

Oregon Rafter Drowns on Deschutes near Maupin

by Richard Burton

A Woodburn man died in a rafting accident on the Deschutes River near Maupin on Saturday afternoon, August 19; the eighth drowning on the Deschutes in the last 13 months.

According to Sgt. Brian Helmer with the Wasco County Sheriff's Office, Jaime Garcia, 55, was rafting with a group of family and friend in the area of Oak Springs Rapids when he fell out of the raft into the river.

Witnesses reported that he went underwater briefly, resurfaced, and was pulled to shore. Garcia was not breathing, so CPR was administered at the scene. He did not recover.

Garcia was wearing a life vest at the time of the accident, said Sgt. Helmer.