

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
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Chris Hoffman, Sheriff
Stephen Holton, Undersheriff

Press Release

November 10, 2014

Ravalli County Sheriff/Coroner Chris Hoffman has released the name of the Conner man who was killed Sunday while apparently fishing in the East Fork of the Bitterroot River.

Hoffman said that 62 year old Michael Kenneth Bell was found on the west side of the river when Sula Volunteer Firemen noticed a dog barking and running around the river bank. When firemen went to investigate, they found Mr. Bell under a blown down tree.

A high wind event had dropped trees across Highway 93 South near mile marker 19, about four miles south of Conner. Firefighters and other emergency crews were working to clear trees from the highway when the discovery was made.

Fire officials worked to remove the tree so that they could render aid, but Mr. Bell was dead at the scene and it appeared that he had been killed instantly.

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