

MEDIA RELEASE

On May 17th, at about 10:00 am, deputies responded to the Juniper Acres Subdivision South of Prineville to investigate a report of a missing 6 year old boy. When deputies arrived, they made contact with the boy's parents, Tonya Anne Herman and David Allen Hill.

According to the parents, their son Cody was last seen outside of the travel trailer with the two family dogs around 07:00 am. Moments later, Cody and the dogs disappeared from view and vanished according to the mother. Both parents attempted to find Cody for 2 hours before calling the Sheriff's Office. Temperatures were predicted to hover around 90 degrees mid-day. The parents reported that Cody wasn't wearing protection from the sun, and they didn't think he had any water with him.

At 10:45 am, members of the Crook County Search and Rescue Team responded to the scene. Search and Rescue Volunteers located Cody's footprints in the sand and followed them. Search and Rescue Volunteers located Cody and his dogs sitting under a tree about 1:00 PM. Cody had become lost and traveled approximately 2 miles through the desert. Cody was hungry and thirsty but otherwise in good health.

When Cody was asked if he was scared he replied: " Naw, I was just walk'in my dogs and could not find my parents". According to Commander Smith: "Cody did the right thing by staying calm. He also aided searchers by stopping when he discovered he was lost, and finding a nice tree to sit under to protect himself from the sun. Had Cody of continued wondering in the desert, it would have been harder to find him.

If you are interested in learning more about outdoor survival for children, please go to http://www.nasar.org/nasar/hug_a_tree_program.php to learn more about the "Hug a Tree and Survive" program