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DAVE HENCRATT
SHERIFF-CORONER

PRESS INFORMATION

TYPE OF INCIDENT: SWIFT WATER RESCUE/PRESUMED DROWNING

CASE NUMBER: 17-00281

GENERAL LOCATION: Jellys Ferry Road at Saron Fruit Colony Rd

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: February 18, 2017

VICTIM NAME: Lujan, Michael Keaohou

AGE: 35

RESIDENCE: Red Bluff

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT: On February 17, 2017 at about 11:39pm, deputies responded to the area due to voices yelling for help being heard. It was reported that (2) males and a female had been in a canoe that had overturned.

Apparently, the canoers were attempting to return to their residence that was surrounded by water but not flooded by canoe. The canoe overturned before reaching their destination. The canoers were not wearing personal flotation devices during this incident.

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office Boating Unit, The Tehama County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Swift Water Team and The California Highway Patrol assisted with this event.

At about 3:30 am, (1) male and the female were rescued. However, (1) male has not been found and is presumed to have drowned. The California Highway Patrol's Air Operations Unit flew over this area in an attempt to find the outstanding male but he has not been located.

On February 18, 2017 at 1:30 pm, The California Highway Patrol's Air Operations Unit as well as the Tehama County Sheriff's Office Boating Unit returned to the area of this incident. An extensive search was conducted for the outstanding male but he has not been located.

On February 19, 2017 prior to noon, The California Highway Patrol's Air Operations Unit returned to the area of this incident. However, the outstanding male was not located. A short time later, the Tehama County Sheriff's Office Boating Unit and the Tehama County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team returned to the area and conducted a ground search after a backpack had been found belonging to the outstanding male.

On February 19, 2017 at 5:30 pm, the body of Mr. Lujan was found in the water amongst trees. Mr. Lujan's family was contacted and he was positively identified.

On February 21, 2017, an autopsy was conducted on Mr. Lujan. The cause of death was determined to be drowning.

The (2) rescued individuals were transported to area hospitals for treatment due to the length of time they were in the elements and were released from the hospital that same day.

Prepared by: L85