

Suspect

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Grant County Undersheriff Zach Mobley and Sgt. Danny Komning, along with FBI Special Agent Ben Jones, traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to interview Isaac Connery.

Mobley learned that he and his mother had dropped off two Connery minor children at a local campground, likely Clyde Holliday State Park, on the afternoon or evening of July 17, 2018, and then Gabrielle Connery drove Isaac Connery to the Smith home and dropped him off, before returning alone to the campground to pick up the children, according to the release.

“Isaac Connery went to the Smith home and shot Terry, then Sharon Smith, and set fire to their home,” the release states. “Then Isaac Connery took their pickup and drove to meet Gabrielle Connery” in the Boise, Idaho, area.

The process to extradite Isaac Connery to Grant County has begun, and the matter will soon be presented to a grand jury for more formal charges, including possible charges against Gabrielle Connery for the role she



The cabin owned by Terry and Sharon Smith on Nan’s Rock Road burned July 17-18 and the case was later declared a homicide.

played in the deaths of the Smiths, the release states.

Cathy Hinshaw, Sharon Smith’s sister, told the Eagle that the Smiths met the Connerys about 10 years ago when the Smiths sold them property in Hawaii. She said Isaac Connery was 10 or 11 years old at the time.

Hinshaw said, over the years, the Smiths helped the Connerys start a business and buy property, and gave the family a free place to live.

Hinshaw said the Smiths owned about 60 properties, and they would sell property to young families who were just starting out for little to no money down.

“They would buy properties, and pay a little bit and move on and build themselves a life,” she said. “And so that’s what they did with the Connerys.”

Hinshaw said Gabrielle Connery moved into one of the Smiths’ properties with her children, but defaulted

on the payments and gave it back. She said the Connerys moved back and forth between the mainland and Hawaii, and during that time, Terry Smith built the Connerys a fruit stand business, with air-conditioned containers to store the fruit, and the Smiths put them up in a home they owned nearby at no cost.

“They were just part of the family,” Hinshaw said.

Weeks before the fire, Hinshaw said her sister told her



Sharon and Terry Smith went missing following a fire at their cabin on Nan’s Rock Road south of Mt. Vernon on July 17-18. The suspicious case was later declared a homicide investigation.

on a phone call that Isaac and Gabrielle Connery showed up at their cabin in Grant County after their car had broken down.

Sharon Smith did not “feel right” with the Connerys staying with them, Hinshaw said. “She did not tell me why. She just said she did not feel right with them there,” Hinshaw said. “She wanted them to go.”

When she got news of the fire and heard the Smiths were missing, Hinshaw said she knew they were not away on a fishing trip as some suggested because she had spoken to Sharon Smith hours before the fire.

Hinshaw said she would

have never suspected Isaac Connery would have been capable of a crime of this caliber.

“(The Connerys) were all just the nicest kids,” Hinshaw said. “(The Smiths) bought them things and took care of them like they were their own kids. They were wonderful people just trying to help.”

Palmer said in the release the sheriff’s office worked with Jones, arson and crime lab personnel from the Oregon State Police, the Oregon State Medical Examiner’s Office, the Oregon State Fire Marshal, Boise (Idaho) Police Department and various agencies in Arizona, New Mexico and Hawaii.

Science

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“Both masks certainly decrease the spread considerably,” she said.

Surgical and cloth masks, she said, are key in preventing the wearer from spreading the virus through respiratory droplets. It has become clear both masks do provide some protection from catching the virus as well, she said.

Researchers have lumped both cloth and surgical masks together in studies that have looked at how effective communities have been at stemming the spread of COVID-19.

“We know that surgical masks are more effective than cloth masks, but we absolutely know that both help stop the spread of COVID-19,” she said.

The top two complaints she hears from patients are discomfort and difficulty breathing.

Most of the time, she said, if someone is having a hard time breathing with a mask on, it’s because the mask doesn’t fit right.

“People sometimes wear the mask too tight or wear masks that are not stiff enough so that the mask sucks in when you take a breath,” she said.

Betza said she recommends a face shield for those who have tried dif-

ferent types of masks but are unable to find the right fit.

“This would meet the face-covering requirement and provide some protection, though possibly not as much as a mask,” she said.

