

Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press. Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say

No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs. When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration — and doing

it based on astrology to boot. All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency. Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004 she dedicated herself to tending his legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as governor. She also championed Alzheimer's

raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell studies. Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles helped smooth over the public's fickle perceptions of the former first lady. The Reagans' mutual devotion over 52 years of marriage was legendary. They were forever holding hands. She watched his political speeches with a look of such steady adoration it was dubbed "the gaze."

NUDE: Took a group of 20 people to rescue him

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inspect the Wilson's shed, took off running. Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said Burton dashed north, scaled a cyclone fence and dove off the side of a 40- or 50-foot bluff that borders the Umatilla River near the Riverside Bridge. When officers heard no splash or other indication the man had hit bottom, they ran to get a better view.

"When they got there, they looked down," Roberts said. "He was hanging upside-down in a tree."

Roberts said the apparently drug-intoxicated Hermiston man was combative. Burton hung, his left ankle wedged in the crotch of a tree and his head about five or six feet from the bank.

Officers called for assistance from Emergency Medical Services and Umatilla County Search & Rescue. Pendleton firefighter/paramedic Jeremy Keene, who made his way down a steep game trail, was the first to reach the injured man.

"He was hollering for help," Keene said. "He was struggling to get free."

Keene had been warned by law enforcement that the man was combative. He pulled back until Dwight Johnson, a Umatilla County Sheriff's Deputy and sergeant with Search & Rescue, joined him. They pondered how to dislodge the contentious fugitive.

"He flailed at us a bit," Johnson said. "We worked to keep him calm."

Johnson recognized that Burton seem to be in "excited delirium," a state sometimes triggered by drugs. Drugs might also have earlier driven Burton to remove his wet clothes on the riverbank below the Wilson home.

"With drugs such as PCP and acid, the physiology changes," Roberts said.

"People sometimes get hot and start disrobing." Johnson said the rescuers had three priorities: "get this guy out of the tree, keep him from escaping and keep ourselves from getting injured."

Eventually, Burton allowed Johnson to wrap a rope around his chest and another around his ankle. From above, others manipulated the lines, bringing him horizontal and then lowering him to the ground. The group of rescuers and law enforcement had grown to about 20, according to Keene. At one point, the agitated Burton lunged toward the weapon of Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Deputy John Reitz. Soon, they talked the man into getting into a suspended stretcher, handcuffed and sedated him and had rescuers at the top of the bluff lift him to safety. Firefighter/paramedic Jared Uselman, on his first official call as a Pendleton firefighter/paramedic, clipped in to the stretcher with a carabiner and accompanied Burton as he used another rope to climb.

Burton was taken to St. Anthony Hospital for an examination before heading to jail. He faces charges of burglary, harassment, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Wilson said she feels grateful to police, firefighters and SAR personnel who responded. She won't forget the kindness of Sgt. Charles Byrum who stepped inside the house numerous times during the three-hour rescue operation to check on her.

Wilson remains feisty about the experience and said she moved her pistol to the front room.

"I'm not afraid to use it," she said.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

BIKE: Region's first major race of the season

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a way to improve his health and has been riding in Red 2 Red for the past four years.

While he used to start with the rest of the pack, the laborious nature of muncycling meant he was forced to leave the course before he could finish.

So this year, he started at 6:10 a.m. and spent the next seven hours going over a course that winded many seasoned two-wheel riders.

Myers is the uncle of Shayne Myers, who helped build the course and co-owns Echo Bike & Board with his wife, Stephanie.

Although the shop has since moved to Pendleton, Echo Bike & Board returned to its namesake town to help organize the race.

Stephanie said Red 2 Red is the Northwest's first major mountain bike race of the season, given that most other bike trails are covered in snow or bogged down in mud.

The field was divided into several groups based on skill level, age, gender and duration of ride, with options to bike 12 miles, 25 miles or the entire 32-mile course.

Stephanie said organizers change the layout of the course each year, meaning there are no Red 2 Red records to be set or broken.

By noon every group was on the course, which takes cyclists through the heart of Lloyd Piercy's Echo West vineyards.

In return for the physical punishment sustained from the winding course, race participants are given scenic views of the Umatilla River and the high desert.

Driving through the rows of Zinfandel and Pinot Noir Saturday, Piercy said he views himself as a steward of the land, which is one of the reasons he allowed organizers Shayne Myers and Brian Cimmiyotti to build



Two Red 2 Red competitors bike down the track through Echo West Vineyards Saturday.

Photo by Antonio Sierra



Racers travel down Main Street at the Echo Red 2 Red Cross Country Mountain Bike Race Saturday.

Photo by Antonio Sierra

the course 10 years ago.

Before then, Piercy used the area as a cattle pasture, but he has since removed the cows to give cyclists a sense of the high desert's natural beauty.

Before returning to Echo, Piercy stopped by an area looking over the Umatilla River, where Kenji Sugahara was flying a drone that was taking video of the race.

