

**MARIPOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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**Case Number**  
MG1700802

**Date**  
07/01/17

**Deputy**  
J.TOTTEN

**Supplement 05**

On July 1, 2017 at approximately 1207 hours, dispatch advised Detective Charman that they received a call on 911 that someone had found a body in the Merced River but the reporting party lost cell service and they were unable to get any more information. Detective Charman drove to the Briceburg area to check but was advised that the reporting party called back and said that it was near Bagby Recreation Area. Deputy Atkinson checked the area and located the body at the following coordinates: N 37\* 35.731' x W -120\* 04.716'. Detective Charman responded along with SAR Units and was given a ride to the location. They found what appeared to be a male subject face down on the surface of the water that had obviously been submerged for an extended period of time as the body was very bloated and decomposing. The body was naked except for 1 Vans shoe. The shoe was consistent with the description of Ronnie Cole who had gone missing in the river 8 days prior. They were able to collect the body in a coroner bag designed for water recoveries before transporting it back to the Bagby Recreation area. The family of Ronnie Cole was waiting at the ramp. Detective Charman informed them that they had located a subject that could not be confirmed as Ronnie but they believed it to be him. They advised Detective Charman that Ronnie had gotten a new tattoo on his forearm that read "Cole" in cursive writing. The body was transported to the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office to wait for transport. Detective Charman was able to then do a more thorough check of the body and found a tattoo matching the one described by the family. The deceased was turned over to A&R Mortuary Services to be transported to the Stanislaus County Coroner's Office. See Detective Charman's Coroner's Report MG1700827.

Approved by : SGT.TOTTEN Date : 07/01/2017 10:37 PM