She said people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory diseases can wear a mask without any problems.

“Doctors and nurses with those medical problems wear masks all day in the operating room without incident,” she said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using the same make, model and size respi-

rator that is the proper fit each time a mask is worn and to thoroughly wash hands before taking the mask off and putting it on.

When putting the mask on, one should hold the respirator in their hands with the nose piece at their fingertips, then cup the respirator in their hands allowing the headbands to hang below their hand and hold the respirator under their chin and point the nose piece upwards.

The top strap goes over and rests at the top backside of the head while the bottom strap gets positioned around the neck, under the ears. Do not cross the straps.

Place fingertips on the metal clips

to mold the nose area. Check the seals, either using the Betza method or by placing both hands over the respirator, taking a quick breath and ensuring the respirator seals tightly to the face.

For cloth masks, wash hands thoroughly.

Ensure the mask covers the nose and mouth and make sure to secure it under the chin. Additionally, be sure to fit it snugly on each side of the face. Lastly, make sure the mask breathes easily.

Despite the abundance of medical studies and epidemiological evidence, Betza said, “the best evidence comes from the real world.”

Clarifying

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county and the resources available from the state, Community Counseling Solutions and other counties who would be willing to assist.

Lindsay told the Eagle, if children were in the home prior to a person in the household testing positive, the children would be considered close contacts and would likely have been exposed.

“Given this, they do not need to self-isolate elsewhere...,” she said. “They can all isolate together in this situation.”

Lindsay said she has not

heard of any cases in Oregon where children were separated from parents due to COVID-19.

She added that the county secured a few agreements with places in the area so people who do not have a place to isolate can do so.

In terms of job security for employees, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act requires that employers pay employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19 for a certain amount of time. Some circumstances that would qualify include if an employee is required to self-isolate due to testing positive, having symptoms of COVID-19,

caring for a family member who has COVID-19 or being unable to find daycare due to schools or daycare facilities being closed.

Lindsay said this is the biggest source of financial security for people who are employed, but it is time limited. The U.S. Department of Labor states that this is for two weeks, up to 80 hours, of paid sick leave.

The Department of Labor added that a small businesses with fewer than 50 employees may qualify for an exemption from the requirement to provide leave due to school closings or child care unavailability if the leave requirements would jeopardize the viability of the business.

Masks

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COVID-19 cases within the next six weeks. That would mean more than 1,000 cases per day by the Labor Day weekend at the beginning of September. Brown’s current emergency order runs out Sept. 4.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 280 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the state total to 12,438. Three more deaths were reported — one each in Umatilla, Marion and Clackamas counties — bringing the state total to 237 dead from the virus.

Nationwide, about 3,353,500 people in the United States have been infected with the coronavirus and at least 135,100 have died as of Monday, according to a New York Times database. The newspaper said the worldwide count as of Monday was 12.9 million

cases and more than 569,000 deaths.

Brown said she believed most Oregonians were following the face covering, social distancing and enhanced hygiene efforts that health officials advocate. She called those who willingly ignore the efforts “outliers.”

“We are at risk of COVID-19 getting out of control in Oregon,” Brown said. “Each of us needs to take immediate action to slow the spread of this disease.”

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission will continue to inspect businesses and can issue citations. Brown said she did not know how many citations resulted from enforcement efforts over the July 4 weekend, when 800 were inspected for compliance.

Oregon’s actions came as neighboring California stepped up its response to a major spike in COVID-19 cases by reversing many

“reopening” measures. Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a renewed ban on indoor dining, closed bars and entertainment venues such as museums and zoos. He also ordered 30 counties — including Los Angeles — to close malls, gyms, hair and nail salons and many other businesses. The state has had over 325,000 reported cases of COVID-19 and over 7,000 deaths since the pandemic hit the state at the beginning of the year.

“COVID-19 is not going away any time soon until there is a vaccine or effective therapy,” Newsom said at a press briefing in Sacramento.

The Oregon Health Authority reported two workplace outbreaks involving 20 or more cases. An outbreak of 102 cases has been reported at Snake River Correctional Institution in Malheur County. Shearer’s Foods in Umatilla County reported 20 cases.



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