

Walla Walla woman killed in crash, local woman hurt

By PHIL WRIGHT
East Oregonian

Two locals were involved in a four-vehicle crash Monday that took the life of a Walla Walla woman.

The Washington State Patrol reported the deadly wreck occurred about 7:15 a.m. near College Place on State Route 125 and Old Milton Highway.

A gray 2003 Volkswagen Passat and a white 2013 Volkswagen Jetta were stopped at the traffic light

northbound on State Route 125 at Old Milton Highway, and a black 2011 Hyundai Sonata was eastbound on Old Milton Highway at State Route 125 when a yellow 2002 Nissan Xterra heading south 125 failed to yield to the traffic control device. According to the state patrol, the Nissan crashed into the Hyundai in the intersection, then collided with the two Volkswagens.

Ruby Gonzalez-Romero, 27, of Milton-Freewater drove the Passat, and McK-

enzie R. Fuhrman, 24, of Weston, drove the Jetta. An ambulance took Gonzalez-Romero to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, while Fuhrman was uninjured.

Flor I. Perez, 38, of Walla Walla drove the Nissan. She also went to St. Mary.

Sydney L. English-Hawkins, 23, of Walla Walla, drove the Hyundai. She died at the scene. Washington State Patrol also reported a 1-year-old girl and 3-month-old boy were in the Hyundai.

They suffered injuries and also went to St. Mary.

Washington State Patrol reported the crash is under investigation and charges are pending.

Oregon State Police responded to several crashes during the weekend, including the following, and none involved injuries:

• Friday at 11:01 p.m. — Mahlon Paul Zehr, 33, of Milton-Freewater was driving a white Ford F150 east on Interstate 84 when he grew drowsy near milepost

196 and drifted into the back of a Jeep Grand Cherokee towing a trailer.

• Saturday at 7:09 p.m. — Bryon Christopher Vandenkaker, 41, of Lancaster, California, crashed after trying to pass a semi-tractor. He was heading south on Highway 11 near milepost 18 and tried to pass in the right lane. As that lane merged with the left lane, Vandenkaker lost control. The car left the east side of the highway and came to a stop in a field. State police reported the

damage to his car was probably less than \$2,500.

• Saturday at 10:39 p.m. — State police responded to the Interstate 84 eastbound exit at milepost 210 to find flames engulfing a white Nissan Maxima, but the driver, Daniel Dewey Ocaio, 33, of Madras, was not in sight.

Pendleton police later found Ocaio and arrested him on a warrant for a probation violation, plus charges of reckless driving, reckless endangering, and hit and run, which stem from the crash.

HEPPNER

Morrow County Fair rolls out 'bushels of fun'

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

While 4-H and FFA youths take center stage during the Morrow County Fair — there's much more cooking.

With a theme of "We're Having Bushels of Fun," the event runs Wednesday through Sunday at the fairgrounds, 74473 Highway 74, Heppner. Daily admission is \$4 for ages 8 and up (\$10 season pass) and free for ages 7 and under.

Ann Jones, Morrow County Fair secretary, said Ray DeLoe of Heppner, a new fair board member, suggested having a chili cook-off. Those who think they have the best chili in the county are invited to enter.

To show off your culinary skills, register Friday at 9 a.m. and be ready to begin cooking at 11 a.m. The chili must be ready by 3 p.m. for sampling and judging. First- through third-place winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m.

Other new faces on the fair board include Jeromy Wilson of Heppner and Buck Elliott of Boardman. They join Pat Tolar of Irrigon, Cody High of Heppner, and Rex Nielson and Casey Zellars, both of Boardman. Jones said having representatives from different com-



File photo

Kolby Currin of Heppner shows a feeder hog.

munities helps with planning the fair.

"They've really jumped in and thrown out some ideas in working towards having fun and new things happening at the fair," she said.

Also new this year is an arcade room. In addition to the regular bounce houses and face painting in the Kids Fun Zone, people can play their favorite arcade games. Daily wristbands are \$10 or \$30 for the whole week.

Back for a second year is the greased pig contest (Friday, 6 p.m.). Rather than taking home the bacon, the winner will receive a \$50 cash prize.

"It was a lot of fun for the kids and the people watching,"

Jones said. Another popular activity is the RDO Equipment Pedal Power Tractor Pull (Wednesday, 5 p.m.). Kids up to age 10 will vie for prizes and everyone receives a ribbon.

Wednesday evening (7-10 p.m.) features the Paradise Rose Chuckwagon Dinner. A meal with tri-tip or chicken costs \$15 for ages 14 and older or \$7.50 for the younger crowd. Music is by Trevor Tagle, who performs country and southern rock.

Thursday evening (6-10 p.m.) Murray's Beer & Wine Tasting includes live music with Joe Lindsay & Friends and Nate Botsford. Wine tasting starter packs are \$10, which include two drink tickets.

The event, which encourages Hawaiian dress, includes hula hoop and limbo contests. The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will serve a chicken teriyaki dinner prepared by Alvin Liu. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 11 and under.

A pair of Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. Get there 30 minutes early for Mutton Busters, which features kids attempting woolly rides on sheep. Rodeo tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and up, \$6 for ages 7-12 and free for ages 6 and under. For ticket information, call 541-989-8351 or visit www.oregontrail-prorodeo.com. Music after the rodeo in the Spur 'Em Barn is presented by Dan Burns 3D Productions. People without rodeo tickets are welcome to attend.

Activities close out Sunday with a track and cross country team fundraising breakfast at 6 a.m. and the Morrow County Rodeo at 1:15 p.m., which features Morrow County residents and alumni. For more information, call 541-571-6959 or search Facebook.

For a full fair schedule, visit www.co.morrow.or.us/fair. For questions, call 541-676-9474.

Art show harvests area talent

MILTON-FREEWATER — Artists living in the Walla Walla Valley of Oregon and Washington are encouraged to enter their most recent work in "Harvest of Art."

In its 18th year, the fine arts exhibit is Aug. 22-23 at Gib Olinger School, 1011 S. Mill St., Milton-Freewater. The submission deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 15. Each artist may enter up to three items, which includes a \$7 entry fee per piece.

The show is open to all amateur and professional artists, including youths. It features drawings, painting, prints, photography, sculpture, fiber arts and mixed media work. Monetary prizes will be awarded by the judge in each of 12 categories. Also, visitors are invited to vote for the \$75 people's choice award.

Each entry must be framed or mounted, ready for display and completed within the past year. Works may be delivered to the Gib Olinger Elementary School on Monday, Aug. 20, between 2-7 p.m. to Gib Olinger school.

Harvest of Art brochures include entry forms and can be picked up at the Milton-Freewater Public

Library, 8 S.W. Eighth Ave. For questions, call Blanche Mason at 541-938-5126 or JeanAnn Mitchell at 541-938-5516.

SUBMIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

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