

La Pine man drowns in Little Deschutes River

by Cheryl McDermott

A 63-year old La Pine man drowned Sunday afternoon while swimming in the Little Deschutes River near Dorrance Meadow Road, deputies reported.

According to witnesses, Dennis L. Wade slipped under the surface of the Little Deschutes River while swimming with his wife and friends. No one saw him struggle or call for help.

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies, members of the search and rescue (SAR) team, and La Pine Fire Department personnel responded to the scene about ¼ mile west of Dorrance Meadow Road at 3:45 p.m., July 28, Lt. Erik Utter and Deputy Kevin Williams reported in a news release.

Divers recovered the body about two hours later, in eight feet of water very near where he was reported to have disappeared. SAR divers said there were no apparent underwater obstructions or debris that likely contributed to Wade's drowning.

Alcohol does not appear to be a factor in the death, Utter and Williams said. The investigation is continuing.

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