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Authorities think fall caused hiker's death

A woman who disappeared Saturday at a popular coast viewing area north of Florence apparently fell to her death, the Lane County sheriff's office reported.

Tevina A. Benedict, 54, left family members to go for a short hike at the Strawberry Hill Wayside between noon and 1 p.m. When she failed to return to the car, the family contacted the sheriff's office. Deputies and rescue workers searched through the night.

Benedict's body was found about 7 a.m. Sunday at the base of a cliff about a half-mile from where she was last seen.

"The whole area has undercut banks," said Deputy John Miller. "The vegetation looks like something you can walk on when in reality there is nothing underneath it."

-- Lori Tobias
Missing woman's body found at cliff

Lane County authorities say a search crew found the body of a Eugene woman who had been missing since going on a short hike near Highway 101 north of Florence.

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) - Lane County authorities say a search crew found the body of a woman who had been missing since going on a short hike near Highway 101.

Tevina Antoinette Benedict of Eugene was reported missing by family members late Saturday afternoon.

The 54-year-old woman's body was located Sunday at the base of a rocky cliff about a half mile from the Strawberry Hill Wayside Lane viewing area.

That area is just south of the Lane-Lincoln county line.

Benedict was there with family members, who called police when she failed to return to their vehicle.

An autopsy is planned for this week, but Lane County investigators say the death appears to be accidental.

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Woman missing from pull-out found dead

The body of a 54-year-old Eugene woman was located Sunday morning at the base of a rocky cliff off Highway 101 near the Lane-Lincoln county line, the Lane County Sheriff's Office said.

Search crew members located Tevina Antoinette Benedict about a half-mile from the Strawberry Hill Wayside Lane viewing area, the location where she was reported last seen by family members, said Sgt. Mark Reese.

Deputies received a call about 5 p.m. Saturday that Benedict had gone for a short hike near the viewing area with family members and failed to return to their vehicle. The viewing area is about 1 1/2 miles south of the Lane-Lincoln County line.

Lane County sheriff's deputies and search and rescue personnel combed the area through the night.

"Right now the incident appears to be accidental," Reese said. The investigation is continuing and an autopsy is scheduled this week, he said.
The body of a missing Eugene woman has been found.

Search and rescue teams from Lane County found 54 year old Tevina Benedict just north of Florence.

She had gone for a hike near the Strawberry Hill viewing area Saturday and never returned to her car.

The family called the Sheriff's Department, and crews searched all night.

At seven this morning (Sunday), crews found Benedict's body at the base of a rocky cliff.

Deputies say the death appears to be accidental. An autopsy is scheduled for later in the week.