

Searchers aid injured PCT hiker

Searchers located a Happy Valley man who was injured while bushwhacking in the area west of the Three Sisters on Wednesday, August 28.

According to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, dispatch received a 911 call at about 12:38 p.m. from a family member of Cory Mills, who was hiking solo on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The family member had reportedly received a distress message from Mills, who said in the message that he had gone off-trail to hike The Husband and had been injured when a rock fell on him. The message also read "911."

Further details, including whether or not Mills was disabled or mobile, were not available at that time

Two Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to the call. Attempts to contact Mills via cell phone were not successful and the cell phone carrier was not able to provide coordinates for his location. Further attempts to ascertain Mills' coordinates via other resources were not successful, the sheriff's office reported.

Due to the circumstances, including unknown injuries to Mills, AirLink and Life Flight were contacted for assistance, but they were not able to fly due to inclement weather.

Deputies also contacted the Lane County Sheriff's Office to advise them of the call and to help coordinate the rescue. Lane County



PHOTO COURTESY DCSO

A search party located Cory Mills of Happy Valley near the Devil's Lake Trailhead. He had been injured by a falling rock on The Husband, but was able to hike out.

responded by sending in two ground search and rescue teams — one from the north and one from the west — while the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue sent a ground team of six volunteers in from Devil's Lake Trailhead to the PCT.

Two DCSO deputies remained in headquarters to continue to coordinate the rescue.

The DCSO SAR volunteers located Mills on the PCT in Lane County about 4.5 miles from the Devil's Lake Trailhead. Mills had been hiking his way out with non-life-threatening injuries and was unable to send out further messages due to poor cell phone service in that area. Mills was evaluated and treated on scene by DCSO SAR medics. He was then assisted back to the Devil's Lake Trailhead, arriving at

approximately 9:30 p.m. where he declined further medical assistance.

Mills was transported to St. Charles Bend by a friend for further treatment.

Mills was well-equipped for his hike and provided family members with his route.

Jet-car speed racer Combs dies trying to break record

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — Jet-car speed racer Jessi Combs, known by fans as the "fastest woman on four wheels," has died in a crash in Oregon's Alvord Desert while trying to break a speed record, local authorities said August 28.

Combs, 36, died August 27 while racing in a dry lakebed in a desert in remote Harney County, sheriff's Lt. Brian Needham said in a statement. The cause is under investigation.

Terry Madden, Combs' teammate on the North American Eagle racing team, said in an Instagram post that he was heartbroken and added a video collage of photos and video clips of Combs with various team members.

"She was the most

amazing spirit that I have ever or will ever know," Madden wrote. "Unfortunately we lost her yesterday in a horrific accident, I was the first one there and trust me we did everything humanly possible to save her!!"

Combs was widely known in the niche sport of jet-car racing and was attempting to break the Women's Land Speed Record of 512 mph (823 kph) set in 1976 by Kitty O'Neil when she died. Jet cars are racecars propelled by jet engines.

She currently held the record as the fastest woman on four wheels — O'Neil piloted a three-wheeled vehicle — for a 398 mph performance in 2013 and had driven even faster in follow-up runs, but mechanical problems prevented those from making the record books.

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