

HERMISTON

Clupny returns from 1,000-mile journey for CASA

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The pack Charles Clupny carried on his 1,000-mile hike through Europe only weighed 30 pounds, but he brought back enough stories to last a lifetime.

“I have more pictures than I know what to do with,” he said.

Clupny started walking the Camino de Santiago from Le Puy, France, to the coast of Spain on April 12 and returned to the United States on July 5. He used the walk to raise money (\$5,200 in all) and awareness for Court Appointed Special Advocates, which assigns children in the foster care system a volunteer “CASA” to act as a third-party advocate on their behalf in court.

From April 12 to May 1 — the first 200 miles — Clupny and his wife Carol walked together. They visited friends for a few days at the end of the first leg, then Carol flew home.

Clupny’s journey was far from over, however. For the next few weeks he journeyed across mountains and valleys for another 800 miles, waking at 5:30 a.m. and doing 15 to 20 miles a day.

“There were days that I walked that I didn’t see anyone all day, and I walked eight to nine hours some days,” he said.

Some days were difficult as he walked rough, steep paths up mountains led only by a guidebook. He dodged lightning strikes and took shelter in a barn for an hour and a half while it rained “buckets.”

In the evenings he would arrive at one of the hotels or other resting places designated for pilgrims on the Camino, ask that they call ahead to reserve his next day’s resting place, then dine with other pilgrims who



Photo contributed by Charles Clupny
Charles Clupny on the Camino de Santiago in Europe.

were also spending the night there. If there was WiFi, he would use a messaging app to talk with his wife.

Not all parts of the trail were quiet. There were sections where Clupny passed or was passed by travelers from Finland, Russia, Italy, South Korea and just about any other country he could think of.

There was the woman who called herself “Turtle,” who was walking the Camino de Santiago to quit smoking and drinking. One man, a fellow American, saw Clupny’s CASA shirt

and said his children went through the foster system. A Bulgarian CEO spoke perfect English. An Italian named Luigi had started the walk not from France but from his own home in Italy.

The most memorable person Clupny met was Bülent, a Turkish television star whom Clupny saw multiple times after lending him some ibuprofen for his sore knee.

As memorable as the people were the places. Clupny said he can’t pick just one “favorite” place he saw on his trek, but the most mem-

orable for him was a small 12th-century church he saw after leaving the village of Zubiri, Spain. A man pulled up and offered to give him a tour. It turned out that the man, originally from South Africa, had moved to Spain to restore the old church after seeing it on his own pilgrimage.

“The doors were from Roman times,” Clupny said. “My goodness! It was like walking through history.”

Another time, Clupny visited a Benedictine monastery that had been operating for 1,500 years. He was touched by a mural of St. Bernard on his death bed, surrounded by his loved ones and angels coming down to take him home.

“The look on his face was like ‘I want to go, but I want to stay with you,’” Clupny said.

That idea was especially poignant to Clupny, whose mother died while he was on the final stretch of his journey. He had sent her a post card every day while he was gone, and he plans to compile those post cards with photos of his trek into a book to give to each of his six siblings, dedicating it in their mother’s honor.

After Clupny reached the ocean and could go no further, he bought a new set of clothes in Madrid, spent a few extra days in Spain, and headed home.

“These are shoes I bought in Madrid because my wife told me not to come home in the clothes I wore on the trail,” he said, pointing to his feet.

Umatilla Morrow County Head Start held a dinner for him Tuesday evening so that people could hear about the trip and the \$5,200 he raised for CASA.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

BOARDMAN

Riverside High School locked down due to threat

BOARDMAN — Riverside Jr./Sr. High School was locked down on Thursday afternoon due to a threat made on social media.

According to a press release from the Morrow County School District, the Boardman Police Department locked out the schools at 1:50 p.m., then extended Riverside Jr./Sr. High to a full lockdown minutes later.

Superintendent Dirk Dirksen said the lockdown meant school was stopped entirely because of a potential threat inside the building. He said it’s the first time he can remember a Boardman school going to that level.

Dirksen said the police department was first alerted to the threat and dictated the plan of action.

Windy River and Sam Boardman elementary schools were locked out, meaning the outside doors were locked, but classes were uninterrupted.

Police secured Riverside and lifted the protocols at all three schools at 2:22 p.m. All students and staff were safe, according to the release.

The nature of the threat was not immediately available, and Dirksen said he had not seen it.

Two Pendleton teens suffer stab wounds in assault

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton police reported two teens suffered stab wounds early Thursday while joining in an assault.

Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts in a written statement reported staff at St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, called dispatch at 3:12 a.m. after a vehicle dropped off two boys, ages 14 and 15, with stab wounds at the emergency department. Officers were en route when they received a description of the vehicle that brought the juveniles to the hospital.

