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**LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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**CASE NUMBER:** 18-3456

**DATE/ TIME OF INCIDENT:** 5/28/2018 6:45 pm

**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE:** 6/11/2018 1:30 pm

**NATURE OF STORY:** Body Found in the Willamette River Identified as Missing Canoeist

**DECEASED:** DONALD GIRARDI, 73 y/o, Bend

**DETAILS:**

On 5/28/2018 at 6:45 pm, the Lane County Sheriff's Office received a report of a man in the river yelling for help near the Hayden Bridge boat ramp. Also in the water nearby was an overturned canoe. Lane County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue responded with Eugene/ Springfield Fire but were unable to locate the man. The search continued throughout the evening with Search and Rescue divers in the water.

The canoe was recovered and inside the canoe was identification for 73 year old Donald Girardi (Bend, Oregon). Girardi's vehicle was also located at a nearby boat launch, and Girardi's family confirmed that he had left to take the canoe out onto the water.

Lane County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol deputies and Search and Rescue continued to look for Mr. Girardi for several days using boats and divers but found no indication of his whereabouts.

On 6/10/2018 shortly after 3:00 pm, a boater observed a deceased male in the water approximately 1 mile upriver from Marshall Island boat landing. The Lane County Sheriff's Office Dive Team assisted in the recovery of the male who was identified as Girardi.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office and the Lane County Medical Examiner's Office are investigating Mr. Girardi's death. There is no indication of foul play at this time.

Mr. Girardi's family has asked for privacy as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

**Sent by: Sergeant Carrie Carver 541-682-4179**