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## Press Release

### **Columbia River Rescue/ Suicidal Female**

On 9/10/2018 at 3:19pm, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office 911/ Dispatch Center received a report of a possible suicidal female who was in route to the Columbia River from the City of Boardman. Units from the Boardman Police Department and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office were dispatched and began searching for the reported female.

At 3:23pm Morrow County Sheriff's Office Marine Deputy Mike Cahill was dispatched to deploy the marine boat to the Columbia River ½ mile downstream from Channel Marker 40 at Sailboard Beach in Boardman. Deputy Cahill observed a female in the water about 50-75 yards off the shore line, in 3 to 4 foot swells with visible white caps. Deputy Cahill saw the female was in the water up to her neck and going farther out to deep water. At this point Deputy Cahill determined he didn't have time to deploy the boat immediately and went in the water in an attempt to rescue the female.

As Deputy Cahill was making his way to the female he could see her go under twice and the last time she was under for a few seconds before he was able to grab her. Deputy Cahill was able to get both of her arms at the elbows and tell her he was a Marine Deputy and he wanted to take her back to the shore. She immediately tried to break loose, at which point Deputy Cahill was able to control her to keep her from pulling away.

As Deputy Cahill was trying to get her back to shore, she was begging him to let her go. Deputy Cahill spoke calmly and reassured her as he started back to shore. The female repeated she wanted to be let go and was constantly trying to get loose. Deputy Cahill was working against the water, wind, current and the female who he was attempting to rescue. Deputy Cahill was able to get the female in waist deep water, where Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe and Officer Martin Martinez entered the water to help control the female. It took Deputy Cahill 10-12 minutes in the water to get the female to Boardman Police where they could detain her safely on the shore.

It took a team effort to make this a successful rescue and save this woman's life. To all involved, thank you for your efforts and JOB WELL DONE!

Morrow County Undersheriff, John A. Bowles