



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Sergeant Kent Sisson

Incident #: 15c06209 – **Missing Person Located**

USFS 5700 Road West of Entiat, WA – Tyee Ridge Area

Phone: 509-630-7506

Date: 06/13/2015

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us>

Chelan County Sheriff's Office searchers located a local 50 year old female Saturday morning after she had apparently been stranded in the wilderness for over 36 hours. Margaret Johnson of Wenatchee had originally called 911 shortly after 9:00pm on Thursday evening advising she had been walking for a "Very long time", after having blown a tire on her vehicle, and run out of gas. Johnson told RIVERCOM dispatchers she was on a paved road in the area of the "Saddle Club" in Chelan, WA. Deputies checked that area extensively Thursday night, but were unable to locate Johnson or her 2010 Chevrolet Impala. In an additional 911 call from Johnson, she advised that she could see mountains and desert while walking on the road. Callbacks to her cell phone went unanswered.

In checking the ping location of Johnson's cell phone, deputies determined the phone was only being received off of one cell tower and several unreliable locations were being logged by Verizon Cellular. All those general locations – which were many miles apart in the north and west county were checked on Thursday night and Friday without result.

On Friday, family and friends of Johnson confirmed she had not returned home or gone to work. The information concerning Johnson was broadcast was shared with other law enforcement agencies. At 9:00pm on Friday evening, USFS Law Enforcement Officer Mike Kujala located Johnson's vehicle on the remote 5700 USFS Road in the Tyee Ridge area approximately 20 miles west of Entiat (not near Chelan, WA). The car had a flat tire and Johnson was nowhere to be found.

Search coordinators organized an extensive search for Johnson early Saturday morning along the USFS 5700 Road. At 8:17am, Deputy Mike McLeod and USFS Officer Kujala located shoes and a wallet in the roadway about 2 miles further west from where the vehicle was abandoned. Johnson was then found about 150 yards down an embankment at that location. She was dehydrated and somewhat delusional, with a sprained ankle but otherwise in fair physical condition. Johnson was transported by Entiat Aid and Ballard Ambulance to Central Washington Hospital for treatment. It is not currently known why Johnson decided to drive up the Entiat River Road and then onto the remote USFS road Thursday night, all while telling dispatchers she was in the Chelan area. The investigation continues.

Inquiries concerning this media release can be directed to Sergeant Kent Sisson with the Sheriff's Office - (509)630-7506.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

John Wisemore
Undersheriff



Jason Mathews
Chief of Special Operations



Valerie Karnes
Chief Civil Deputy



Jan Brincat
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