

## OREGON IN BRIEF

From wire reports

### Evacuations continue in Southern Oregon

GRANTS PASS — A large wildfire burning in southern Oregon continues to keep about 1,000 people out of their homes.

The Garner Complex fire grew to 49 square miles on Sunday and was only about 30 percent contained.

Fire officials say the fire grew by more than 10 percent overnight and is being fought by some 2,600 firefighters.

No structures have been damaged, but about 1,000 people are under mandatory evacuation notices.

### Earthquake reported near Oregon Coast

FLORENCE — An earthquake was reported off the Oregon Coast Sunday.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the magnitude 5.3 quake occurred shortly after 7 a.m., west of Florence, Oregon.

The earthquake was seven miles deep, and there are no reports of injuries or damage.

No tsunami warnings have been issued.

### Long Hollow Fire destroys historic homestead

The Long Hollow fire is 58 percent contained as of Sunday night, fire officials said.

Firefighting teams worked Sunday night and Monday morning to finish containment lines for the 34,500-acre fire, officials said. Only a few areas, such as the southeast corner, are still fairly active.

Evacuations levels for segment three of the Deschutes River, between Buckhallow and Macks Canyon, have lowered to a Level 1. Earlier in the week, evacuations were at Level 3.

Oregon 216 and Deschutes River access road are now open, although officials recommend driving under the speed limit to watch out for debris and firefighting teams.

Ferry Canyon Homestead, upstream of Macks Canyon, is the only structure officially confirmed to have burned down. It was a historic home used for railroad workers in the early 1900s.

### Crews gain on Wilson Prairie Fire

The Wilson Prairie Fire in Morrow and Grant counties is 50 percent contained, according to a Saturday evening update by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Firefighters built a containment line on the east perimeter of the fire near Porter Creek, and mop up has begun in several places. The fire is burning across 437 acres.

An update earlier in the day said there were 460 personnel assigned to the fire and three helicopters, nine fire engines, four bulldozers and 11 water tenders. Because of the aerial attack on the fire, there is a temporary flight restriction in the area.

### Stray bullet causes small fire in Shedd

An eastern Oregon fire chief says a stray bullet caused a small fire in one of the pistol bays at a Shedd rifle and pistol club.

Brownsville Fire Chief Kevin Rogers says an errant bullet sparked the fire when it ricocheted off a rock and into the grass.

The Albany Democrat-Herald reports multiple agencies responded to the Friday fire at the Albany Rifle & Pistol Club.

It took crews about 20 minutes to put out the quarter-acre fire.

Rogers says no structures were threatened.

No injuries were reported.

# Women surfers carve out space on North Coast

By Hannah Sievert  
The Daily Astorian

When Lexie Hallahan started bodyboarding in Seaside in 1989, she remembers being one of four other women regulars in the water. It seemed to her like nearly all the surfers on the Oregon Coast were men.

These days, there are many women in the lineup at local surf spots like the Cove in Seaside and Short Sand Beach at Oswald West State Park.

While women have been an important part of surfing's international growth, both on the professional stage and in popular culture, they still feel the influence of the sport's historically male focus.

Local surfers credit Hallahan and others for shrugging off barriers and carving out space for women.

Hallahan put together her first all-women surf camp more than a decade ago. That first weekend, she watched as 16 women transformed from hesitant to confident in the waves. She estimates she has since taught more than 700 women to surf.

"I got a full-on epiphany out in the water," said Hallahan, who teaches at the Seaside-based Northwest Women's Surf Camps. "I was like, 'Oh, my gosh, I'm supposed to be teaching women to surf. This is my calling.'"

Surf spots can be unwelcoming for newcomers, especially for inexperienced surfers, and some women say they feel a little extra pressure to

prove themselves.

"You have to go out there and catch a wave and surf it well, the first wave, or sometimes they'll think you can't surf," said Brianna Ortega, a surfer in Seaside. "If you're just sitting out there, they'll assume you can't surf. As a woman, not just for me but for everyone, you really have to prove yourself."

Aiden Herth, a surfing coach at Hallahan's camps, grew up surfing on Long Island, New York, where she said she rarely saw a woman with her in the water. She has noticed more women in the water on the West Coast, but still sees some difficulties.

"I've had tons of guys cut my line off," she said.

Ortega is doing her part to change the way women surfers are portrayed in the media. The women stars of the World Surf League are recognized as elite athletes, and advertisers have long seen the potential of marketing surf apparel to women, but there are still stereotypes of women in bikinis posing with surfboards on the beach instead of out on the waves.

Ortega's new magazine, Sea Together, aims to bring the global community of women surfers together and present their experiences through creative writing and interviews.

"I'm putting all of my frustrations into this, and doing a positive thing," she said.

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