

Hiker rescued from Jawbone Flats area

WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

About 19 search and rescue personnel worked to rescue a sick hiker from the Opal Creek Wilderness June 17.

Trace Downen, 27, of Portland, was hiking with his three brothers near the Jawbone Flats area when he became ill, said Marion County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Chris Baldrige.

Trevor Downen said he and his brothers were 11 miles into a 15-mile, two-day backpacking trip when Trace collapsed. He had trouble breathing, chest pain and a racing heartbeat, Trevor said.

All were experienced, fit hikers and had backpacked a handful of times. They'd summited Whetstone Mountain and camped in the forest on Friday night.

Fear kicked in as the group scrambled to help Trace. The trail, which has notoriously poor cell phone reception, is a designated wilderness area and help is often hours away.

When Trevor climbed about 650 feet uphill and stood on a rock cropping, he was able to reach 911.

The sheriff's office responded to the medical emergency call around 5 p.m. and was joined by their search and rescue team, the Linn County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team, Stayton Fire Department, Lyons Fire Department, Gates Fire Department

and the Oregon Air National Guard.

Trevor ran four miles down to the trailhead to meet rescue personnel. He led the teams on trek back up the trail four miles. The rescue team members hauled heavy equipment, medical supplies and extra clothing with them on the steep hike. The hours-long hike was grueling, but the members were friendly, positive and knowledgeable, Trevor said.

When they reached Trace, he was air evacuated out of the forest by the National Guard.

The Army Air National Guard flew him to Salem Municipal Airport, where he was taken by ambulance to Salem Health hospital.

"These guys were heroes," Trevor said. "I think it would've been a very different story if they hadn't been able to get to him."

He said his brother was released from the hospital June 18 and is recovering at home.

They're unsure what caused the jarring medical emergency, but are keeping a close eye on him as he recovers.

In a statement, Trace thanked the rescue personnel for their service.

"I am eternally grateful, your willingness to drop everything and hike out several hours with heavy equipment to help another person in need is inspiring and courageous," he wrote. "I can't thank you enough. Your response was incredible, and I owe you all my life."

North Fork Park to remain closed

ZACH URNESS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

People looking to cool off from the hot temperatures will need to cross popular North Fork Park off their lists. The park of popular swimming holes will remain closed as construction crews work to finish putting asphalt on the new parking area, officials said.

"We still have to get the parking lot finished," said Russ Dilley, Marion County Parks coordinator.

Dilley said the park should be open in early July, but an exact date hasn't been determined.

Dilley said anyone who illegally goes into the park will be asked to leave by patrols in the area.



Protesters chant during a rally in Portland near Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

DON RYAN/AP FILE

State moves to bolster unique sanctuary status

ANDREW SELSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oregon's Legislature took a step closer June 20 to strengthening its unique sanctuary-state status, with the House passing a bill that would bar state and local agencies from asking about a person's immigration status and from disclosing information to federal officials, except in certain circumstances.

The bill, introduced at the request of Gov. Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, both Democrats, has sharply divided lawmakers along party lines in the Democrat-controlled Legislature.

The House Republican Office called it "an attempt to subvert federal immigration policy." House Democrats said it "will strengthen privacy protections for vulnerable populations."

Two Latino Democratic lawmakers — Teresa Alonso Leon, from the predominantly Latino community of Woodburn, and Diego Hernandez from Portland, Oregon's biggest city — filed the bill on May 31, trying to counteract enhanced im-

migration enforcement ordered by President Donald Trump.

Principals of two Portland high schools wrote on behalf of Portland Public Schools to support the bill, saying "recent national and local events about increased federal immigration enforcement has caused considerable anxiety and concern throughout our school district and communities."

"Our students are living in fear that their parents could be picked up by federal officials and they are looking to our schools to be safe places," wrote Petra Callin of Madison High School and Filip Hristic of Roosevelt High School. They said students' worries about their families' safety can distract from learning. Some students are foregoing meals because of fear that filling out a form for free or reduced-cost lunch could put their families at risk of arrest and deportation.

