

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Conservators of the Peace"

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



Undersheriff Jim Littlefield

PRESS RELEASE

May 1, 2023

Contact: Captain Sterrin Ward, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office (541) 310-0369

Harris Park, near Milton-Freewater, Oregon

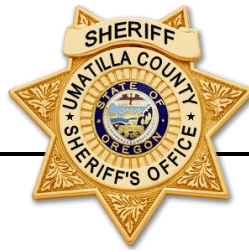
Hiker Drowns in the Walla Walla River near Harris Park Milton-Freewater, Oregon



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On April 29, 2023 at approximately 1:55 p.m. Umatilla County Sheriff's Office dispatch received a report of a body floating down the Walla Walla River near Harris Park Bridge. The caller reported bystanders had been able to pull the person from the water and CPR was being performed.

Paramedics were dispatched and arrived on scene at approximately the same time as Sgt. Gregory with Umatilla County Sheriff's Office. Paramedics took over medical procedures. Attempts to revive were unsuccessful and the person was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The deceased male was later identified as 46-year-old Kerry Alan Ronald GANSON of Milton-Freewater. A friend of Kerry's arrived on scene. They had been hiking up the south fork of the Walla Walla River about a mile or so east of Harris Park Campground. The friend stated that Kerry was attempting to cross the river when the current swept him off his feet. Kerry began to float down the river and the friend lost sight of him. The friend ran down the trail, back to his vehicle, and drove to the Harris Park Bridge (about 2 1/2 to 3 miles) where the people had pulled Kerry out of the river and began C.P.R. Kerry's next of kin have been notified and the body has been released to Munselle Rhodes Funeral Home in Milton-Freewater, Oregon.