



FBI

NEWS RELEASE

New Orleans Field Office

Special Agent in Charge (SAC) David W. Welker

FBI ♦ 2901 Leon C. Simon Blvd . ♦ New Orleans, Louisiana 70126 ♦ www.fbi.gov

Date: November 14, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: SA Sheila Thorne
(504) 816-3315

KIDNAPPING SUSPECT ARRESTED

Catahoula Parish Sheriff James Kelly, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley, Western District of Louisiana, Daniel McMullen, Special Agent in Charge of the Jackson Division of the FBI, and David W. Welker, Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Division of the FBI, announce the following:

This morning at approximately 7:00 am Thomas Steven Sanders, age 53, was arrested at the Flying J Truck Stop by Gulfport FBI Agents of the Jackson Division and Harrison County Sheriff's Deputies. Sanders was being sought on federal kidnapping charges obtained in the Western District of Louisiana for the abduction of Lexis Kaye Roberts, age 12, of Las Vegas, Nev. Sanders was alone at the time of his arrest, and the Kia he was driving is in the possession of the FBI

On the evening of Oct. 8, 2010, human skeletal remains were found in a wooded area north of Harrisonburg, La. The remains, later identified as being Lexis, were found by hunters who reported it to the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office. The investigation that followed led to Sanders being charged with kidnapping. The investigation continues.

Numerous investigative agencies, including the Louisiana State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Postal Service, the Office of Louisiana Attorney General, the LSU Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) and law enforcement throughout the country have been involved in the case.

If you have information regarding this on-going investigation you are urged to call the tipline: 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).