

Sisters man drowns in Deschutes River lava tube

by Cheryl McDermott

A 26-year old Sisters man drowned while swimming in a lava tube behind Awbrey Falls on the Deschutes River southwest of Redmond Monday afternoon, deputies reported.

According to a news release issued by Sgt. Dan Swearingen and Deputy Jennifer Gaspard with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Todd Justin Sampson swam behind the falls into a lava tube and did not resurface. His brother, Jeffrey Sampson, 18, tried to find his brother in the lava tube, but was deterred by the swift current.

The younger Sampson called 911 for help about 5:30 p.m., and deputies, search and rescue swift water and dive team personnel, and Bend Police officers responded.

Todd Sampson's body was recovered in about 20 feet of water inside the lava tube shortly before 7:30 p.m., deputies said.

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