

**Tehama County Sheriff's Office**  
22840 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, Ca 96080  
(530) 529-7900

**Dave Hencratt, Sheriff-Coroner**

**Phil Johnston, Assistant Sheriff**

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**PRESS INFORMATION**

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**TYPE OF INCIDENT: Accidental Drowning**

**GENERAL LOCATION: Anglers Cove, Black Butte Lake**

**DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: Saturday, September 21, 2019**

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**SUMMARY OF INCIDENT:**

On Saturday Aug. 21, 2019 at about 8:40 PM Tehama County Sheriff's Office received a report of a suspicious vehicle at Angler's Cove on Black Butte Lake. The caller reported a white Ford Expedition attached to an empty boat trailer. The vehicles doors were open and the engine was running however the driver did not appear to be with the vehicle.

Deputies were able to identify the owner of the vehicle as Jose Rodriguez 57 of Corning. Deputies were able to determine that Mr. Rodriguez was fishing alone at Black Butte Lake. Family members responded to the area when Mr. Rodriguez did not return from fishing and with the assistance of Black Butte Lake Rangers, Deputies located the fishing boat unoccupied on the shore across the lake from where the vehicle was located. CHP helicopter was requested to assist with a search of the area.

On the morning of Aug. 22, 2019 the Tehama County Sheriff's Boating Safety Unit and Search and Rescue responded at daylight. The Search and Rescue members checked around the lake on ground and the boating unit used sonar to check under water. The boating unit located the victim on sonar in about 20 feet of water.

Tehama County Sheriff's Office contacted the Shasta County Sheriff's Dive team for assistance in recovering the victim.

It is believed that while launching the boat it began float away and Mr. Rodriguez entered the water in an attempt to recover the boat. This incident is being investigated as an accidental drowning and neither alcohol nor drugs appear to be a factor.