



COURTESY OREGON STATE POLICE

About 20 vehicles crashed Saturday night on Interstate 84 east of Pendleton, shutting down the westbound lanes for more than 12 hours.

20-vehicle wreck near Pendleton

By PHIL WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Oregon State Police continues to investigate the series of crashes on the icy interstate near Pendleton that injured nine people Saturday night.

Five suffered serious injuries, according to state police. Ground and air ambulances took victims to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, and Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland. State police Lt. Mike Turner in Pendleton said having victims in hospitals in different states adds another layer to a complicated investigation.

“We’re just continuing to try to put all the pieces together,” Turner said.

Oregon State Police have not confirmed the identities of the victims. Turner said Monday that OSP has received media questions about a fatality from the crash, but no agency or hospital involved has confirmed any deaths. At this point, he said, state police do not have information of anyone dying at the scene or afterward.

State police reported 20 vehicles — seven semi-tractors and 13 passenger cars — were involved. Turner explained there was not one

large pile-up but instead separate crashes on the westbound side of Interstate 84 near milepost 223, about 13 miles east of Pendleton.

The preliminary investigation revealed speed and black ice helped create a domino effect resulting in the multiple collisions.

Around 6:20 p.m. a passenger car stopped on the roadside because a crash already was blocking traffic, according to the daily log from state police, and a semi-trailer lost traction on the icy road and slid into the car. The semi pushed the car into another semi, and a third commercial vehicle tried to avoid the crash but clipped the car.

The car had at least two occupants, according to state police, and an ambulance took them to a hospital.

The collisions stacked up after that, and multiple agencies responded, including the Pendleton Fire Department, Umatilla County Fire District, and the Umatilla Tribal Fire Department. The Oregon Department of Transportation closed I-84 westbound lanes until 8 a.m. Sunday and many were stuck in traffic for hours before being escorted off the interstate.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office purchased an ATV with snow tracks to add to its snowmobile division and for use in search and rescue.

New rescue ATV gets workout on first day

HERMISTON HERALD

The Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office got a new toy this week and began putting it to use right away.

The office purchased an ATV with snow tracks for its snowmobile patrol division, using grant funds from the Oregon State Snowmobile Association.

Tom Roberts, the county’s emergency manager, said the vehicle is useful because it can travel on different types of terrain and also haul a heavy payload.

On Wednesday morning the search and rescue division was sent out to find a plane that had crashed in the snowy mountains east of Milton-Freewater.

Roberts had the ATV fueled up and took it the mountains, and soon after the search and rescue team found the pilot and passenger near Government Camp — cold and wet, but uninjured.

As the response team was returning from that call, the Umatilla Tribal Police Department called and asked for help finding a possibly suicidal man near Poverty Flats near Pendleton.

Using the ATV, searchers found the man and returned him to safety.

“Within the first few hours of having this type of vehicle, we’ve already demonstrated its value to the Sheriff’s Office,” said Jim Littlefield, Umatilla County undersheriff. “While the vehicle’s primary mission will be for snow patrol use, it also has the capacity to be used in many other situations and can help us save lives.”

Roberts said a similar vehicle was borrowed from Walla Walla to respond to the 2012 bus crash at Deadman Pass that required traveling up and down steep terrain, and he’s glad to have one at his disposal in Umatilla County.

DEATHS

Helen J. Hastings

Irrigon  
June 4, 1936 - Feb. 27, 2018

Helen J. Hastings, 81, of Irrigon died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, in Stanfield. She was born June 4, 1936, in Berlin, ND. A graveside funeral service was held Saturday, March 3 at 3 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Penny L. (Perry) Hoisington

Juliaetta, Idaho  
Aug. 26, 1947 - March 4, 2018

Penny L. (Perry) Hoisington, 70, of Juliaetta, Idaho, died Sunday, March 4, 2018, in Pilot Rock. She was born Aug. 26, 1947, in Grand Coulee, Wash. Arrangements are pending with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Pamela L. Cearn

Stanfield  
April 19, 1956 - Feb. 26, 2018

Pamela L. Cearn, 61 of Stanfield died Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, in Richland, Washington. She was born April 19, 1956, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, March 3 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Stanfield Moose Lodge, 615 W. Coe Ave. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston.

Marvin L. McKenzie Sr.

