17-Year-old Rafterâ€™s Body Found in Deschutes River

by K_Guice

Wasco County Sheriffâ€™s Office located the missing body of rafter, Danielle Hagler Sunday, July 9 using an underwater camera.

The body of the 17-year-old, who was thrown from her raft with three others on July 6, was lodged against a large boulder in the river. It was being held there as a result of the extreme water pressure.

â€œHigh water and turbulence in the rapids have created hazardous conditions which are hampering recovery efforts,â€• Wasco County Sheriffâ€™s Office Chief Deputy Steve Conover said in a press release.

The river conditions during recovery efforts were so treacherous that a private rescue boat assisting authorities sank on Sunday, according to sheriff's deputies.

All of the rescue personnel on board returned safely to shore without any injuries. However, the sheriff's office states, there is a navigational hazard due to the bow of the sunken boat now sticking out of the water.

The sheriff's office requested the water flow in the area be reduced to lessen the rescue hazards. The reduction in the flow was planned to be timed with an additional recovery attempt.

Hagler was part of a church group rafting trip on the Deschutes River July 6. Their raft flipped over in the White Horse Rapids, a portion of the river approximately 20 miles south of Maupin.

All of the occupants were reportedly wearing life jackets. The two adults and one other juvenile that were on board were able to make it to shore. The youth was transported to Mid-Columbia Center in The Dalles and treated for an injury to her leg.

Other area rafters and fishermen aided in immediate search efforts in the rapids and along the banks. In addition, search and rescue personnel monitored the river with search lights throughout the night.

Steve Conover offered thanks to everyone who assisted Wasco County Sheriff's Office personnel in the search and recovery efforts.

The Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Police, Warm Springs Police, Multnomah County and Hood River County Sheriff's Office personnel have played key roles in the search and recovery efforts. The Hood River Sherriffâ€™s Office assisted with an aircraft.

Hagler would have been a senior at Oregon City High School this fall.

Accident Location

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