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Missing Mt. Angel man's body found

David Davis and Virginia Barreda
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The body of a 30-year-old Mt. Angel man was located Sunday morning two months after he went missing in the Umpqua National Forest.

Douglas County Search and Rescue volunteers returned to the Clearwater area and located Jeffery Vance just before noon.

Vance went missing Feb. 3 after he became separated from friend Anthony Fennimore, 29, of Salem.

Fennimore told deputies he and Vance walked away from their pickup after they had experienced car troubles on Friday, Feb. 1 in the area of Clearwater and sep-



Vance

arated Sunday morning.

Fennimore found his way to a store in Glide on Highway 138 (North Umpqua Highway) and alerted authorities on the evening of Feb. 4.

Searchers located the pair's maroon 2008 Chevrolet Colorado on Feb. 6.

Search efforts were halted Feb. 9 because of heavy snowfall and didn't resume until Sunday.

Before halting the search, Vance's wife, Halie, said investigators told her they had narrowed his location but could not continue looking because of snow 10 to 12 feet high.

Vance said she was at work Sunday when she received a call that her husband had been found.

While she is unsure exactly where he was found, Vance said it took the team more than five hours to retrieve his body.

After a two-month wait, Vance said hearing the news was "terrible."

"I'm not naive," she said. "No one can be out there that long in the snow, but I was secretly hoping...he was hiding out and would show up. But I knew better."

The Douglas County Medical Examiner's Office is conducting a death investigation, but authorities say there are no immediate indications of foul play.

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Error hanging up proposed rock quarry



The sale of mineral rights for a proposed site for a rock quarry south of Silverton is under scrutiny after comments from those who live around the property. BILL POEHLER | STATESMAN JOURNAL

State Lands re-examining sale of mineral rights

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly a year after approving the sale of mineral and geothermal rights to the owner of a property south of Silverton who wants to open a rock quarry, the Oregon State Land Board is considering re-examining its sale after it finally opened the matter to public comment.

The property borders Silver Creek and is about

1,500 feet from Silverton Reservoir, a major source of drinking water for Silverton.

During the delayed public comment period, many in and around Silverton raised concerns about the potential for contamination of Silver Creek an active mining operation could have.

But the land use is not under the purview of the State Land Board and is instead a matter for Marion County, which approved the use for the site in 2015.

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New roadkill salvage law proves popular

Ben Botkin
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three months in, Oregonians have embraced a new law that lets them claim for food deer and elk killed along the state's highways.

More than 200 permits were issued by March 31, and primarily where expected: rural areas with an abundant supply of both wildlife and motorists. Urban areas and far-flung, sparsely populated counties, not so much.

The law allows people to take deer and elk killed by vehicles, whether their own or someone else's. Other

animal species are not included.

Highways near small and medium-size towns are roadkill hotspots. Residents near La Grande in eastern Oregon and Klamath Falls in southern Oregon applied for the most roadkill permits, state data show.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which administers the roadkill permit system — officially known as road salvage permits — provided the data in response to a public records request from the Statesman Journal.

Agency officials expected people to apply for the new permits, but they didn't know what type of vol-

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This photo shows a statue of the goddess of Justice balancing the scales. DAMIEN MEYER, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

More than 40 officers listed as questionable witnesses

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lists kept by district attorneys across the country track law enforcement officers who prosecutors refuse to call as witnesses because of their history of dishonesty, unreliability and even criminal activity.

In Marion County, nearly four dozen current and former officers are included on the so-called Brady index — officers whose participation prosecutors believe would undermine their cases at trial.

They include Oregon State Police troopers, Marion County deputies and Salem Police officers along with eight civilian employees, such as Department of Human Services caseworkers.

Some are officers who forged evidence and investigators exposed for botching criminal cases. Some resigned quietly amidst internal investigations. Some are still working in law enforcement.

Many current and former officers say they were unfairly placed on the list and have not been able to appeal their Brady designation, despite essentially being barred from investigating cases and working with inmates.

Marion County prosecutors acknowledged the Brady index provided to the Statesman Journal is not a full list of unreliable witnesses in law enforcement. The names and documents relating to ongoing civil litigation, criminal cases and personnel discipline were redacted or withheld.

The Marion County index — obtained through a public records request by the Statesman Journal — contains the names of 47 former and current troopers, deputies and officers along with eight civilian employees.

Next to most names on the list, in all capital letters, is the phrase, "DO NOT CALL" as a witness.

Sean Banks, a deputy arrested on theft, tampering and misconduct charges is not on the list. Nor is a former detective investigated for repeated untruthfulness, including during a child abuse investigation.

An investigator's dishonesty and misconduct can have wide-reaching effects. Prosecutors recently confirmed multiple criminal cases were dismissed due to Banks' lack of credibility.

District attorney officials said they have not completed their formal analysis on Banks and other former officers, which is why they don't appear on the

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