

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **DATE** January 14, 2008 **TIME** 1:00 PM

RECENT PATTERSON ARMED ROBBERIES

Two Patterson businesses were robbed at gunpoint last week. Stanislaus County Sheriff Investigators are asking for the help in identifying those involved and urging businesses to report any suspicious activity to authorities.

Tuesday January 8, 2008 at 8:23 PM, John's Mini Mart on Highway 33 reported a subject who approached the business wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and white bandana. He ran after seeing another person standing outside the business. At 8:44 PM, a subject wearing similar clothing robbed the Carl's Jr. Restaurant. The suspect is believed to be a white male, 6'00", with a thin build.

Thursday January 10, 2008 at 8:43 PM, a male subject entered the John's Mini Mart wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and a black ski mask. The suspect demanded money from the clerk and fled the store. He was also described as possibly white, 6'02", with a thin build, and green eyes.

The suspect was armed with a handgun in both incidents. No one was injured in either robbery. In each incident, the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Two other armed robberies have occurred in the Patterson area prior to Christmas. On December 23rd, at 8:16 PM, a male subject entered the Shell Gas Station in Westley and brandished a handgun. Witnesses described him as a black male, mid 30' s-40, 5'10" to 6'03", 200 pounds, long black hair worn in braids, wearing a black Raiders hat, black jacket, black Raiders gloves, and black pants.

At 8:36 PM, the same suspect entered the Valero Station in Patterson and brandished a handgun. He fled with an undisclosed amount of cash in each incident. These incidents do not appear to be related to the most recent robberies in Patterson.

Businesses are urged to be aware of suspicious persons and vehicles loitering around the area and call police immediately. Provide dispatchers with a detailed description of the subject from head-to-toe, vehicle color, make and model, license plate number, and the direction last seen heading whenever possible.

Anyone with information about these cases is encouraged to contact Detective Michael Fisher at (209) 892-5071. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and may be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.