Hermiston  
May 14, 1926 - March 2, 2018

Marvin L. McKenzie Sr., 91, of Hermiston, died Friday, March 2, 2018, in Hermiston. He was born May 14, 1926, in Hermiston. A service is pending. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

Marilyn L. Pfnister

Hermiston  
Sept. 19, 1931 - Jan. 17, 2018

Marilyn L. Pfnister, 86, of Hermiston died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018, in Hermiston. She was born Sept. 19, 1931, in Laird, Colorado. A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 10 at 3 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 2260 N.E. Fourth St., Hermiston. Arrangements are with Burns Mortuary of Hermiston. Sign the online condolence book at www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

BIRTHS

Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston  
FEB. 18, 2018

HAYDEN — Kaylee Kathleen Hayden of Stanfield: a girl, Madeline Susan Hayden.

FEB. 20, 2018

BENSEL— Danielle McAtee and Ryan Bensel of Pilot Rock: a boy, Bentley Mathew Bensel.

FEB. 22, 2018

CHICK — Darcie Chick and Eric Chick of Heppner: a girl, Dixie Dawn Chick.

FEB. 23, 2018

PURKERSON — Katherine Purkerson of Hermiston: a boy, Laiken Myles Purkerson.

FEB. 24, 2018

SANCHEZ CORTES — Juanita Cortes Luna and Adolfo Sanchez Villa of Hermiston: a girl, Clarissa Gracie Sanchez Cortes.

Heppner man jailed in Gilliam County after crash

THE DALLES — Gilliam County Sheriff’s Office reported Daniel Joseph Coiner, 37, of Heppner, faces multiple charges after crashing a car that caught fire.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, at about 11:25 p.m., a homeowner south of the mouth of Rock Creek along the John Day River woke to his pickup alarm and flashing lights, according to a written statement from the sheriff’s office. The owner went outside and saw a man sitting in the driver’s seat of the pickup.

“The homeowner confronted the subject who was non-compliant at first but eventually left the area on foot,” the sheriff’s office reported.

The home does not have a telephone, so the owner and his wife drove until they had cellphone service and called 911. About three-quarters of a mile from their home they found a vehicle fully engulfed in flames.

Gilliam County sheriff’s deputies arrived at the home and searched for the suspect. Oregon State Police investigated the crash and fire, and the North Gilliam County Rural Fire Department extinguished the blaze.

Two deputies and two state troopers determined the suspect was Daniel Joseph Coiner, 37, of Heppner.

Coiner, possibly intoxicated, had driven his car off the road and gotten stuck near the mouth of Rock Creek, according to the sheriff’s office. The vehicle caught fire and Coiner walked to the residence where he entered the pickup.

Law enforcement found and arrested Coiner and booked him into jail in The Dalles on several charges including criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, felony revoked driving and littering.

OBITUARIES

Frank Delion Ramirez

Hermiston  
April 2, 1919 - March 1, 2018

Frank Delion Ramirez of Hermiston, Oregon, was born on April 2, 1919, in Allende Coah, Mexico. He died on March 1, 2018, at his home in Hermiston at the age of 98.

Frank married the love of his life, Romana Hernandez, on January 10, 1948, in Mitchell, Nebraska, and was married for 68 years. They lived in Sydney, Nebraska, before settling in Hermiston in 1964.



Ramirez



Frank came to the United States in 1926 at the age of 6, living in Texas shortly before moving to Nebraska. His family was poor and Frank was not able to complete school but instead worked on a large beet farm, weeding, driving tractors and trucks to help earn money. He also worked in a tailor shop, mending and altering clothing.

Frank joined the Army in 1941, serving during WWII for three and a half years before his honorable discharge. He was based in France and Italy during World War II and was an ambulance driver, carrying wounded soldiers to the ambulance, caring for them until reaching the hospitals. The war ended and he met his future wife in the fall of 1945. Romana was 17 and Frank was 26. They married in 1948, and in 1950 Frank started working at the Sioux Army Depot in Sidney, Neb.; he was transferred to Umatilla Army Depot in Hermiston, Oregon, in 1964 where he continued

to work until retirement in 1976.

Frank enjoyed fishing and raising a huge garden. He was also a good pool player, loved to make tamales and spend time with the crew at the HT. He loved his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren dearly.

