



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 667-6851 ★ Fax: (509) 667-6860

For Immediate Release

Contact: EM Specialist, Rich Magnussen

Incident #: 15C05817

Phone: 509-667-6863

Date: June 4, 2015

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us>

Updated: 6/5/15 – Missing Hiker Identified

Sheriff Brian Burnett reports that at approximately 5:45 pm Thursday, the body of the missing hiker was recovered from the Icicle River. The victim has been identified as 46 year old Sheila McGowan-Conoley of Leavenworth, WA. Assisting in the recovery were members of the Sheriff's Office Swift Water Rescue Team, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Leavenworth Fire and Rescue, and employees of Osprey Rafting.

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*****Media Release / Missing Day Hiker - Leavenworth, WA*****

The Chelan County Sheriff's Office is actively searching for a 46 year old female hiker in the Bridge Creek area of the Icicle River Drainage. The subject was reported missing Wednesday evening by family members when it was realized she never returned from hiking with the family dog.

The Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue unit was notified of the overdue subject by 9:30 pm and deployed search teams by 11:00 pm when it was determined the female hiker's vehicle was parked on Icicle Road at Bridge Creek. The family dog was found outside the car. A citizen camping in the area east of the bridge had located a woman's, "Keen", brand hiking sandal in an eddy area downriver from a small beach the female would frequent with the dog. A night search continued for the missing female along both sides of the Icicle River until 2:00 am.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

John Wisemore
Undersheriff

★ **Jason Mathews** ★
Chief of Special Operations

Dave Helvey
Chief of Patrol

★ **Valerie Karnes** ★
Chief Civil Deputy

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The search resumed Thursday morning with assistance from the WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Forest Service employees. As of 2:00 pm on Thursday, 34 searchers are involved in the mission. The Sheriff's Office helicopter has also been activated in the search.

At approximately 2:30 pm, the Sheriff's Office Helicopter spotted what we believe is a body in the river just below the Bridge Creek Campground. Recovery efforts are underway.

The name and city of residence of the missing female is being withheld at this time pending notification of additional family members.

Inquiries concerning this media release can be direct to Emergency Management Specialist, Rich Magnussen at (509)667-6508 on Friday morning. Updates will be provided at the earliest opportunity.

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