

Driver had .318% BAC following fatal crash

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
AND WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

The driver in a Marion County crash that killed a woman and four children had a blood-alcohol level of .318 percent — almost four times the legal limit, investigators said Oct. 10.

A Marion County judge deemed Favian Garcia "a danger to the public if released" and ordered him held without bail.

With his arm in a sling, Garcia, 27, of Gervais, appeared for arraignment before Judge Rafael Caso Oct. 10.

The four children killed in the head-on collision were identified by Oregon State Police earlier in the day.

Ivan Ricardo Medrano-Contreras, 8, Andrus Medrano-Contreras, 6, Dayanara Medrano-Perez, 4, and Angelina Vazquez-Crisp, 2, died when Garcia crashed a Land Rover head-on into a Buick Century driven by Lisette Medrano-Perez, 25, of Molalla, on Highway 99E north of Salem Sunday.

Medrano-Perez was driving to Salem with her three children and a 2-year-old niece. All five family members died at the scene.

Medrano-Perez was the 2-year-old's temporary legal guardian, said Oregon State Police Lt. Cari Boyd. She was set to be adopted by another family member next week.

Tony Mann, superintendent of the Molalla River School District, confirmed the two sons attended Molalla Elementary School as first and third graders. The school is providing counseling service and family support to classmates shaken by the tragedy.

Medrano-Perez brought energy and compassion to her role at Pheasant Pointe, an assisted living center located on a sleepy residential street in Molalla,



The crash occurred at Highway 99E and Nevada Street. PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON STATE POLICE



Investigators said that Favian Garcia had a blood-alcohol level of .318 percent, almost four times the legal limit, at the time of the crash.

said Chelsea Slaven, the home's executive director.

"You'll notice how quiet it is right now," Slaven said, gesturing to a silent lobby of residents. "We're all trying to go forward and do what we can to support our residents, our team members and our community as a whole."

Slaven said Medrano-Perez had a "heart of gold" and always went above and beyond for her coworkers.

Just last Friday, she visited the assisted living center on her day off to surprise one of her coworkers with a birthday gift.

"Anyone working in assisted living has a heart of gold and Lisette was certainly an example of that," Slaven said.

When Medrano-Perez left work over the weekend, Slaven said it was just like any other day. She said "see you soon" with a broad smile on her face before

walking out of the yellow living facility and down the curb lined with trees.

"I expected to see her again," Slaven said with tears in her eyes.

Garcia, who was not the registered owner of the Land Rover, was traveling north when he collided with the family's car while rounding a corner.

Garcia told a trooper responding to the crash that he had "a hangover all day."

He was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. At the hospital, another trooper said Garcia smelled of alcohol. According to a probable cause statement, his eyes were glassy and bloodshot. He slurred his words and refused a blood test.

Garcia was arrested on five counts of first-degree manslaughter, DUI, reckless driving and driving with a suspended license.

According to prosecutor Tiffany Un-

derwood, it was Garcia's third time appearing on DUI charges. He allegedly struck a parked car in Woodburn and lost his bumper in July. When he returned to retrieve his bumper, he was arrested. His blood-alcohol content was .28 percent. A warrant was issued for his arrest after he failed to appear for his arraignment.

He also was facing charges out of Marion County for intentionally preventing a convenience store clerk from calling 911 in April. Woodburn police reported that Garcia became angry at the clerk after she refused to sell him alcohol at 4:55 a.m.

When she told him she was going to call the police, he disconnected her phone three times.

Police later found Garcia standing in his apartment complex parking lot, where he was slurring his words and stumbling.

He also was convicted of DUI in 2011 in Marion County and for interfering with a Gervais police officer in 2013.

This pattern of drunk driving showed Garcia would be a danger to the community if released from jail, Underwood said. She requested that he be denied bail.

Caso ordered that Garcia be held without bail at Marion County jail.

His next hearing is scheduled for a hearing on Oct. 18.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at wmwoodwort@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6884 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth

Deputy of Oregon Department of Ed. forced to quit

NATALIE PATE
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Salam Noor, deputy superintendent of the Oregon Department of Education, has resigned.

Gov. Kate Brown "asked Salam Noor to resign because she was not satisfied with his ability to execute her vision for Oregon's education system," said Chris Pair, a spokesman for the governor's office.

The deputy superintendent oversees the education of more than a half-million students in more than 1,200 public and charter schools across Oregon.

Brown announced Noor's departure Oct. 11. His resignation letter is available on the governor's public records website.

Brown appointed Education Innovation Officer Colt Gill to serve as acting deputy superintendent, effective Wednesday. Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps will lead the recruitment effort for a permanent replacement.

Noor was appointed by Brown as deputy superintendent in July 2015. After his resignation was announced, various education leaders in the state issued

comments about his work on the state plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

"Salam has been a steady and passionate voice for students and championed a vision for a well-rounded education for the department," said John Larson, president of the Oregon Education Association.

