

GP homicide investigated

The death of an elderly woman in the city of Grants Pass, which first seemed to be of natural causes, has been ruled a homicide, Det. Sgt. Rob Gunderson, of GP Dept. of Public Safety, said Monday, Nov. 26.

The woman is identified as Lola A. Pierce, 82, of Cloverlawn Drive. She was found deceased by city officers on Saturday, Nov. 17 after neighbors said that she hadn't been seen for a couple of days.

Officers entered the home and conducted an initial investigation, finding no cause for suspicion, Gunderson said. When detectives went to the residence two days later, following up on the unattended death, they found out-of-state family members, who had been notified of the death, at the home.

"During the interview with family members, suspi-

cions were raised," said Gunderson, "based on physical evidence at the scene, and on some things detectives observed while at the residence.

"Based on those observations, an autopsy was requested, and conducted by the medical examiner, who determined the manner of death was homicide."

Gunderson added that the Oregon State Police Crime Lab in Central Point was contacted to process the crime scene. Information was not released to news media, he said, "to allow investigators time without raising the suspicion of the suspect.

"The cause of death and circumstances surrounding the death are not being released at this time as they could interfere with the investigation," he said.

Investigation is continuing. Anyone with information about the deceased is asked to phone 474-6370.

DUII crash handled by OSP

Cave Junction resident Richard W. Wagner, 47, was arrested two hours after a three-vehicle injury traffic crash, and cited and released on charges including driving under the influence of an intoxicant.

Oregon State Police added that the accident occurred on Hwy. 199 near milepost 36, south of O'Brien, on Friday, Nov. 23. It was reported at 5:15 p.m.

Besides DUII, Wagner was cited on charges of driving with a revoked license, failure to perform the duties of a driver/injury accident, providing false information, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, driving without insurance, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a vehicle.

Other drivers were identified as Paul Garcia, 82, of Crescent City, Calif.; and Ger Xiong, 23, of Marysville, Calif. Xiong had a passenger, identified as Kong Pang Yang, 4, also of Marysville.

Xiong was taken by American Medical Response to Three Rivers Community Hospital for treatment of minor injuries, OSP said.

Troopers provided the following scenario:

Wagner was southbound on 199, coasting on the shoulder after his pickup truck ran out of gasoline. He swerved back onto the highway as Garcia, also southbound, began to pass.

Garcia's Chevy Cavalier struck the left rear of the pickup, and glanced off the side of the box into the path of Xiong. Garcia and Xiong met, driver's side to driver's side.

Wagner and his vehicle were pushed off the road by bystanders, and he made it to O'Brien Store, where he purchased gasoline. He went up Lone Mountain Road, and an trooper caught up with him as he turned onto Naue Way.

His blood alcohol content two hours after the crash was .025 percent, OSP said.

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Tales from the Police Blotter

(Editor's Note: Factual information for 'Blotter' is provided by official law enforcement agencies. All persons listed are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.)

Sunday, Nov. 18

*A man with a long, black mustache and a very big knife figured in a disturbance at a Cave Junction business on 8:24 p.m. People were yelling; there were no apparent injuries. It was said that the man with the knife returned to a party on Dogwood Lane.

*A woman in Selma said that her husband, who might have been intoxicated, took her vehicle without permission. She phoned later to say it was all OK; she had the vehicle back, and he didn't know where.

*Max Taylor, 22, was cited on a charge of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUII) in Downtown CJ at 9:47 p.m.

*After an OSP game officer was in foot pursuit in the 7000 block of Rockydale Road, and couldn't be contacted by radio, deputies responded at 10:07 p.m. The trooper was OK; apparently he was chasing a possible deer poacher.

*Following a chase at 11:13 p.m., the pursuing deputy lost sight of the vehicle near a Cave Junction tavern.

*Unbelievably clever persons placed traffic cones on the roadway at Redwood Hwy. and Laurel Road.

*Close to midnight, a dep-

uty assisted an OSP trooper with a DUII driver at Sis's Gap near milepost 23.

