



## PRESS RELEASE

Case #13-507192

### Deputies Respond to Fatal Pedestrian Crash

May 18, 2013—Sheriff's Deputies respond to a crash where a 23-year-old woman was struck by a vehicle while she was walking in the roadway. The woman did not survive her injuries.

On May 18, 2013, at 12:10 a.m., Washington County Deputy Sheriff's Deputies were called to SW Hillsboro Highway (Hwy. 219) south of SW Burkhalter Road concerning a person that was reportedly walking in the road hitchhiking. This is a dark rural area on a road with a posted speed limit of 55 m.p.h., in the community of Farmington.

As Sheriff's Deputies were traveling to the area, another person called seven minutes after the initial call and said that he had struck a person with his vehicle in the same location. Deputies arrived and discovered there was a female that had apparently been walking north in the middle of the northbound lane when she was struck by a northbound vehicle. The woman was wearing all black clothing.



Sheriff's Deputies found that Melissa Bernard, 23, of Portland, was off the right side of the road and pronounced deceased at the scene. Deputies learned that Owen Moyco, 42 from Cornelius, struck Ms. Bernard with his 2004 Kia Sedona mini van. Mr. Moyco said he was driving about 55 m.p.h. when, at the last second, he saw Ms. Bernard in front of him. He told deputies he tried to swerve around her but there was a vehicle driving toward him in the opposite direction and he was unable to avoid hitting Ms.

Bernard.

Mr. Moyco was not injured in the crash. No charges are anticipated in this case.

The Washington County Crash Analysis Reconstruction Team assisted in the investigation. Southwest Hillsboro Highway was closed for about three hours to complete the investigation.