

‘No logical explanation’ in cattle mutilation

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — A mutilated bull mysteriously turned up dead in February at a ranch in Bear Valley in Grant County with surgically removed body parts.

According to a Feb. 28 entry of the Oregon State Police log, a rancher called a John Day Wildlife Trooper to report a bull had been killed and mutilated on his ranch with its testicles, scrotum, tongue and lips precisely removed.

Mat Carter, a rancher from the Crown Cattle Company, said he reported the mutilation to the state’s wildlife trooper after discovering the dead bull roughly a quarter to half a mile from his house.

The cause of death is unknown.

When Carter found the bull, it had likely been dead a few days and was already decomposing. The 24-hour window during which an autopsy could have been performed on the body had passed.

According to Carter, there were no signs of vultures, coyotes, or other scavengers around the bull.

“There’s no tracks; there’s no signs, there’s no nothing,” Carter said.



Clancy Roth/Contributed Photo, File

A mutilated cow on a ranch in Deschutes County in 2020. A similar case occurred in Grant County February 2022.

He said it is hard to imagine anyone would have come on to his property, killed a bull, drained its blood, and then cleanly cut out specific body parts.

According to Carter, with no evidence or leads to

follow up on for law enforcement, the incident remains a mystery.

And this was not the first cow mutilation on his ranch, Carter said.

Several years ago, Carter said he was almost sure one

of his cows had been mutilated. However, he said, there was no way to say with certainty because he did not get to it quickly enough before flies and other scavengers made it impossible to determine what happened.

He said a similar situation occurred in August, which is why he tries to inspect cattle deaths a little more closely when they occur.

Indeed, Carter’s situation is not unique. According to FBI records, since the

1970s, thousands of killings and mutilations of cattle have happened across the U.S. Last year Wheeler County had five cases while Harney County had four in four years, with the previous two occurring in May and June.

The cases, the data reports, are similar to Carter’s case.

A cow or bull is found dead in a remote area with no signs of how someone might have made it onto a property undetected. Usually, authorities find footprints, tire tracks or fingerprints. There is very little — if any — spilled blood and no visible puncture wounds, bullets or strangulation marks.

The bizarre nature of the mutilation and lack of evidence makes it all the more baffling and frustrating for Carter.

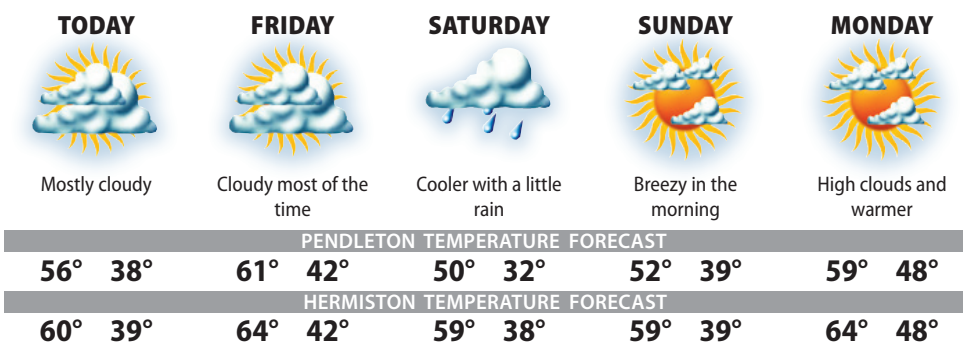
Meanwhile, theories about who is behind the cow mutilations, be it aliens, demons or cults.

However, in the thousands of cases since the 1970s, no one has ever been caught.

For his part, Carter said he does not try to speculate on it, nor does he believe in UFOs or any other kind of strange phenomenon.

