



**WINSTON**  
***POLICE***  
**DEPARTMENT**



Chief Brandon Sarti

131 Rose Street, Winston, OR 97496

(541) 679-8706 FAX (541) 679-0794

# Media Release

Date of Release: 6/18/2026  
Incident: Drowning  
Date of Incident: 06/18/2026  
Subject: 14-year-old juvenile  
Officer in Charge: Lieutenant Stiffler  
Contact Number: 541-679-8706

At approximately 5:22 p.m. on June 18, 2026, Douglas County 9-1-1 dispatchers received a report that a 14-year-old juvenile had gone underwater in the South Umpqua River near Riverbend Park in Winston and did not resurface.

First responders from multiple agencies, including the Winston Police Department, Central Douglas Fire & Rescue, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and the Oregon State Police, responded to the scene and initiated search and rescue efforts. The juvenile was located in the water and transported to Mercy Medical Center, where he was later pronounced deceased.

This incident remains under investigation by the Winston Police Department. At this time, there is no indication of foul play.

The juvenile's name is not being released due to his age and out of respect for the family.

Our thoughts are with the family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time.