The Oregon Winegrowers Association noted that Oregon's wine industry and other agricultural businesses depend on immigrant labor, noting that immigration en-

forcement has a "chilling effect" where even if an employee is in the U.S. legally, their spouse or child may not be, making them afraid to drive to work or take their children to school.

Christiana Mayer, a resident of the Portland suburb of Forest Grove, disagreed.

She wrote to the legislature: "Our elected leaders should be expected, by their oath of office, to uphold the laws of this nation, not work to circumvent them to benefit people here illegally and at the expense of the Oregon taxpayer!"

Oregon became America's first, and so far only, sanctuary state in 1987 with a law preventing law enforcement from detaining people who are in the United States illegally but have not broken other laws. In February, Brown ordered all state agencies to follow it. Massachusetts lawmakers are considering a bill that would create another sanctuary state.

A federal judge has blocked, at least temporarily, an executive order issued by Trump to cut funding to sanctuary cities that refuse to cooper-

ate with federal immigration agents.

Opponents of measures to protect those in the U.S. illegally from deportation say the safety of American citizens is being put at risk.

David Olen Cross, a Salem man who researches crimes committed by foreign nationals, said that almost half of the 969 foreign nationals in Oregon's prisons whose detention is also being sought by Immigration and Customs Enforcement were incarcerated for sex abuse, rape and sodomy.

Under the new bill, the date, time or location of a person's hearings or appointments that are not already public record cannot be disclosed by the public body. The bill said that, "except as required by state or federal law," a public body may not disclose for the purpose of immigration enforcement a person's address, workplace or work schedule, school and contact information.

A public body could inquire about a person's citizenship or immigration status when determining eligibility for benefits, or as required by state or federal law.

Prepare to walk on the wild side when reptile show comes to town

ANNETTE UTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL

The people of Stayton and Silverton can take a walk on the wild side when Steve Lattanzi brings his Creature Feature Reptile Show to town on Thursday, June 29.

At 4 p.m., Lattanzi and his unusual entourage will visit the Stayton Public Library, 515 N. First Ave., and then move on to Silverton for a 7 p.m. show at the Silver Falls Library, 410 S. Water St..

The one-hour, hands-on presentation provides an intimate look at some of the world's intriguing creatures. Creature Feature also has a reptile petting zoo and photo opportunities following the show.

"I'll have about 12 different animals with me — various snakes, lizards, even an alligator," Lattanzi said. "They're all pretty exciting reptiles."

His troupe includes Daisy, a 4-foot alligator; and Buttercup, a 13-foot,



STEVE LATTANZI / SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL
Madison Lattanzi holds Buttercup, a 13' Burmese python and one of the stars of Creature Feature.

70-pound Burmese python.

Lattanzi's background is in herpetology, biology and entomology. A zoo

owner and educator, he is a wildlife expert who specializes in studying exotic animals from around the world. Coupling his passion for wildlife with his enthusiasm for teaching, he has created a fun and educational program for all ages.

"I've been doing Creature Feature for 25 years and started working with reptiles when I was 15 so I have about 40 years of professional experience," he said.

Guests at the Stayton show can stick around for DIY Terrariums from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.... Learn how to bring some green into your home and make your own terrarium with succulents. This is a free event for ages 12 and older. Registration is required for the workshop. Call 503-769-3313 to register and for more information.

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OBITUARY

Dennis James Mitchell

July 12, 1962 – May 4, 2017

Dennis Mitchell, 54, passed away Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Dennis was born in Denver, Colorado, one of four children. Following high school, he served in the Air Force for 10 years. He worked as a corrections officer in Portland and then served in the reserve in Mt. Angel. Dennis moved to Mt. Angel in 2010 to be near his family. Dennis courageously battled cancer for the last many years. Most recently, he enjoyed helping his daughter and was involved in his granddaughter's school activities.

Dennis is survived by his mother, Delores West; daughter Dawn Alexander; granddaughter Taylor Alexander; and brothers Tom Mitchell, Ron Wheeler and Roger Mitchell.

Graveside service will take place at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 21, 2017, at Willamette National Cemetery.

Arrangements with Unger Funeral Chapel.