

Redmond teen drowns in Deschutes River

by Cheryl McDermott

A 17-year-old Redmond girl drowned in the Deschutes River after her raft went over Cline Falls about four miles west of Redmond on Saturday, deputies reported.

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies, Oregon State Police troopers, and Redmond Fire & Rescue personnel were dispatched to the scene about 8:15 p.m., July 7, Sgt. Joe DeLuca said.

Upon arrival, deputies found that citizens had pulled 17-year-old Alicia Newton out of the water and had initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Paramedics continued life-saving efforts but were unsuccessful and she was pronounced deceased at the scene, DeLuca wrote in a news release.

Newton was one of a party of rafters who had been floating the river, DeLuca said. Everyone but the victim and 33-year old Kristopher Woods of Redmond had left the river upstream of the falls to return to the day-use area.

Woods was found about 50-yards upstream, clinging to rocks. Deschutes County white-water rescue and mountain-rescue teams were able to safely bring Woods to shore. He was not injured, the sergeant said.

Neither Newton nor Woods were wearing floatation devices, DeLuca said. The investigation is ongoing.

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