
Canby girl, 4, dies after being swept up in Cabo sneaker wave



Marissa Greer, 4, died Monday after being swept up in a sneaker wave while on vacation in Mexico. Fundraising accounts have been set up to help the family with expenses. (Courtesy Katie Greer)



[\[http://connect.oregonlive.com/staff/frazier-l/index.html\]](http://connect.oregonlive.com/staff/frazier-l/index.html) By **Laura Frazier** | **The Oregonian/OregonLive**

[\[http://connect.oregonlive.com/staff/frazier-l/posts.html\]](http://connect.oregonlive.com/staff/frazier-l/posts.html)

Email the author | **Follow on Twitter** [http://twitter.com/frazier_laura]

on January 21, 2016 at 3:03 PM, updated January 21, 2016 at 4:17 PM

A 4-year-old girl from Canby died Monday after being caught in a sneaker wave while on vacation in Mexico.

Katie Greer and her daughter Marissa were walking on the beach in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico when the wave snagged them and two others from the shore. Greer said it happened within seconds.

"We went into the water together and the waves just kept crashing," Greer said in an interview with The Oregonian/OregonLive. "She slipped out of my hand."

The group was rescued from the waves and Marissa was later pronounced dead at a local hospital, Greer said. Her lungs had filled with water.

The Greers returned home to Canby on Tuesday night.

Marissa attended **Canby Community Preschool** [<http://www.canbycommunitypreschool.com/>], where Greer volunteers, and was already learning to read, her mother said. She loved playing dress up, dancing, animals and her 2-year-old brother, Trenton.

"She loved so much," Greer said. "She loved life. I was honored to be her mother."

Greer and her husband, Kyle, both grew up in Canby and were high school sweethearts, she said. Her husband works as a pharmacist at Fred Meyer.

Greer said the support and kindness from the community has been "incredible."

"My house looks like a florist. My pantry looks like a grocery store," she said.

"The outpouring of love from everyone is what's getting us by."

Family friends have since started two separate online fundraisers to help cover expenses, Greer said. **One on GoFundMe** [<https://www.gofundme.com/67kfuxrv>] has so far raised more than \$20,600 and a **fundraiser on YouCaring** [<https://www.youcaring.com/kyle-and-katie-greer-506958>] has raised another roughly \$2,000.

"There are no words to express our sorrow and heartbreak for our dear friends and nothing can replace sweet Marissa," the YouCaring account reads. "She was a brilliant and vibrant young girl. She lit up every room she walked into and loved her friends."

Large, powerful and unexpected waves, sometimes called sneaker waves or sleeper waves, can occur without warning, according to **Oregon Parks and Recreation** [http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PARKS/pages/beach_tips.aspx]. A sneaker wave was blamed for **critically injuring a Beaverton boy** [http://www.oregonlive.com/beaverton/index.ssf/2015/01/beaverton_boy_critically_injur.html] last year and in **the death two Eugene high school students** [http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/02/oregons_beach_experts_warn_no_matter_what_you_call_them_big_waves_can_be_deadly.html] in 2011.

--Laura Frazier

lfrazier@oregonian.com

503-294-4035

[@frazier_laura](https://twitter.com/frazier_laura) [https://twitter.com/frazier_laura]

Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2015 Oregon Live LLC. All rights reserved (**About Us**).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Oregon Live LLC.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site. **Contact interactivity management.**

[▶ Ad Choices](#)