

Body found after search near Meacham

By **BRYCE DOLE**
East Oregonian

MEACHAM — The body of a woman from Idaho, who went missing near Meacham, was found on Saturday, May 8, according to a press release from the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office.

Deb Hendrichs, 56, from Star, Idaho, was found on the east side of Interstate 84 south of Meacham near milepost 238 after a multiagency search began on May 8, the press release said. She had been missing since Jan. 11, when her vehicle was found near the area.

"This operation involved detailed planning and execution, which resulted in a successful end to help bring closure for the family and loved ones," the press release stated. "We would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of Deb Hendrichs. It has been our privilege to help bring her home."

When the search began, a team of dogs quickly found Hendrichs' wallet and



Umatilla County Sheriff's Office/Contributed Photo
Members of a multiagency search team prepare to start searching for Deb Hendrichs, 56, from Star, Idaho, on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

other items described in the search plan. Then, while law enforcement secured the scene, dogs and drones searched the area nearby.

The dogs found Hendrichs' body soon after, the press release said. The Oregon State Police and Umatilla County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and recovered the body, the press release said.

An Oregon Department of

Transportation worker was the last person who reported seeing Hendrichs after her vehicle stalled. Oregon State Police Lt. Daniel Conner of Union County said the ODOT employee asked Hendrichs if she needed help and she said her cellphone was not working in the area, but someone was coming to help. The ODOT employee then put out safety flares to protect Hendrichs

and called OSP, which sent a trooper to assist. The trooper arrived 20 minutes later. By then, Hendrichs' vehicle was empty.

The search effort involved numerous agencies and organizations, including sheriff's office personnel from Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Gilliam and Grant counties, Oregon State Police, Delmar Aerospace Corporation and others.

LOCAL BRIEFING

TRCI inmate dies in hospice care

UMATILLA — An adult in custody at Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla died while in hospice care on Friday, May 7, according to the Oregon Department of Corrections.

Rickie S. Sibbitt, 62, from Marion County, was less than a year from his release after being in prison since September 2001, according to the state.

The state did not disclose the cause of his death.

key to its success was the tireless efforts of every farmer-member and the excellent technical team of engineers, legal and financial experts that helped us make it happen".

Fred Ziari, president of IRZ Consulting, said IRZ used more than 100 different people, contractors and suppliers during the construction phase.

"We have designed over 2,000 systems in the last 35 years, but this is the largest and most efficient system we have ever designed, and we are proud of it," he said.

Pump station for East Project to be dedicated May 11

HERMISTON — The \$50 million East Project irrigation system pumping station will be dedicated on Tuesday, May 11, at 1 p.m.

According to a news release, the station is "the most efficient and largest irrigation pumping station built on the Columbia River in the last 40 years."

It was developed by East Improvement District, with engineering design and construction management by IRZ Consulting of Hermiston. The East Improvement District is a partnership of seven local farming entities.

The East Project, one of three major irrigation projects in the Columbia Basin, will provide additional irrigation water for area farmers and help preserve and replenish groundwater supplies. It can potentially irrigate 25,000 acres.

"This project took many years to finance and develop," Carl St. Hilaire, chairman of EID, said in a statement. "The

One killed in ATV crash near Ukiah

PENDLETON — Officials with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office said that an ATV driver was killed and a passenger injured in a crash on Saturday, May 8, near Ukiah.

According to a press release from the UCSO, Jessica Whitney Ice, 33, of Pendleton, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash in the area of Hideaway Springs Road.

An adult female passenger was transported by ambulance to Ukiah, and then Life Flighted by helicopter to St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, the press release said, where she is reportedly in good condition.

Police said the Umatilla County Sheriff's Dispatch Center received a call around 3 p.m. reporting the crash. Pendleton Fire and Ukiah Quick Response Team responded to the call.

Oregon State Police Crash Reconstruction is conducting an investigation of the scene.

— EO Media Group

Pendleton Farmers Market opens



People wander Main Street in downtown Pendleton on the opening day of the Pendleton Farmers Market on Friday, May 7, 2021. The market, which has returned to Main Street after temporarily relocating last year, runs Fridays from 4-7 p.m. through October.
Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

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