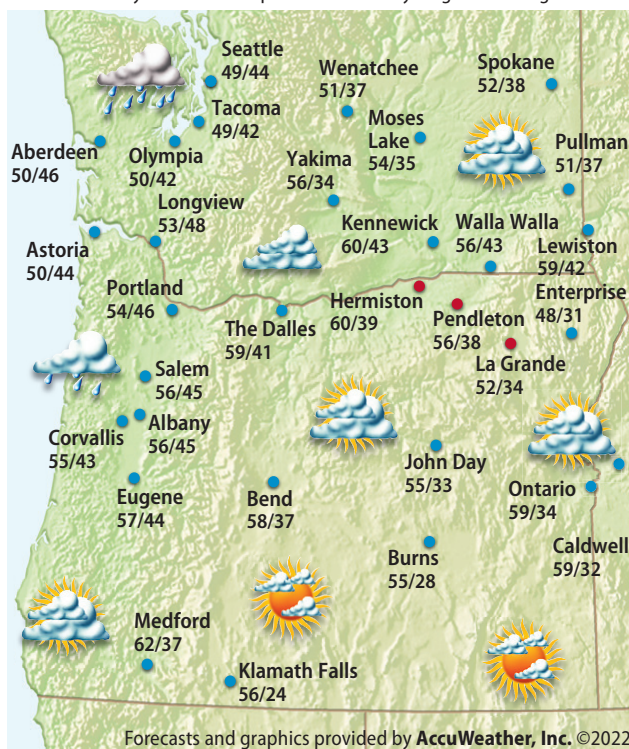
“It’s really odd, Carter said. “There’s no logical explanation.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	54°	40°
Normals	56°	35°
Records	72° (2010)	3° (1906)

PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.07"	
Normal month to date	0.67"	
Year to date	3.51"	
Last year to date	3.11"	
Normal year to date	3.36"	

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	42°
Normals	59°	34°
Records	73° (1941)	20° (1930)

PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.82"	
Normal month to date	0.39"	
Year to date	1.88"	
Last year to date	1.68"	
Normal year to date	2.39"	

WINDS (in mph)	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SW 4-8	SW 6-12
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	W 6-12

SUN AND MOON	
Sunrise today	7:04 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:04 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:36 p.m.
Moonsset today	7:15 a.m.

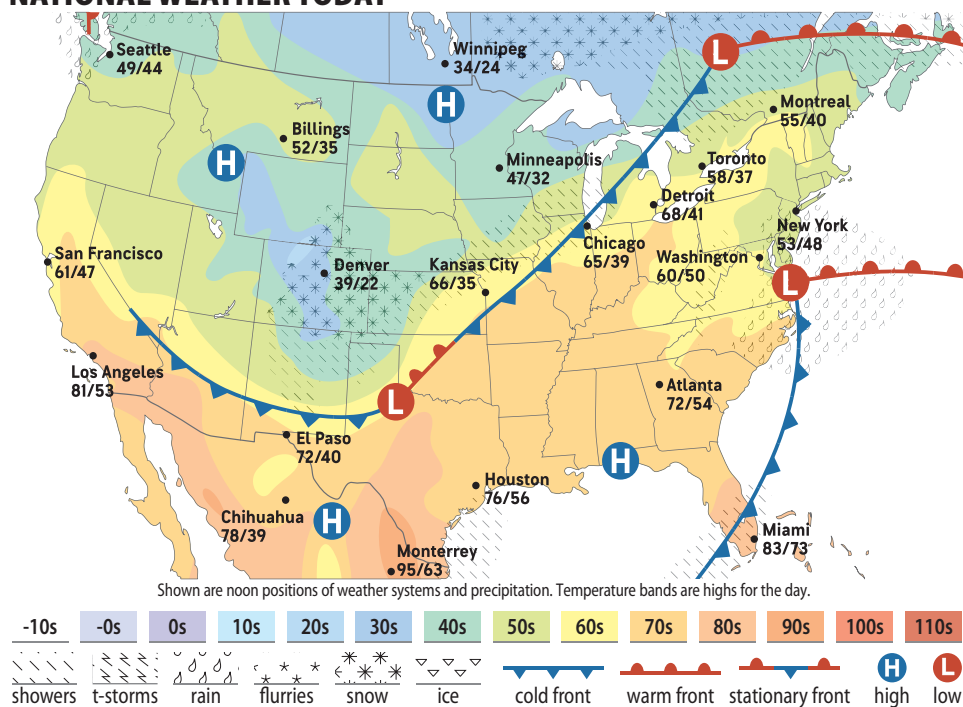


NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 91° in Cotulla, Texas Low -8° in Crested Butte, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Baker City detective stays on paid leave

By JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Baker City police detective Shannon Regan remains on paid administrative leave more than seven months after Police Chief Ty Duby removed her from active duty.

