad volunteers, residents, the Salvation Army and Civil Air Patrol. A command post was set up to coordinate rescue efforts.

Neighbors were also alerted via a recorded message sent by the township's "reverse 911" phone system.

The woman eventually was found in a four-foot-deep rocky creek bottom off Readington Road near Dalley Street. Police said that she was less than a half mile from her home. She was treated by the Whitehouse Rescue Squad and taken to Hunterdon Medical Center for observation.