

NEWS RELEASE

**Russel E. Burger, Sheriff
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CASE NUMBER: 2007-5264

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 06/20/2007 at 6:44PM

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NATURE OF STORY: Water Rescue X 7

LOCATION: McKenzie River at Bellinger Landing

**INVOLVED: Liston, Myra 39 years old
714 53rd Place Springfield, OR**

**Nicholson, Aiyana 15 year old
714 53rd Place Springfield, OR**

**Nicholson, Justin 19 year old
714 53rd Place Springfield, OR**

**Hazel, Samatna 16 year old
450 South 72nd Street Springfield, OR**

**Wilkew, Ashley 18 year old
110 Phonedahl Road Reno, NV**

**Golden, Magentah 23 year old
5151 Fox Hollow Road Eugene, OR**

Nicholson, Sareya 16 year old

714 53rd Place Springfield, OR

DETAILS: The group of seven went to a primitive river put-in on Deerhorn Road at 4:30PM. Realizing they had no life jackets, they went to Walterville and picked up seven from the McKenzie Fire life-jacket loaner program. They then launched their two inflatable rafts with the intent of floating to Hayden Bridge. Per subject statements, all was well until they passed Bellinger Boat landing. At this location the river spreads out into various channels and chutes. The first raft, with four subjects in it was drawn into a debris pile on the south side of the channel. They were all wearing their PFD's at the time of the accident. Three subjects were swept under the debris pile by the current while the fourth was stuck in the raft. The second raft followed the path of the first but did not turn over when it hit the debris pile.

McKenzie Fire Rescue were able to pick up the three subjects that had gone under the debris pile and Lane County Search and Rescue and Marine Patrol personnel rescued the final four and their rafts.

All seven were treated and released for mild hypothermia, minor scrapes and bruises.

It should be noted that the potential for a fatality was great during this incident and wearing PFD's was a contributing factor to their survival.

For additional information contact:

John Miller, Search & Rescue Coordinator 682-8544

Prepared by: John Miller, SARC