Duby made that decision in July 2021 after Jim A. Schaeffer, the La Grande attorney representing Shawn Quentin Greenwood, who was accused of first-degree murder in the January 2020 shooting death of Angela Parrish in Baker City, claimed Regan violated Greenwood’s constitutional rights by listening to five phone calls that Greenwood, who was in the Baker County Jail, made to Schaeffer’s cellphone in 2020.

On June 25, 2021, Schaeffer filed a motion seeking to dismiss all charges against Greenwood.

After hearings in Baker County Circuit Court on Aug. 13 and Aug. 24, Judge Matt Shirtcliff ruled Regan, the lead detective in investigating the fatal shooting of Parrish, would not be allowed to testify during Greenwood’s trial due to the phone call issue.

Although Shirtcliff denied Schaeffer’s motion to dismiss all charges against Greenwood, the judge did prohibit Baker County District Attor-

ney Greg Baxter from using at trial any evidence that Regan collected after Sept. 14, 2020, the day that her computer was used to access and listen to the five phone calls, according to a forensic investigation by the Oregon Department of Justice.

Baxter did not contest the claim that Regan listened to the five calls.

Greenwood, then 50, ended up pleading no contest to three lesser charges on Sept. 3, 2021, five days before the trial was to start.

The no contest plea had the same effect as a conviction.

Shirtcliff sentenced Greenwood to a total of seven-and-a-half year in prison on the three convictions, which include criminally negligent homicide, a Class B felony, first-degree burglary, a Class A felony, and attempting to elude law enforcement, a Class C felony.

None of the three charges for which Greenwood was convicted carries a mandatory minimum sentence, so he will be eligible for a reduction in sentence based on good behavior and other factors.

Duby said the city can’t keep Regan on paid leave indefinitely.

“It’s a tough situation,” Duby said. “At some point the

city is going to have to move.”

He said Regan, a 17-year Baker City police officer, is at the top of the salary schedule for detectives, which has a monthly salary of \$6,066.

Duby said he has not heard anything from the Oregon Department of Justice about its investigation of Regan resulting from the phone call issue.

Baker City Manager Jon Cannon said the city is working with its attorney on how best to handle the situation with Regan.

“It’s a personnel matter so I’m limited on what I can say about it,” Cannon said on Thursday, March 10. “We don’t want it to be an indefinite time period to have an employee in this status. We want to respect all parties that are involved, and to take whatever actions are appropriate to resolve the matter.”

Duby said Dan Thenell, a Portland attorney, is representing Regan.

Thenell had not returned a phone message by press time for this story.

In Regan’s absence, Zach Thatcher is working as the department’s major crimes detective, Duby said.

Duby now is looking to replace Chris Sells, the department’s other detective, who left recently to take a police job in Ada County, Idaho.

IN BRIEF

Lawsuit claims hospital shared confidential information

ASTORIA — A former patient at Columbia Memorial Hospital, Astoria, is suing for alleged negligence and breach of confidence.

Lauren Born had a medical procedure done at the hospital in August.

In a complaint filed earlier this month in Circuit Court, Born alleges that the hospital shared confidential information, including an account of her behavior at the hospital, to Born’s employer without her permission.

Her employer told Born her behavior “misrepresented the company” and fired her, according to the complaint.

Born alleges the hospital’s disclosure violated the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which is intended to protect medical privacy.

She is seeking \$140,310 covering economic and noneconomic damages.

Samuel Stanke, Born’s Milwaukie-based attorney, could not be reached for comment.

A spokesperson for Columbia Memorial Hospital declined to comment.

—EO Media Group

CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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