

Teen hero identified, presumed dead in ocean rescue attempt

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

GLENEDEN BEACH, Ore. -- The 16-year-old boy who remains missing and presumed dead after entering the heavy surf off the Oregon coast to help an 11-year-old child caught in a rip tide on Saturday has been identified.

Despite the efforts of Aloha High School junior, Ross Barfuss, 11-year-old River Jenison of Westfir died at a local hospital after he was pulled from the water.

The incident happened about 1:15 p.m., March 8, Oregon State Police reported.

Barfuss and his family were on an outing at Gleneden Beach when Ross spotted the younger boy being swept to sea and went to help. The Barfuss family lived in the Pendleton, Oregon area for eight years prior to moving to Aloha in June 2007.

The families of the boys were not acquainted, OSP said.

Emergency responders from state, county, local and U.S. Coast Guard participated in the search and rescue efforts, troopers reported.

On Sunday, about 50 members of the Hazeldale ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints helped the family as they continue looking for the missing teen. He has not yet been located.

Teen hero identified, presumed dead in ocean rescue attempt by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources