

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**River Run on the Fourth race proceeds to benefit fire victims**

WENATCHEE — RunWenatchee announced today that its annual North Cascades Bank River Run on the Fourth 5K and 10K is still on for this Saturday morning, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Sleepy Hollow Fire victims.

Race organizers evaluated whether to hold the race in light of Sunday's devastating wildfire. But after consulting with community leaders and learning the city's Independence Day Celebration will still be held on Saturday, RunWenatchee decided to move forward with the Fourth of July running race.

RunWenatchee will continue to monitor fire behavior and air quality as the week progresses and, if needed, adjust its race plans accordingly.

"Our hearts are firmly with those who lost homes or have endured hardship during these trying times," said Steve Maher of RunWenatchee. "We also think it's important to exhibit 'the Wenatchee spirit' and to offer an outlet for folks who want to return to some normalcy.

"We were watching closely what the Wenatchee Independence Day Celebration Committee was going to do. Once we were told the Fourth of July celebration is still on for Saturday, we decided to follow suit," Maher said.

In a bid to help those in need, the Sleepy Hollow Fire victims will be added to the list of local beneficiaries of the North Cascades Bank River Run 5K & 10K. The Community Foundation of North Central Washington has opened a fund for donations called the “Sleepy Hollow Heights Fire Support.” This fund will help support the families who have lost their homes and the firefighters, as well as any animals impacted by the blaze. The fund will be used for food and other items. People also can donate directly by going to http://www.cfncw.org/.

Online registration for River Run closes at noon Thursday at https://riverrun2.eventbrite.com. Entry fees are discounted for current and retired military members, firefighters, police officers and emergency dispatchers — in what RunWenatchee is calling its "Heroes Division." Registration also is available at packet pickup from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Pybus Public Market and from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Saturday at Pybus. The race begins at 8 a.m. Saturday at Pybus.

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