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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONTINUES INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH OF LAKE PARK MAN

The Union County Sheriff's Office continued its investigation into the death of a Lake Park man who went missing after an early morning run yesterday. James Martin (Mark) Hudspeth (50) of 6105 Creft Circle was found deceased behind a storage building at Faith United Methodist Church yesterday evening, following a day long search by family members, friends, volunteers and law enforcement officers in Lake Park. Mr. Hudspeth's wife reported him missing at about 11 a.m. when he did not return home from his usual early morning run around the Lake Park area. Responding officers searched the area with personnel and K-9s, and a Code Red notification was made to the community seeking information from anyone who might have seen him. Shortly before 6 pm, Sgt. Brian Griffin stopped to check an open door at a small storage building behind Faith United Methodist Church. Sgt. Griffin discovered that the open door itself was not an issue, but when he checked behind the building, he found Mr. Hudspeth on the ground, deceased.

Investigators spent hours on the scene Monday night processing it for evidence. As the circumstances surrounding Mr. Hudspeth's death are unknown at this time, authorities are calling the incident a "death investigation." Mr. Hudspeth's body was transported to the Medical Examiner's Office in Charlotte for forensic examination. Sheriff's Investigators were back on the scene today interviewing witnesses and conducting follow-up investigations.

Sheriff Eddie Cathey characterized the incident as highly unusual for Lake Park. "An incident of this magnitude is obviously serious matter of concern for the citizens in this community, and for our agency," said Sheriff Eddie Cathey. "We will work diligently to bring closure to this family and to this community as a result of this tragedy," he continued.

The Sheriff's Office will release additional information pending communication from the Medical Examiner's Office as soon as the results of their examination are complete.

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