

Two children missing for approximately 2 hours on Sauvie Island were found this evening after emergency responders conducted an extensive search for them. The mother of one of the children has been charged with two counts of Child Neglect.

"This is a case of someone going to the river for recreation, but neglecting her responsibility to make sure the children with her were safe," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "

Booked and released for Child Neglect is Washington County resident Diana Bedrosian, 46. Bedrosian took her child and a fellow 6-year-old friend to Collins Beach on the Columbia County side of Sauvie Island, adjacent to the "Stair Number 3" access to the beach. Investigators believe Ms. Bedrosian fell asleep on the beach, neglecting to attend to the welfare of the young children in her care, one of whom was her own child.

The boy and girl disappeared for at least two hours, but were located during the extensive search effort. Sauvie Island volunteer firefighters and a Columbia County Sheriff's Deputy delivered the children safely back to the area from which they had walked away. They were found on a gravel road adjacent to the beach, nearly a half mile away from where Ms. Bedrosian had reportedly fallen asleep as the children wandered off through the crowds on a hot afternoon.

The call came in to Columbia 911 dispatch at 6:20 p.m. The children were located at 7:37 p.m.

"Calls like this send shivers down your spine," Sheriff Dickerson said. "In those tense hours when children go missing, you press hard to find them early. I am grateful for the help we received from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Coast Guard, the Sauvie Island Volunteer Fire District and the Oregon State Police. This was truly a group effort that was rewarded with success."

This case will be forwarded to the Columbia County District Attorney for charges on Ms. Bedrosian. It has also been forwarded on to the Oregon Department of Human Services for follow up.

MISSING CHILDREN LOCATED on SAUVIE ISLAND/MOTHER CHARGED WITH CHILD NEGLECT

Wednesday, 29 July 2009 06:27 - Last Updated Wednesday, 29 July 2009 07:06



Diana Bedrosian