Sugahara, executive director of the Oregon Bike Racing Association and a member of the state's tourism commission, said Eastern Oregon was one of his favorite parts of the state and was an ideal place for a bike race.

While operating drones was more of a hobby, Sugahara said he was happy to use video footage that could

draw tourism to the area. "Rural Oregon needs as much economic help as it can get," he said.

Piercy agreed with Sugahara's assessment, saying events like Red 2 Red and businesses like his own Sno Road Winery bring much-needed economic development to a city that's been hit hard by the mechanization of the agriculture industry.

Taking home first place for finishing the entire course was Red 2 Red newcomer Jamey Yanik of Boise, Idaho, who finished all 32 miles in a little over two hours.

The former pro had just started to get back into competitive cycling and wasn't expecting to take home the top prize on such a tough course.

"It's such a long day and hard day, you just take what your body gives you," the 39-year-old said.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.

MURDER: No arrests yet in 2010 Morrow County murder

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officer got to Madrigal as he drew his last breath.

Two weeks later, a vehicle associated with the murder turned up in southern California. Detectives flew to Los Angeles. Edmiston credited the Scientific Services Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for finding clues that helped confirm what police thought was taking place.

Edmiston, though, said he could not discuss a theory of the crime or provide certain details because he did not want to jeopardize the investigation. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus said much the same.

He and Edmiston met for lunch last week and discussed the homicide. Primus, who is

running for re-election, said Hermiston police keep his office informed about developments and actions in the case. He explained providing details of a crime, though — what kind of gun a shooter used, for example, or where the victim was shot — makes it harder for police to sort out what happened and then for his office to bring charges.

Law enforcement in Morrow County is in a similar hard place with the murder of 16-year-old Ariel Velasco. Someone gunned him down in the street the night of Dec. 18, 2010. So far, no arrests.

Morrow County District Attorney said without a cold case team to crack the case, police have to wait for someone to spill a new clue.

"I think there's still people

out there that know," he said, "... but no one has come forward."

Nelson said Velasco's older brother, Alexandre "Alex" Perez Velasco, 24, is wanted on an attempted murder charge for the November 2012 shooting of David Ramirez in Boardman. And Ramirez, 33, of Irrigon, was one of 13 people the Blue Mountain Enforcement Narcotics Team arrested in late February. He now faces drug charges.

Nelson said maybe with time a person would mature and break from the gang rules of staying silent. But until then, it looks like a killer remains free.

Edmiston said Hermiston police are on the right track to find who killed Madrigal, even if the case is a slog.

"A handful of people have intimate knowledge of what took place that night," Edmiston said. "We're confident knowing that the people involved have had criminal histories in the past and will continue to have engagements with law enforcement."

KOVACH: Has a master's degree in teaching

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position in Walla Walla.

Kovach has been the principal at Ontario High School since 2012, and during that time the graduation rate has increased from 54 percent to 79 percent, according to the press release.

During his open interview with the district he talked about the career and technical education programs his district had added, and said new courses in engineering and bio-medicine have been added. He was previously an associate principal at the high

school, an elementary school principal and the director of migrant education for the district. He also was an associate middle school principal and social studies teacher in Nyssa, and was a teacher and special services coordinator in Crane.

He has a master's degree in teaching from Willamette University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Oregon State University.

"My philosophy of education is founded on commitment and hard work," Kovach said in the release. "To be successful we must

commit ourselves to excellence and be willing to do the hard work and make the hard choices in order to change things for the better."

He went on to say schools must offer a safe and welcoming environment that offers a range of activities to keep students engaged. He also said he plans to spend a lot of time in Pendleton in the coming months to learn about the community and schools.

"I invite anyone who has thoughts about Pendleton's schools to contact me," he said. "I'd like to listen."

UAS: Test flights were less than 400 feet above unpopulated areas

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data with UAS."

The test flights were less than 400 feet above unpopulated areas during daylight hours and in accordance with FAA regulations, according to the release.

In January, Hubbell said the relationship between the test range and the laboratory will be "longterm," with a crew of 8-10 pilots and scientists for the first round of training and testing and smaller groups of 2-4 people for subsequent trainings.

Based in Richland, Washington, PNNL is one of 10 national science laboratories managed by the U.S. Department of Energy. The lab does research for DOE, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the National Nuclear Security Administration, other

government agencies, universities and industry.

The PNNL team was accompanied by a representative from ArgenTech Solutions, a technical services company with a UAS office based in Vancouver, Washington.

The Pendleton UAS Range is part of the Alaskan led Pan-Pacific Test Site Complex, one of the six FAA designated testing locations in the country. Oregon supports the range through SOAR Oregon, a state-funded non-profit with the mission of fostering the growth of Oregon's unmanned aircraft industry.

"The City of Pendleton and (ArgenTech Solutions) have provided the ideal operational area for us to complete our current and future missions," Hubbell said.

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