Monday, Nov. 19

*In Selma a man that his former care-taker had threatened to "butcher" him.

*A Madrona Drive residence was reported burglarized.

*On Waldo Road, a woman reported that someone who was on the run from the police had hidden overnight in a building next to her house. The person was gone when a family member checked.

*A man on Kendall Road said that his cat apparently was shot with a pellet gun. He said that his dog was shot similarly last year.

*Jeff D. Lauderdale, 30, was taken to Josephine County Jail on a charge of violating probation.

*With an emphatic "Nothing happened here," medical units were advised to not respond to what might have been (the caller was hard to understand) a report of a violent confrontation resulting in a man in Kerby being stuck in his neck with a needle.

*In the 400 block of S. Redwood Hwy., Dennis P. Miller, 45, was cited on charges of driving with a suspended license (DWS), and driving without insurance. His vehicle was impounded.

*Someone took an ax to the door of St. Matthias Episcopal Church to gain entry. It was unknown if anything was missing, but someone supplied suspect information.

*Two bottles of liquor were reported stolen from a restaurant in Downtown CJ by youths taking advantage of a power outage.

*In the 38000 block of Redwood Hwy. a woman was concerned that her neighbor might not be shooting in a safe manner, and requested a deputy check on it.

*Following a traffic stop on E. River Street at Old Stage Road, Manuel Joseph Cere-

cedes, 24, was jailed on warrants charging failure to appear (FTA). Cerecedes also was cited for failure to carry proof of insurance, and his vehicle was impounded. Passenger Justin Leavitt, 36, was cited on warrants from Medford and Josephine County charging FTA and lodged in county jail.

*Mark L. Jordan, 46, was cited on a charge of DWS on N. Redwood Hwy. at E. River Street at 11:20 p.m. His vehicle was impounded.

*At quarter to midnight, a man phoned from Downtown CJ to reported that he'd suffered injuries to his head and jaw after he was assaulted at a tavern by a 6-foot tall man with brown hair who left on foot.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

*Neil Joseph Martinez, 50, was cited on a charge of DWS. The vehicle he was driving was impounded.

*A man who'd reported himself assaulted earlier was contacted at 1 a.m. and transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH).

*Her former tenant threatened to beat her because she disposed of property left behind some two years ago, a woman stated.

*Theft of a 20-inch BMX bike from a residence on N. Junction Avenue was reported.

*From Selma a caller reported that her mother was using drugs and threatening to harm herself. When contacted, the woman consented to go to TRCH for evaluation.

*Following a complaint that a man made threatening comments toward a woman and spun out on Hussey Avenue, he was counseled on his driving habits.

*In the 37000 block of Redwood Hwy. a man reported theft of prescription medication and a credit card. He later stated that the issue had been resolved.

*During a search of Illinois Valley High School students due to recent bomb

threats, one student was found in possession of marijuana. The issue was dealt with by the school.

*A Kerby resident reported that the driver of a brown pickup truck pulled over in front of the residence to yell at a small child riding in the bed.

*A deer needed dispatching in the 21000 block of Redwood Hwy. at 9:18 p.m.

*Samuel A. Simpson, 19, was cited on a charge of VBR (violation of the basic rule). He was said to be traveling 75 mph in a 45 mph zone.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 30

*Daily Favorites

Nacho Supreme, corn dog, hot dog or Polish dog, spicy chicken burger, supreme or taco pizza, Italian sandwich, & chicken Caesar salad.

MONDAY, DEC. 3

*Daily Favorites

Beef soft tacos, chicken nuggets, spicy chicken burger, vegetarian or sausage pizza, ham & cheese sandwich or fiesta salad.

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

*Daily Favorites

Chicken fajitas, Rib-B-que sandwich, chicken burger, supreme pizza, roast beef & cheese, garden salad

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

*Daily Favorites

Taco salad, chicken or beef rice bowls, spicy chicken burger, taco pizza, veggie sandwich, antipasto salad

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