

Police chase in Pendleton ends with crash into OSP car

Police arrest driver, seize possible meth, fentanyl pills

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — A police chase Friday morning, June 3, through Pendleton streets ended when a fleeing suspect crashed into an Oregon State Police car.

Pendleton Chief of Police Charles Byram also reported officers are looking for two

passengers who got out before the crash.

The pursuit began after 6:06 a.m., Byram reported in a press release, when a Pendleton patrol officer attempted to stop a gray Subaru Impreza with Washington license plates in the area of the 1400 block of Southwest Emigrant Avenue after recognizing one of the car's passengers as having a felony warrant for his arrest.

Initially, the driver of the vehicle pulled over, but as the

officer approached, the driver of the vehicle fled the stop at a high speed.

The patrol officer gave chase, but lost sight of the vehicle near Southgate and Southwest 20th Street.

At about that time, according to Byram, an Oregon State Police trooper observed the Impreza speeding in the center lane on Southgate, traveling south. The trooper and Pendleton patrol officer pursued the vehicle.

The pursuit continued

through the McKay area, ultimately going back through town and onto the North Hill. During this time, the two passengers fled the vehicle while the driver continued to flee police.

The chase came to a halt on the 10th Street bridge, Byram reported, when the Impreza crashed into an Oregon State Police vehicle.

Pendleton Police Department officers at approximately 6:16 a.m. arrested the driver, Aaron Cole Mapston,

37, of Pasco address, for felony fleeing, reckless driving and on a Washington Department of Corrections felony warrant.

"Officers know who the two passengers are and will continue to seek them out to arrest them on their warrants as well," according to Byram.

The police chief also reported Mapston told the arresting officers they were not supposed to pursue him, alluding to the state of Washington legislation prohibiting

law enforcement from pursuing vehicles.

Byram noted, "Mapston was advised that he was not in the state of Washington."

Byram also reported police seized "approximately ¼ pound of suspected methamphetamine and 92 suspected fentanyl pills" from the vehicle, and the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office will handle adding controlled substance charges.

Byram also reported no one was injured in the chase.

New avian flu outbreak 'lot more significant'

By CHARLET HOTCHKISS and JOHN TILLMAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Blue Mountain Wildlife Executive Director Lynn Tompkins said she is optimistic the recent avian flu outbreak soon could come to an end.

The last time Oregon experienced an avian influenza epidemic was 2014-15, Tompkins said, and it ran its course by the end of June.

"This time it's worse," she said. "This is a lot more significant outbreak."

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on Thursday, June 2, reported many wildlife rehabilitators are not accepting waterfowl due to the spread of avian flu in wild birds. Because waterfowl can carry the virus without showing symptoms, allowing them into rehabilitation facilities can put all the birds at the facility at risk.

"I'm really hoping the summer heat will help," she said.

Tompkins said Blue Mountain Wildlife doesn't normally get much waterfowl in this area, but the Tri-Cities do. She also stated Blue Mountain Wildlife no longer is accepting sick birds of any kind, due to the risk of avian influenza.

Tompkins is trying to change this by adding three



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian

Samantha Castoldi, left, and Blue Mountain Wildlife Director Lynn Tompkins on Thursday, June 2, 2022, prepare to put a band on the leg of a healthy American kestrel at the Pendleton bird rehabilitation center. Construction displaced the bird from its nest.

sheds outside their clinic for intake, evaluation and quarantine. That way, they can see which are sick and get them tested for avian influenza without jeopardizing the health of the other birds being seen at the clinic.

All birds tested for avian influenza first have their preliminary results confirmed by a state lab, according to Tompkins. In Oregon, that testing is in Corvallis at the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, and in Washington, it's in Pullman at the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Labs then send results to the national center for confirmation, where they will be added to

the USDA website.

Tompkins has tested only a few birds for avian influenza this year in Washington: two goslings, a Mallard duckling and a crow. She also said ODFW recently sent off a test for a bald eagle that was found at McCormack Slough in Morrow County near Irri-gon. Results are pending for all of those tests.

Goslings, ducklings and adult waterfowl all can carry the virus. If you find healthy ducklings or goslings without a parent nearby, leave them alone and allow the parents to find them, ODFW requested. If you choose to interfere, they can be released at the nearest waterway. Injured ducks and

geese may be brought to an ODFW office for euthanasia. Call ahead if you are bringing in an injured duck or goose.

State fish and wildlife also urged the public not to collect or handle sick or dead wild birds but report the incident directly to a local ODFW office, the Wildlife Health lab at 866-968-2600 or email at Wildlife.Health@odfw.oregon.gov. Fish and wildlife staff will conduct surveillance and collecting/testing sick and dead wild birds to monitor for the presence of the disease.

