Pendleton woman dies, daughter found alive after getting stranded in Idaho

By ALAYNA SHULMAN Spokane Spokesman-Review

COEUR D'ALENE — A Pendleton woman died venturing into the Panhandle National Forest in Idaho for help after getting confused by her vehicle's navigation system and winding up stuck there, according to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office.

The elderly woman's adult daughter was found alive Friday, Nov. 5.

Pendleton Police Chief Chuck Byram called the situation tragic.

"Obviously they got way off the road and

way up into the national forest," he said. "Not an outcome we were looking for."

Dorothy "Kae" Turner and her daughter Heidi Turner left Pendleton on Nov. 3 heading for Utah. Byram said his department received the call they were missing that day.

"So we were working hard to try and locate them," he said, including working with banks, cellphone providers and law enforcement throughout Oregon.

Pendleton police then received notice that a license plate reader on Intestate 90 in northern Idaho pinged with the plate of the vehicle the Turners were in.

to find them in that area, but there was no cellphone service and just a single hit on the use of a bank card at a mini mart in Idaho, Bryam

Around 11:45 a.m. Nov. 5, a hunter reported finding a woman's body in the Solitaire Saddle area of the forest, according to a news release from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office.

When deputies responded, the hunter led them to the woman's body, and they also found a broken-down vehicle with another woman alive, deputies said.

The sheriff's office said the women appeared

Law enforcement concentrated its efforts to have gotten confused when following their vehicle's navigation device and wound up in the Northern Idaho forest by accident. Then their vehicle broke down. The mother ventured out for help but appears to have died from exposure to the elements, deputies said.

The daughter, whom deputies said is mentally disabled, stayed with the vehicle.

While the incident doesn't appear to be suspicious, deputies said it is under investi-

> East Oregonian news editor Phil Wright contributed to this article.

Fire blazes in abandonded home

By PHIL WRIGHT East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Fire erupted early Saturday, Nov. 6, in an abandoned house in

Pendleton. Capt. Dan Hergert of the Pendleton Fire Department said the callout for the blaze came at approximately 5:30 a.m. Crews arrived to find the second story at 241 S.E. Third St. totally engulfed in flames and smoke, he said.

Firefighters took a defensive approach to contain the fire, Hergert said, and protected surrounding homes and other buildings.

There were no injuries or fatalities, and firefighters found no one in the house, he said, but there was evidence of people staying there. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Phil Wright/East Oregonian

A Pendleton firefighter scales a ladder Saturday morning, Nov. 6, 2021, where a fire a couple hours before ripped through the second story of the abandoned house at 241 S.E. Third St., Pendleton.

Pendleton sent at least two fire engines and an ambulance to the emergency, and the Pilot Rock Rural Fire Protection District also responded with an engine and crew. Pendleton's streets were all but empty when the fire department rushed to the scene,

Hergert said, so crews only ran emergency lights but no

Firefighters were packing up and taking off at about 8:30 a.m.

The house has been vacant and rundown for some time. Hergert also said this house has had previous fires.

Hermiston High hosts vaccination clinic last week

Shots offered Nov. 3 include COVID-19 vaccines

By ERICK PETERSON

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Umatilla County Public Health held an immunization clinic at Hermiston High School, Wednesday, Nov. 3. The clinic, which included COVID-19 vaccinations, was during the school's Student-Led Conferences.

Though immunization clinics had been held at the school in the past, Nov. 3 was the first time COVID-19 shots were available at one of the HHS school clinics, Principal Tom Spoo said. He added that he approved the clinic after Hermiston School District nurses approached him on the subject.

"As a principal, my focus is on doing everything I can to keep kids in school," Spoo said. He said he had not heard much from the kids themselves about their feelings about the COVID-19 vaccinations, which has become politicized.

The shots, which have been approved for ages 5 and up, were available for kids 12 and up at the school on Nov. 3.

Spoo said he has been seeing "fewer and fewer" COVID-19 cases among his students, as of late, with maybe four or five cases in the previous two weeks.

COVID-19 has affected his students, Spoo said, though he had not heard of any COVID-19 deaths among is students. He said he had, however, known people who have gotten sick or died of the disease, and he is worried for his students. He expressed concerned both for their physical health and their development.

Being in school is better than not being in school, he said, and he expressed gratitude for having Umatilla County Public Health

workers such as Alisha Lundgren. As she was processing children for shots, Lundgren, the deputy director of the county health department, explained the vaccinations being offered Wednesday. These shots,

available to kids 12 to 17, included the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 shots, Lundgren said. She added also she had Johnson & Johnson shots, "if they were needed."

Lundgren said she was at the school primarily to help with school exclusion shots, not COVID-19 shots, though. Those shots include tetanus, polio and hepatitis, according to the deputy director.

Working from behind a curtain at the clinic, other nurses put shots, including the COVID-19 vaccinations, into arms. Those nurses included Kelsi Reyes of Umatilla County Public Health.

Reyes said this was a well-attended clinic, and there was a possibility of doing more clinics at the school in the future. When she and other nurses start vaccinating very young children, however, she said they most likely will deliver those in a regu-

"We think with that population, as you can tell with the tears, those are easier to do in a clinic setting," she said.

While she was talking, young children were crying from the vaccinations they received.

Fresh from getting a COVID-19 shot, 16-year-old junior Kade Thomas said it was his second Pfizer shot.

"I'm religious, and my prophet said to get it," Thomas said. "That's why I got it."

Thomas, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said he was not very worried about getting the disease. If he had come down with it, he did not notice, he said. Also, he was unaware if any of his friends became sick with COVID-

Patricia and Celso Koetz were at the clinic. They stood in line with their 8-yearold son, Carlos Koetz, for his vaccinations. Once completed with other immunizations, they walked away and commented on whether they would have their son get a COVID-19 shots once they have an oppor-

"Probably," they said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Two Hermiston men injured in Washington crash

WALLA WALLA — Two Hermiston residents were injured Saturday morning, Nov. 6, in a crash in Walla Walla County.

The Washington State Patrol in a press release reported the crash occurred at about 10:23 a.m. on Highway 12 about 26 miles west of Walla Walla.

Julian V. Gutierrez, 47, driver, and Francis J. Kontur, 85, passenger, both of Hermiston, were in a 1998 Dodge Ram 3500 pickup behind a 2004 Honda Pilot heading west on Highway 12 when the Honda then stopped in the road and started to back up, colliding with the Dodge.

Gutierrez and Kontur were injured in the crash, according to Washington State Patrol. An ambulance took Kontur to Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Walla Walla, and Gutierrez went to the hospital as well

but in a private vehicle. Kaziputalimba E. Joshua, 62, of Walla Walla, was driving the Honda Pilot. He and his passenger, Stephen E. Hammond, 65, of Sterling, Virginia, also was injured in the crash. Ambulances took both men to Providence St. Mary.

The crash also totaled both vehicles.

Washington State Patrol reported neither drugs nor alcohol were involved in the crash, and all four men were wearing seat belts. WSP also reported Joshua faces a charge of improper backing.

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