



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

PRESS RELEASE

Aloha Man Found Deceased in Private Lake

August 17, 2016—Sheriff's Deputies responded to a rural area north of North Plains concerning a possible drowning in a private lake. The man's body was later recovered from the lake.

On August 17, 2016, at 10:23 a.m., Washington County Sheriff's Deputies, assisted by the North Plains Department, were called to the 25200 block of NW Braga Road concerning a possible drowning. Family members called and reported Charles Merrill, 76, from Aloha, was missing. The family owns acreage on NW Braga Road that has a large lake of unknown depth. The family went searching for him and saw the family boat capsized on the lake but no sign of Mr. Merrill. It was not unusual for Mr. Merrill to visit the property and fish from the boat.



Sheriff's Deputies arrived and found the lake was about one acre in size and a capsized boat was found far from shore. The boat was unable to drift due to heavy vegetation. Sheriff's Deputies called the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office dive team to help search for Mr. Merrill. The dive team searched the water and at 4:55 p.m., found Mr. Merrill deceased in the lake near the boat. It does not appear he was wearing a lifejacket.

The Washington County Medical Examiner believes Mr. Merrill suffered a medical issue causing him to fall into the water.