Frank is survived by sons Frank Ramirez II (Kathy), Hillsboro, Ore., and Tom Ramirez (Michelle), Hermiston, Ore.; daughters Joan (John) Rawson, Damascus, Ore., and Marian (John) Ellwanger, Hermiston, Ore.; 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Frank’s family wishes to express their deepest appreciation to Karen Krein for her endless care and compassion.

Frank was preceded in death by his wife Romana, his daughter Annette Quick, and his four sisters Otila Blanco, Vera Hernandez, Esther Betances and Amparo (Mary) Vargas.

Recitation of the Holy Rosary will be held on Friday, March 9, 2018, at 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, Hermiston, Oregon, with Mass of Christian Burial following at noon. Burial with military honors will follow at the Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston, Oregon.

Please sign the online condolence book at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com

Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon, is in charge of arrangements.

Pamela Rochelle McSpadden

Stanfield  
July 20, 1954 - Feb. 28, 2018

Pamela Rochelle McSpadden was born July 20, 1954 in Butte, Montana, the daughter of Edward and Dorothy (Landice) Berreth. She passed away in Stanfield on Wednesday February 28, 2018 at the age of 63.

Pamela lived in Montana and later Seattle, Washington, before moving to Stanfield, Oregon, in the mid-1990s. She enjoyed being active in her community as a city council member, volunteering at the Stanfield Senior Center and the Food Bank. She also enjoyed cooking, fishing, going camping,

working in her yard and loved dogs.

Pamela married Bob McSpadden in Pendleton, Oregon, on Nov. 14, 2001.

She is survived by her husband, Bob; sons, Ryan and Rodney Minten; sisters, Debbie Schrader and Linda Gillot; brother, Gary Berreth; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday March 7, 2018, at the Burns Mortuary Chapel.

To leave an online condolence for the family go to www.burnsmortuaryhermiston.com.

POLICE LOG

TUESDAY, FEB. 27

1:15 p.m. — Animal abuse was reported in progress at Butte Park on Northwest Seventh Street, Hermiston.

11:47 p.m. — On Northeast Fourth Street, it was reported that there was a lot of arguing going on inside an apartment, with one person saying that if they called the cops, they would tell the cops that whoever reported them was on drugs. The reporter was concerned about retaliation from the subjects.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

11:38 a.m.— Shots fired were reported at Columbia Drive, Hermiston.

3:19 p.m. — At the Hermiston Library on East Gladys Avenue, a caller reported that a male subject was sleeping inside by the computer stations. He was breathing really hard and another patron believed he was coming down off drugs. They asked for a welfare check.

5:17 p.m. — On North First Street by Dutch Bros., a caller saw a transaction for a gun, in a large blue two-door pickup truck.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

1:26 p.m. — A male was reportedly trespassing in a back yard on Northwest Third Street, Hermiston.

3:23 p.m. — A male was inside a business on South Highway 395, harassing a customer.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

9:29 p.m. — A suicidal subject was reported on East Elm Avenue, Hermiston.

11:32 p.m. —An assault was reported at Northwest Spruce Street, Hermiston

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

1:14 p.m. — A domestic disturbance was reported on Southwest Oak Drive.

4:47 p.m. — On West Sunland Avenue, Hermiston, a caller reported that a neighbor is threatening them and throwing buckets into their yard.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

8:19 a.m. — A caller reported a woman was parked in front of their residence playing loud music and refused to leave.

10:04 a.m. — A suicidal subject was reported at West Elm Avenue and North First Place, Hermiston.

3:01 p.m. — A storage unit was reported ransacked on North First Place, Hermiston.

6:53 p.m. — Two different callers reported a domestic disturbance on Northwest 11th Street but police were unable to locate.

9:50 p.m. — Five shots were reported fired at East Beech Avenue and McNary Street, Hermiston, which the reporter said sounded like a pistol. But officers were unable to locate the source of the shots.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

8:18 a.m. — A business on Northwest 11th Street, Hermiston, asked officers to come check out a vehicle with open containers of beer sitting in the front.

2:56 p.m. — An employee of a business on North First Street reported she is receiving threatening calls at work.

9:07 p.m. — A suicidal subject was reported on West Sunland Avenue.



Follow us on  
Facebook!