

Deschutes River diving accident under investigation

by Cheryl McDermott

Detectives are continuing the investigation into a diving accident off a dock on the Deschutes River that resulted in a La Pine man being flown by helicopter to the hospital with undisclosed injuries, deputies reported Thursday.

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies responded to a dock at Snow Goose Court on the river shortly before 2 p.m., August 2, and found La Pine resident Anthony Bennett, 33, being treated by La Pine Fire Department paramedics.

A witness and friend of the injured man told deputies that Bennett dove head-first off the dock, into water that was only about four feet deep. The witness, 36-year old Steven Allen of La Pine, said Bennett was familiar with the river in that location, had been swimming there before, and was aware that the water was shallow, Sgt. Joe DeLuca wrote in a news release.

Allen walked into the water, pulled his friend out, and brought him to the riverbank.

Bennett was flown by AirLife helicopter to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend with undisclosed injuries, DeLuca said. The investigation is continuing.

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