



KANAWHA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
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Sheriff Michael Y. Rutherford
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NEWS / MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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****MISSING PERSON UPDATE****



Coles, Mark A.

UPDATE 10/23/2024: A body recovered from the Kanawha River on January 20, 2023, in Montgomery, West Virginia has been confirmed to be Mr. Mark Coles, a missing person.

Mr. Coles, a 68-year-old resident of Rand, was reported missing to the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office on November 3rd, 2022, after his family reported not having contact with him since October 28, 2022.

A "SILVER ALERT" was placed on Mr. Coles and the KCSO Criminal Investigate Section took over the investigation efforts. Mr. Coles was known to travel on foot or by transit and had medical conditions that required regularly needed medications.

Detectives located video evidence showing Mr. Coles getting onto a KRT Bus in Rand on October 30th, 2022, and then getting off in Hughes Creek. He was later spotted near the Montgomery Bridge and Smithers area.

When the body was recovered almost three months after Mr. Coles disappeared, detectives had reason to believe the recovered body could be that of Mr. Coles; however, due to the conditions and time spent in the river, the body had to be sent to the West Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Marshall University Forensic Science Center conducted a familial DNA test, and the WV Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported this week the DNA test confirmed that the body was Mr. Mark Coles.

Unfortunately, this is never the outcome we hope for in a missing person's case and our hearts go out to the Coles family.



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