"His work to move our state toward a more balanced system of assessment and bringing together all stakeholders to develop Oregon's ESSA plan have laid the foundation for a brighter future."

Noor was not able to be reached. In 2011, legislation made the governor the Superintendent of Schools with the authority to appoint a deputy to run the Oregon Department of Education. The deputy superintendent works closely with chief education officer, whose office is separate from the education department.

Gill, a former superintendent of the Bethel School District in Eugene, was appointed education innovation officer in 2016. He was tasked with advancing the governor's goal of increasing the number of students completing high school.

In Gill's 10 years with the Bethel



Salam Noor, pictured, the deputy superintendent of the Oregon Department of Education, was asked to resign by Gov. Kate Brown, Chris Pair, a spokesman for the governor's office said. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

School District, he "consistently improved graduation rates for historically underserved students," according to officials in the governor's office.

"Colt has cultivated strong partnerships with rural and urban school districts, communities, and students, recommending policies that will improve student success in every corner of the state," Brown said in a statement.

Gubernatorial candidate Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, said Noor's resignation

is evidence of Brown's ineffective leadership regarding education.

"The revolving staff doors across the entire Brown Administration reflect poor judgment in hiring and a lack of vision that even her own staff can't follow," Buehler said in a statement.

Contact Natalie Pate at npate@StatesmanJournal.com, 503-399-6745, or follow her on Twitter @NataliePate or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/nataliepatejournalist

CLASSIFIEDS

Appeal Tribune
silvertonappeal.com

The Stayton
Mail

Place an ad online 24/7 at StatesmanJournal.com or call 503-399-6789 • 1-800-556-3975

Find a new job or career

JOBS

the job network
JOBS.STATESMANJOURNAL.COM

Discover your new home

HOMES & RENTALS

Homes
STATESMANJOURNAL.COM/HOMES

Turn here for your next vehicle

AUTO

cars.com

Auctions, pets, services & stuff

STUFF

StatesmanJournal.com/classifieds
in print Wednesday through Sunday

TRUST THE HOMETOWN EXPERTS AT SILVERTON REALTY

SILVERTON REALTY

SERVING THE EAST VALLEY SINCE 1975

Kristen Barnes
Broker
503.873.3545 ext. 326

Marcia Branstetter
Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 318

Mary Cam
Broker
503-873-3545 ext. 320

Micha Christman
Office Manager
503-873-1425

Becky Craig
Broker
873-3545 ext. 313

Michael Schmidt
Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 314

Ryan Wertz
Broker
873-3545 ext. 322

Meredith Wertz
Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 324

Chuck White
Broker
873-3545 ext. 325

Christina Williamson
Broker
873-3545 ext. 315

Mason Branstetter
Principal Broker, GRI
873-3545 ext. 303

#A2422
WONDERFULLY UPDATED
4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2733 SQFT CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$389,900 (WVMLS#722076)

#A2432
PRIVATE LOCATION
4 BR, 3 BA 2680 SQFT 3.200 ACRES CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$519,880 (WVMLS#724206)

#A2383, A2384
CREEK FRONTAGE
2 LOTS 1.1 ACRES & 1.09 ACRES CALL MARCIA AT EXT. 318 \$179,000 & \$162,000 (WVMLS#715865 & 715869)

#A2402
WONDERFUL ESTATE
5 BR, 4 BA 3751 SQFT CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$549,900 (WVMLS#720151)

#A2436
QUIET RETREAT
3 BR, 2.5 BA, 3273 SQFT CALL KIRSTEN AT EXT. 326 OR CHUCK AT EXT. 325 \$559,900 (WVMLS#724403)

#A2411
READY FOR DREAM HOME
.34 ACRES CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$79,900 (WVMLS#709283)

#A2437
SUNSET VIEWS
5 BR 3 BA 2634 SQFT 31.87 ACRES CALL MICHAEL AT EXT. 314 \$649,900 (WVMLS#724661)

#A2416
LOTS OF POTENTIAL
5 BR, 6 BA, 6057 SQFT CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$649,900 (WVMLS#721150)

#A2354
3 HOME INVESTMENT PROPERTY
4 BR, 3 BA 1776 SQFT CALL MARCIA AT EXT. 318 \$399,000 (WVMLS#711358)

#A2435
UPDATED 1950'S HOME
3 BR, 2.5 BA 1725 SQFT CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$279,900 (WVMLS#724469)

#A2424
GREAT COUNTRY HOME
3 BR 3 BA 2808 SQFT CALL CHUCK AT EXT. 325 \$645,000 (WVMLS#722233)

#A2429
BUILDABLE 2.85 ACRES
2.85 ACRES CALL MEREDITH AT EXT. 324, RYAN AT EXT. 322 \$225,000 (WVMLS#724203)