The first officer arrived at 3:15 a.m. as the vehicle was leaving the parking lot. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle, Roberts reported, but “a low-speed pursuit ensued.”

The pursuit continued north to the 2300 block of Southwest Nye Avenue, where the occupants of the SUV jumped out. The vehicle crashed into a retaining wall and came to a stop moments later. Police immediately detained two of the four occupants, but Roberts stated the driver remains at large.

The hospital treated and released the 15-year-old stab victim, but a ground ambulance took the 14-year-old to Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, because his injuries prohibited air transport.

Detectives identified and interviewed one adult and five juveniles who were reportedly present when the “stabbing” occurred on the 2800 block of Southwest 28th Drive, Pendleton, according to Roberts. Officers and detectives found evidence in the area, which Roberts reported corroborates the following: The 14-year-old stab victim instigated a fight with a 20-something white male who was hanging out in the area. Other juveniles joined in the “beat down.” Sometime during the fight, someone stabbed two of the juveniles, although no one saw “a stabbing instrument.”

The majority of people present or involved in the fight got into a vehicle that one of the witnesses owned and drove the victims to the hospital.

Roberts also stated the investigation is continuing and police will not release more information at this time. He asked anyone with information concerning the identities of people involved or details of the assault to contact the Pendleton Police Department at 541-276-4411 or the dispatch center at 541-966-3650.

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.

BRIEFLY

Hermiston High School reunion seeking 1968 classmates

HERMISTON — Hermiston Senior High School class of 1968, where are you?

Organizers of the upcoming 50th class reunion Sept. 20-23 are seeking classmates who haven’t yet signed up to join the fun. For lots of food, fun and friends, and information about the reunion, call 541-564-0887 or 541-561-3011.

For a complete listing of regional events, visit easternoregonevents.com

WILDHORSE
RESORT & CASINO
9/14-16
Cineplex Show Times
\$5 Classic Movie
9/19 • 12pm
Meet Me in St. Louis

THE PREDATOR (R)
11:50* 2:20* 4:50 7:20 9:50
A SIMPLE FAVOR (R)
11:30* 2:00* 4:30 7:00 9:30
WHITE BOY RICK (R)
11:40* 2:10* 4:40 7:10 9:40
THE NUN (R)
11:40* 1:50* 4:20 6:50 9:10
CRAZY RICH ASIANS (PG13)
1:20* 4:00 6:40 9:20

* Matinee Pricing
wildhorseresort.com • 541-966-1850
Pendleton, OR I-84 - Exit 216

Two-vehicle crash on Highway 11



Staff photo by Phil Wright

Oregon State Police troopers investigate a two-vehicle crash Thursday afternoon on Highway 11 about nine miles northeast of Pendleton. This Ford F250 pickup got the worse of it, but the Ford F350 on the other side of the highway also was not drivable. One Pendleton ambulance left the scene, but its lights and sirens were off.

Feds close off wilderness after cougar kills hiker

By ANDREW THEEN
The Oregonian

Two trackers and four hunting dogs trained to detect a cougar’s scent came up empty Thursday as officials raced to find the animal suspected of killing a Mount Hood hiker.

Diana Bober, the avid Gresham hiker reported missing Aug. 29 in Clackamas County’s Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, is believed to be the first person killed by a cougar in Oregon’s wild country in recorded history.

Bober’s body was discovered off the Hunchback hiking trail Monday. Ore-

gon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials said cougar trackers began their search from the Hunchback Mountain Trailhead near Zig Zag at 6:30 a.m. Thursday.

“It’s very important that we started our search at the site where Diana was found,” said Brian Wolfer, the agency’s watershed manager who is leading the cougar effort. “The cougar wasn’t there. Tomorrow we will expand our search into a new area.”

Four U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services trackers rode 9 miles through the wilderness on mules, and they brought four hunting dogs

trained to detect the predators’ scent.

The crew found no recent cougar tracks, scratches on trees or scat indicating the animal was nearby. Searchers also saw “very few deer,” a cougar’s likely prey.

Wildlife officials don’t know whether the suspected cougar involved in the rare attack was male or female. Male cougars can inhabit an average range of 123 square miles or greater, while females average home territory is 22.5 square miles.

“This is big country,” Wolfer said in a statement. “The search may take some time and will be a fluid situation.”

Mt. Hood National Forest announced it would close the trailhead and more than a dozen others in the forest as a precaution to protect the public while the search continues. The closures include some 21,034 acres of wilderness.

On Friday, search crews will expand their search area but stay in the general area where Bober was believed to be attacked.

Test results from the state’s animal lab in Ashland are expected by the end of this week, which would confirm a cougar killed Bober. Hunters plan to kill the first cougar they see and send animal tissue to the lab.

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The Pendleton Center for the Arts - tickets 278-9201
Thurs & Fri, Sept. 13 & 14