



Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Office of the Coroner

Date: July 7, 2015

**From: Ernie Stewart, Chief Deputy Coroner
(707) 445-7242**

Subject: Reported Death, Kimtu

Case: 201503200

On July 4, 2015 at about 3:40 PM the Hoopa Ambulance responded to the Kimtu area for a reported drowning. Upon arrival they were informed that a subject had become unresponsive in the water and had been brought to shore by witnesses at the location.

Resuscitation efforts were immediately started and the subject was transported to Mad River Community Hospital. Prior to arriving at the hospital, the subject was declared deceased.

Due to conflicting witness statements, an autopsy was scheduled for July 7, 2015 to confirm the exact cause of death. The autopsy was completed but the results were inconclusive. Tissue and blood samples were taken for further analysis. It will be several weeks before the results of the additional analysis are known.

The deceased person has been positively identified as **Justin Russell Lawrence Bennich**, age 33, from Gladstone, Oregon.

Though the exact cause of death is pending, the Coroner's Office does not suspect any criminal activity relating to this incident.

**Ernie Stewart
Chief Deputy Coroner**