

Police: Oregon woman killed died of blunt force trauma

BEND (AP) — A body found off a rural highway has been identified as that of a young woman who went missing early Sunday, police said Thursday.

An autopsy revealed 23-year-old Kaylee Sawyer died of blunt force trauma, but no more information about how she was killed will be immediately released “based on legal restrictions with this investigation,” the Bend Police Department said in a statement.

Edwin Lara, 31, a security guard at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, was charged Tuesday and is jailed in Northern California after he was arrested there the same day as a suspect in a shooting and carjacking in the town of Yreka.

Sawyer disappeared early Sunday during a walk alone in the middle of the night in Bend after arguing her boyfriend. Her body was found Tuesday

off Highway 126 at the bottom of a small canyon between the Central Oregon towns of Redmond and Sisters, police said.

Lara’s wife, Isabel Ponce-Lara, on Monday went to police in their hometown of Redmond to report that Lara had told her he hit Sawyer with his patrol vehicle, killing her, then panicked and hid her body, according to documents filed in court.

Lara tearfully told her the story and then drove off, said Ponce-Lara, a new Bend police officer who was worried that he was suicidal.

Police searching the couple’s home found Sawyer’s blood-soaked purse and bloody women’s and men’s clothing in a shed, according to 62 pages of affidavits filed with the Deschutes County Circuit Court in Bend.

Court documents said evidence showed Lara had

committed crimes of vehicular homicide, assault and hit-and-run.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel said he did not believe Lara accidentally ran over Sawyer, adding that he could not say what evidence led his office to charge Lara with murder instead of vehicular homicide.

Lara’s court-appointed attorney, Benjamin Kim, declined to comment about his client and the case.

He cited an order from Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Alta Brady prohibiting prosecutors, defense attorneys and police from speaking publicly about it.

Brady’s office did not immediately return a telephone message left by The Associated Press seeking comment about the gag order.

Lara is charged in the Yreka case with attempted murder and kidnapping.

BRIEFLY



Timothy Bullard/Grants Pass Daily Courier via AP, File

In this 2005 file photo, a lower Rogue River rafter takes in the history and the view of Zane Grey’s cabin in Grants Pass. Zane Grey’s one-room cabin on Oregon’s Rogue River has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Zane Grey’s cabin added to historic places registry

PORTLAND (AP) — A small cabin on Oregon’s Rogue River has been designated for preservation under the National Register of Historic Places.

The cabin was once owned by Zane Grey, the writer best known for Western novels such as “Riders of the Purple Sage.”

After floating the Rogue River’s rapids and falling in love with its steelhead trout, Grey bought a mining claim in 1926 at Winkle Bar, where he built the cabin that became his wilderness retreat.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management purchased the property in 2008 to help preserve it.

Visitors to the cabin can see the remains of a wooden boat that’s thought to be one of the vessels from Grey’s first journey down the river in 1925.

Central Oregon may have more insurance options than expected

BEND (AP) — Central Oregon residents might have more health insurance options than expected next year.

The Bend Bulletin reports that several Oregon health insurers are shrinking their coverage area because the individual market is more expensive than they anticipated. State regulators have announced, however, that four carriers appear open to expanding their coverage area:

Providence Health Plan, BridgeSpan Health Co., Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon and ATRIO Health Plans.

Health Net Health Plan of Oregon and PacificSource Health Plans have already agreed to sell individual policies in Deschutes County in 2017.

Patrick Allen, director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, says regulators have been encouraging insurers to expand to Oregon’s more rural areas.

He says regulators will meet with carriers to hash out final coverage areas on Monday.

Former OSU student found guilty of rape

CORVALLIS (AP) — A former Oregon State University student has been found guilty of raping a woman at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity last year.

The Corvallis Gazette-Times reports that Tyler Lazell Warren on Wednesday was found guilty of rape, sexual abuse and burglary in connection with the July 2015 incident at the fraternity.

Warren was accused of raping a 21-year-old female student following her birthday party. The victim had been renting a room at the fraternity over the summer and both she and Warren were drinking when the assault occurred.

The defense argued the sex was consensual but prosecutors said the victim was too intoxicated to give consent.

Mystery surrounds death of Salem inmate

SALEM (AP) — The death of a 27-year-old Salem man at the Oregon State Penitentiary remains a mystery more than a week after it happened.

James Howland died July 18 after being found unresponsive in his cell three days earlier.

Staff members at the Salem prison were recently notified of 10 separate incidents in which inmates needed medical intervention and hospitalization after they started experiencing seizure-like symptoms, vomiting and difficulty breathing, the Statesman Journal reported.

In half those cases, inmates were discovered with synthetic marijuana in their possession.

The memo didn’t mention Howland by name, but said: “One of those incidents resulted in the eventual death of an inmate.”

