

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 Interstate 90 in northern Idaho pinged with the plate of the vehicle the Turners were in.

Law enforcement concentrated its efforts 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, Byram said.

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

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 investigation.

East Oregonian news editor Phil Wright contributed to this article.

Fire blazes in abandoned 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 sirens.

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.

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.

Kazipatalimba 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.

—EO Media Group



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