

Dozens of Oregon hikers rescued amid wildfires

One fire likely caused by fireworks

Associated Press

HOOD RIVER — Crews helped rescue more than 100 hikers stranded in the mountains overnight after a wildfire closed their trail and they were trapped between two blazes.

The Hood River County Sheriff's Office said Sunday afternoon that the final group of hikers left the Wahtum Lake area at the bottom of the trail and were headed by bus to meet with their friends and family.

Deputy Joel Ives says no hikers were missing but one hiker was taken out by ambulance for exhaustion and dehydration.

Many of the hikers had gone up the Eagle Creek Trail on Saturday to swim at the popular waterfalls and pools, but a fire broke out near the Columbia River Gorge trail about 90 miles east of Portland. The blaze was burning on the Eagle Creek Trail, and the only other way out was longer and more difficult, and it was getting dark, so officials told them to spend the night near Tunnel Falls.

Mountain Wave Search and Rescue dropped supplies to the hikers. A portion of the Eagle Creek Trail had been closed for weeks because of another fire that erupted July 4.

Mountain Wave president Russ Gubele says search and rescue teams headed up the second trail on Sunday morning and led the hikers out the 14 miles toward Wahtum Lake.

"It's horribly smoky," Gubele said. "Ash is coming down. It's like a Mount Saint Helens eruption all over again."

On Saturday, 14 hikers were brought out and returned to Eagle Creek and three hikers were rescued by National Guard helicopter.

Authorities say the wildfire had grown to almost 5 square miles by Sunday. The U.S. Forest Service says the wildfire was human-caused and is under investigation by the Oregon State Police.

About 130 homes in Cascade Locks were under evacuation orders because of the flames. A Red Cross shelter was set up at the Skamania County Fairgrounds, across the Columbia River in Stevenson, Washington.

As fire teams make progress protecting the coastal town of Brookings from the state's largest wildfire, focus has shifted to the inland side of the fire.

The Statesman Journal reported the blaze called the Chetco Bar Fire in southwest Oregon had burned about 223 square miles.

So far, firefighting efforts have focused on Brookings, a town of 6,500 on the southern Oregon Coast, but it has not moved closer in recent days.

In the meantime, the fire has been spreading east across the rugged Kalmiopsis Wilderness in the direction of the Illinois Valley.

That has made some residents of Selma and Cave Junction, south of Grants Pass, nervous.

The state fire marshal says an Excessive Heat Warning continues through Monday will contribute to the spread of new and existing fires.



Mark Graves/The Oregonian

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Russ Gubele,
Mountain Wave Search and Rescue president



Mark Graves/The Oregonian

ABOVE, Families reunite after campers were evacuated from a forest fire in the Eagle Creek area of the Columbia River Gorge on Sunday.

LEFT, Fire burns in the Eagle Creek area of Columbia River Gorge on Saturday.

Coast Guard rescues three in canoe

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A mother and her two children stranded in a canoe near Fort Stevens Sunday afternoon were rescued by the Coast Guard.

The woman's husband called 911 about

3:45 p.m. to report they were missing and last seen near Clatsop Spit.

A Coast Guard crewmember from Station Cape Disappointment rescued the three people after walking down a jetty and helping them out of the canoe. They had minor injuries, according to the Coast Guard.

Round-Up host says 'no' to group that sells Confederate flags given political climate

Associated Press

PENDLETON — Round-Up week's most visible purveyor of the Stars and Bars won't be back on Pendleton's Main Street this year. The East Oregonian reported that Round-Up host The Main Street Cowboys didn't accept the application

of Liberty Flags & Gifts.

Last year the vendor was criticized for displaying and selling Confederate flags.

Host director Johnny Blagg says the current political climate and the media scrutiny were factors in the organization's decision to pass on the vendor's application.

Liberty Flags & Gifts owner Viola Moody says she thought that she and Blagg had reached a compromise for the 2017 event during a recent talk.

But Moody says she recently learned that their application was denied. She says they're "dumping" on the group's free speech.

Advertisement for eOMEDIA group, stating it is the most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for communities.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA from AccuWeather.com, showing temperatures for tonight through Friday.

ALMANAC and REGIONAL WEATHER sections, including weather forecasts for various Oregon cities and astronomical data.

UNDER THE SKY and TOMORROW'S TIDES sections, providing information on the current sky and tide schedules.

NATIONAL CITIES and TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER sections, including temperature forecasts for major US cities and a national weather map.

LOTTERIES section listing winning numbers and jackpots for Oregon, Washington, and other state lotteries.

PUBLIC MEETINGS section listing dates and locations for various community meetings.

OBITUARY POLICY section detailing the newspaper's policies regarding obituary notices and publication.

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