Oregon Department of Corrections spokeswoman Elizabeth Craig clarified the memo and said the department made a mistake in attributing the death to the drug.

“A conclusion about his

death has not been made and DOC is not the entity that makes that conclusion,” she said.

Deputy State Medical Examiner Dr. Larry Lewman is awaiting toxicology reports and Oregon State Police are handling the investigation.

Crystal Gonzalez, Howland’s sister, said her brother was on life support at Salem Hospital for two days before officials contacted her.

She said the family decided to take Howland off life support after being told he was brain dead and would not recover. Prison officials told her Howland had been unconscious for 20 minutes before he was found, Gonzalez said.

She waited until her mother returned from a trip, and then said their goodbyes. Immediately, his hospital room was declared a crime scene and they left, Gonzalez said.

His body remains at a funeral home while his family waits for an autopsy report.

“We’re angry,” Gonzalez said. “We’re sad, and nobody is giving us answers.”

Synthetic marijuana, also known as “Spice” and “K2,” was once sold at freely at smoke shops under the guise of being an herbal incense product.

The drug is usually a dried herb doused in chemicals that produce a marijuana-like high. It is notorious for causing bad reactions such as paranoia, suicidal thoughts, accelerated heart rate, brain damage and even death, the memo to prison staff said.

Howland was convicted in 2009 of stealing a car and eluding police. His relatives said he stayed out of trouble after serving time, but returned to his old ways after his brother’s suicide.

Howland pleaded guilty in 2014 to reckless driving, hit-and-run with property damage and unauthorized use of a vehicle. His earliest release date was in 6 1/2 years.

Kristi Howland, his mother, said her son took parenting classes, worked in the prison kitchen and tried to spend as much time as possible outside in the prison yard.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

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541-278-2669 • jperkinson@eastoregonian.com

Advertising Services: Laura Jensen
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Multimedia Consultants:
• Terri Briggs
541-278-2678 • tbriggs@eastoregonian.com

• Amanda Jacobs
541-278-2683 • ajacobs@eastoregonian.com

• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com

• Chris McClellan
541-966-0827 • cmcclellan@eastoregonian.com

• Stephanie Newsom
541-278-2687 • snewsom@eastoregonian.com

• Dayle Stinson
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

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COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
HOT				
Very hot with plenty of sunshine	Breezy with plenty of sunshine	Pleasant with plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny and pleasant	Mostly sunny and not as warm
100° 67°	95° 59°	88° 57°	90° 59°	81° 56°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
104° 68° 99° 61° 92° 57° 92° 61° 86° 57°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE
HIGH LOW
Yesterday 98° 62°
Normals 90° 60°
Records 106° (1968) 43° (1910)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.80"
Normal month to date 0.32"
Year to date 7.32"
Last year to date 5.00"
Normal year to date 7.94"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE
HIGH LOW
Yesterday 100° 62°
Normals 90° 60°
Records 108° (1939) 42° (1929)

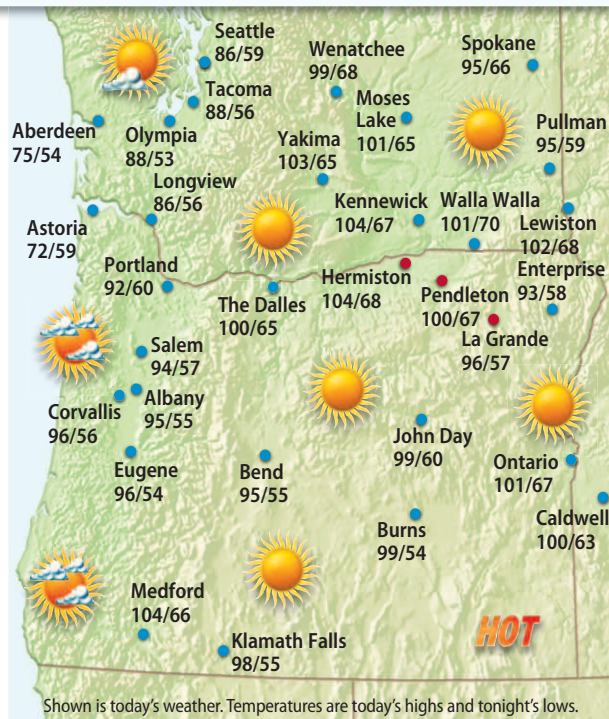
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.30"
Normal month to date 0.20"
Year to date 4.94"
Last year to date 3.25"
Normal year to date 5.93"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:35 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:27 p.m.
Moonrise today 1:45 a.m.
Moonset today 4:45 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 2	Aug 10	Aug 18	Aug 24



