



JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tragic Incident at Lake Billy Chinook Claims Life of Prineville Man

Jefferson County, Oregon, August 18, 2025, The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is saddened to report a tragic incident at Lake Billy Chinook that resulted in the death of 56-year-old Vaughn Alan Waugaman of Prineville, Oregon.

At approximately 6:48 PM, Waugaman and a friend with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) were fishing from a small aluminum boat. After returning to the boat ramp, Waugaman stepped away to his vehicle. During that time, the boat drifted away from the dock with his friend still on board and unable to operate the vessel.

In an effort to retrieve the boat, Waugaman entered the water and began swimming toward it. While doing so, he is believed to have suffered a cardiac event. Two nearby paddle boarders were able to bring him back to shore and immediately began CPR. Despite their courageous efforts, and the rapid response of Jefferson County Fire & EMS, Waugaman could not be revived. Airlift also responded and landed at the Crooked River Day Use Area to assist in life-saving measures.

By the time the first responders arrived, the boat was taking on water and had partially sunk. A Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Marine Deputy was able to retrieve the small aluminum boat before it sank and bring it to the boat ramp where it was secured.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Vaughn Alan Waugaman during this very difficult time.

Respectfully

Jason Pollock, Sheriff