



Office of the Sheriff Powell County

Gavin R. Roselles, Sheriff

Law Enforcement Center

313 4th Street, Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

PRESS RELEASE AUTHORIZED BY SHERIFF GAVIN ROSELLES

Powell County MT, July 7, 2021.

On July 6th, at approximately 0414 hours, the Powell County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call stating that an individual had been attacked by a bear behind the Museum in Ovando. First responders from the Helmville and Ovando Fire Department and QRU along with Life Flight were dispatched to the scene and attempted to treat an adult female victim of a bear attack. Their efforts were unsuccessful. The victim of the attack has been identified as 65-year-old Leah Davis Lokan of Chico California.

During the investigation of the incident by the Powell County Sheriff's Office and Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks it was determined that the bear entered Ovando Monday Morning and encountered the female victim and another couple sleeping in their tents behind the Museum. The bear initially woke the campers and then ran away. The three campers removed food from their tents, secured it in another area designated for food storage and went back to bed.

A short time later, the two people in the tent adjacent to the victim were awakened by the sounds of the attack and deployed bear spray. At that point, the bear retreated and has not been seen since.

The Powell County Sheriff's Office along with the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks officers processed the scene and spent several hours searching for the bear involved in the attack, utilizing resources on the ground and in the air. Search efforts will continue over the next couple days and traps have been set in the area in case the bear does return.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the victim. Many thanks to the residents that assisted in the search and pulled together to support the first responders, the Powell County Sheriff's Office and the Fish Wildlife and Parks as we worked to process the scene and conduct the searches.

Campsites in Ovando have been closed until Sunday and we encourage anyone in the area to be cautious and aware that as of now, the bear has not been located.

Gavin R. Roselles - Sheriff
Powell County