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Areas of low clouds and fog, then sunshine today; windy during the afternoon.
Eastern Washington: Plenty of sunshine today. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Hot today with plenty of sun. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow; hot.
Cascades: Plenty of sunshine today; hot. Clear tonight. Not as warm tomorrow.
Western Washington: Mostly sunny today, except areas of low clouds and fog at the coast.
Northern California: Mostly sunny today. Hot; pleasant at the coast.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	72	59	pc	69	60	pc
Baker City	94	51	s	92	44	s
Bend	95	55	s	89	47	s
Brookings	72	57	pc	71	54	pc
Burns	99	54	s	97	49	s
Enterprise	93	58	s	91	50	s
Eugene	96	54	s	87	50	s
Heppner	98	61	s	92	53	s
Hermiston	104	68	s	99	61	s
John Day	99	60	s	96	55	s
Klamath Falls	98	55	s	93	51	s
La Grande	96	57	s	93	50	s
Meacham	93	52	s	89	46	s
Medford	104	66	s	98	60	s
Newport	66	52	pc	65	51	pc
North Bend	68	55	pc	67	53	pc
Ontario	101	67	s	103	64	s
Pasco	103	63	s	99	59	s
Pendleton	100	67	s	95	59	s
Portland	92	60	s	82	59	pc
Redmond	99	53	s	93	45	s
Salem	94	57	s	84	54	pc
Spokane	95	66	s	91	59	s
Ukiah	93	54	s	89	46	s
Vancouver	91	59	s	80	57	pc
Walla Walla	101	70	s	95	64	s
Yakima	103	65	s	97	59	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	94	78	pc	89	76	t
Hong Kong	95	82	s	97	82	t
Jerusalem	88	68	s	87	69	s
London	74	58	sh	74	56	pc
Mexico City	73	55	t	73	55	t
Moscow	83	64	s	83	64	t
Paris	78	60	pc	76	58	s
Rome	84	67	s	85	69	s
Seoul	85	78	t	88	76	pc
Sydney	65	48	pc	65	49	pc
Tokyo	85	72	pc	86	75	pc

WINDS

(in mph) Today Saturday
Boardman WSW 3-6 WSW 8-16
Pendleton WNW 4-8 W 10-20

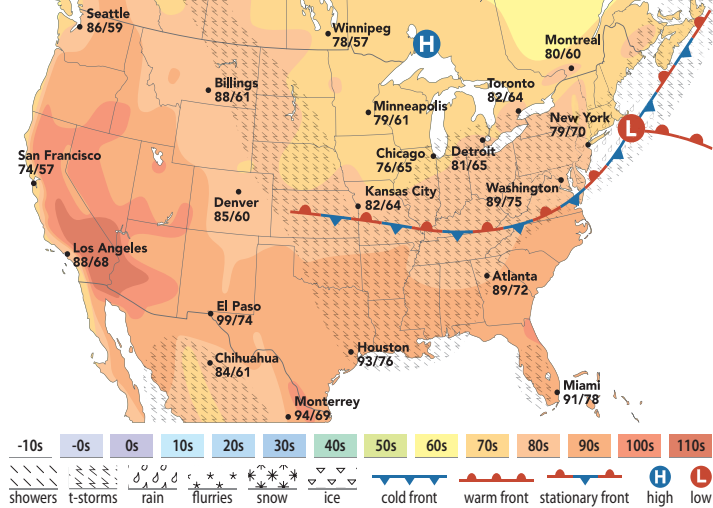
UV INDEX TODAY

1 4 7 7 4 1
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.				Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	96	68	pc	94	68	pc	Louisville	86	72	pc	84	70	t
Atlanta	89	72	pc	92	73	pc	Memphis	87	74	t	90	75	t
Atlantic City	84	72	t	83	74	c	Miami	91	78	pc	92	78	pc
Baltimore	86	71	pc	86	71	t	Milwaukee	76	65	pc	78	64	c
Billings	88	61	s	95	65	s	Minneapolis	79	61	s	81	65	pc
Birmingham	87	73	t	92	73	t	Nashville	85	71	pc	87	70	t
Boise	100	68	s	100	66	s	New Orleans	92	79	t	91	79	t
Boston	77	67	r	82	69	pc	New York City	79	70	r	82	71	t
Charleston, SC	99	78	s	98	78	pc	Oklahoma City	92	71	t	91	72	pc
Charleston, WV	82	69	pc	82	67	t	Omaha	80	63	pc	83	68	pc
Chicago	76	65	pc	82	67	t	Philadelphia	86	71	r	85	72	t
Cleveland	84	67	pc	77	61	c	Phoenix	113	90	pc	103	83	pc
Dallas	97	78	c	97	78	pc	Portland, ME	77	62	r	82	62	pc
Denver	85	60	pc	94	63	pc	Providence	76	65	r	85	67	pc
Detroit	81	65	t	82	65	c</							