This is the time of year when goslings, ducklings and other young birds are commonly picked up and brought into rehab centers, according to ODFW. Well-intentioned people mistakenly think these young birds are orphaned because they may be temporarily separated from their parents.

"This year more than ever, it is important to leave wild birds in the wild to give them the best chance for survival," the state fish and game department urged. "If you see young ducks or geese, please keep pets under tight control. Not feeding waterfowl is also especially important during this time. In addition to commonly causing nutritional issues, feeding congregates animals and results in overcrowding and increased risk of disease spread."

LOCAL BRIEFING

Police report possible gang violence in M-F

MILTON-FREEWATER — Milton-Freewater police reported a fight in a bar Wednesday, June 1, led to one person being "presumably stabbed in the neck area."

Milton-Freewater police at approximately 9:25 p.m. responded to a report of a fight in progress at the Let's Go Inn, 515 N. Main St. According to information from Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer, three people were involved in this fight, including the victim.

Johnny Diaz, 31, of Milton-Freewater, was stabbed with a "pointed/edged weapon of an unidentified type," accord-

ing to the report.

"Witnesses told officers that two individuals had entered the bar and immediately began causing a disturbance with other patrons prior to the attack on Diaz," the police report stated.

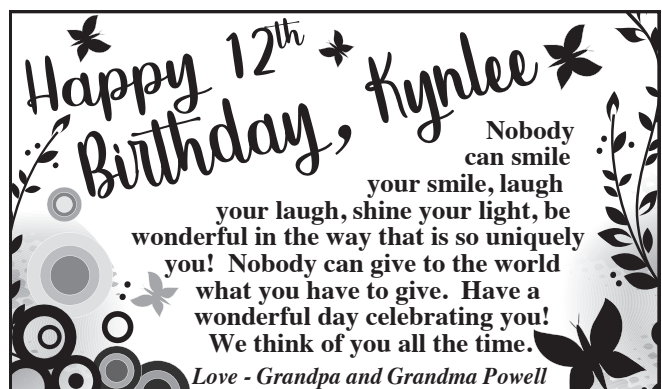
Before police arrived, someone used a personal vehicle to take Diaz to Providence St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla. He is expected to survive his injury, according to police.

Also according to the report, Milton-Freewater police think this incident is gang related.

"A person of interest has been identified and is wanted for questioning regarding the incident," the report also stated. "The investigation is ongoing."

— EO Media Group

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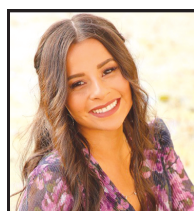


Congratulations Pilot Rock Graduates!

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Jade Atkins



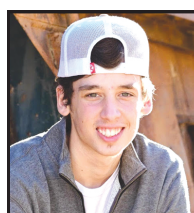
James Bartlett



Mackenzie Bennett



Kegan Bronson



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Hailey Dick



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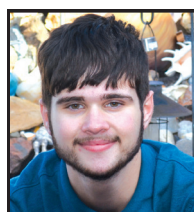
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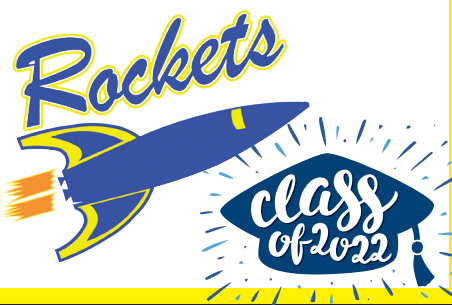


Hailey Williams



Vanessa Winks

Not pictured:
Tyson Ray
Vawser



Community Memorial Service

& BUTTERFLY RELEASE

To celebrate our loved ones and how life is transformed.



VANGE JOHN MEMORIAL HOSPICE

Saturday, June 18, 2022

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Victory Square Park

150 SW 10th Street | Hermiston, OR 97838

Entertainment by Brass Fire Band!

Event Details:

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- Please bring your own lawn chair(s)
- Refreshments provided with additional refreshments for purchase
- Look for event table when you arrive.

Each Attendee will receive (while supplies last):

- Origami Butterfly
- Butterfly-Friendly Flower Seeds to Plant at Home
- Butterfly Fact Sheet

For an additional fee, pre-registrants may receive one live butterfly to release in honor of their loved one.

Please register at: <https://communitymemorial.eventbrite.com>

For more information, call Carollyn Robinson, BSN, RN at 541.667.3540.

Want to make a donation to Hospice? Visit www.gshealth.org.

