



Office of the Washington County Sheriff

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 30, 2023

Authorities search for missing Inver Grove Heights man, vehicle located near Afton State Park

AFTON, Minn. -- The Washington County Sheriff's Office is seeking information on a missing person last seen in Inver Grove Heights.

Andrew Dropik, aged 31, was last spotted Tuesday, May 16th at a gas station in Inver Grove Heights. On Saturday, May 20th, family members located Andrew's unoccupied vehicle near Afton State Park, where he is known to frequently hike.

While it is not unusual for Andrew to have extended periods without contacting his family, he was notably absent from a recurring event on Saturday afternoon. This, combined with the discovery of his vehicle in Afton State Park, raised concerns and prompted his family to inform the authorities. Both the family and law enforcement suspect that Andrew may be undergoing a mental health crisis, and a handgun from Andrew's residence is unaccounted for.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, with support from the Minnesota State Patrol, Afton State Park Rangers, and the K9 Emergency Response Teams (KERT), conducted a comprehensive search operation in and around the Afton State Park. This effort has involved extensive ground searches, water recovery operations, helicopter and aerial searches, and canine detection and recovery methods.

Anyone with information on Andrew or his whereabouts is asked to contact the Washington County Sheriff's Office tip line at 651-430-7850. Andrew is described as a white male, 6'0", approximately 240 pounds, and facial hair. He was last seen wearing a red and blue baseball hat and a dark-colored shirt.

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