

Hearing on train derailment zeroes in on curves

Federal probe of fatal crash near Tacoma

By ERICKA CRUZ GUEVARA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The engineer operating the doomed Amtrak 501 train traveling from Seattle to Portland last December told investigators the train had a different control panel and displays than what he was used to.

The morning of the trip, the engineer planned to get up front, touch the dials and knobs to refamiliarize himself with the train.

From the time he sat down in the seat to the time he moved the throttle to pull out of the station, he had just 60 seconds to review the controls before it was time to leave.

That train would eventually drive off a 30 mph curve



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

An Amtrak train derailed south of Tacoma in December.

at 80 mph south of Tacoma, spilling onto the interstate below, killing three people and injuring several dozens more.

Victims aboard the train and on the highway have filed at least a dozen lawsuits against Amtrak as a result.

But beyond questions about the engineer's qualifica-

tions, National Transportation Safety Board officials raised concerns at an investigative hearing last week about how the problematic curve in the new Point Defiance bypass route fits into the larger narrative of derailments caused by dangerous curves.

Safety board officials were met with silence by a room

full of agency officials responsible for the bypass where the derailment took place. Officials from Amtrak, Sound Transit, the Federal Railroad Administration and the Washington Department of Transportation could not answer a question about whose responsibility it was to mitigate problems with the curve that required trains traveling 80 mph to slow to 30 mph.

NTSB chairman Robert Zumwalt pointed to the 2015 Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia, another incident in 1990 at Boston's Back Bay station and yet another near the Spuyten Duyvil station in New York City in 2013. Each of those incidents included dangerous curves.

"You would think that curves would be very much on the radar so to speak of a railroad these days," Zumwalt said. "And so I'd love to see what you did to assess the risk associated with this."

The curve near Tacoma, at around milepost 19 on the new bypass, has since been identified by the agency responsible for reviewing designs for the bypass as the one curve in the route that would particularly benefit from an automatic braking technology known as Positive Train Control, or PTC. The technology is meant to slow or stop speeding trains automatically.

The NTSB has advocated for the technology for years, with much resistance from railroads and freight companies that complained about the complex nature of the undertaking.

Congress pushed back a federal deadline requiring the installation of PTC on all Class I railroads to this December.

"Positive Train Control will help everywhere," said Martin Young, program manager with Sound Transit. "But there was one curve in partic-

ular that will be helped. And that one is at (milepost) 19.8."

Michael DeCataldo, Amtrak's vice president of operations, said Amtrak has since strengthened the qualifications required for train operators.

Qualifications for operating on certain train routes will depend on the difficulty of the route. Locomotive engineers will be required to do a minimum of four round trips over an entire route before they can qualify to operate on the route.

The engineer operating the Amtrak 501 train had operated just one round trip over the new territory, telling the qualifying conductor that the Dec. 18 trip was "a learning experience for him," according to investigative documents.

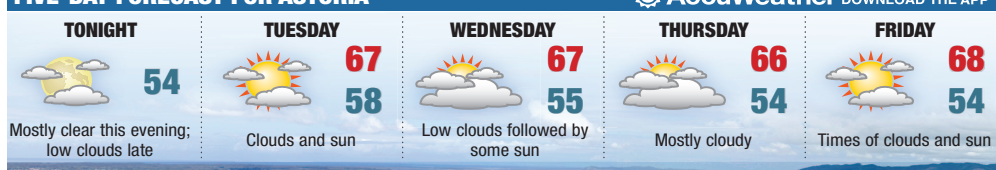
"Looking back, we have seen gaps in our qualification process and we will address those," DeCataldo said.

DEATH

July 15, 2018

WESTERHOLM, Shannon Lee, 42, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

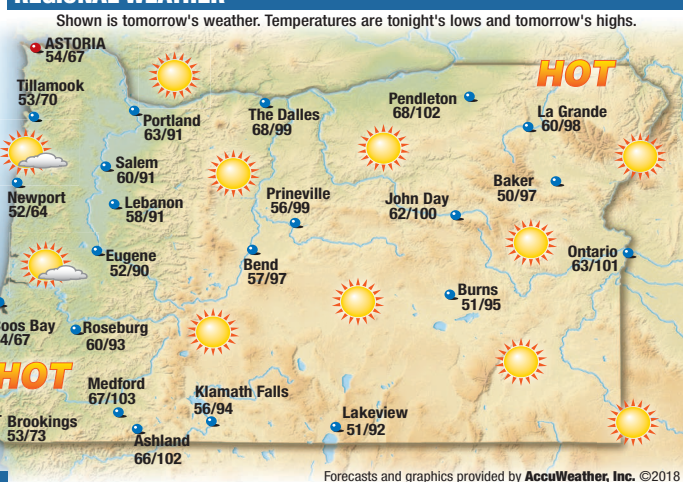
FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday.
Temperatures: High/Low 83°/52°, Normal high/low 68°/53°, Record high 86° in 1979, Record low 40° in 1930.
Precipitation: Sunday 0.00", Month to date 0.04", Normal month to date 0.61", Year to date 35.69", Normal year to date 36.52".
Sun and Moon: Sunset tonight 9:03 p.m., Sunrise Tuesday 5:41 a.m., Moonrise today 10:03 a.m., Moonset today 11:40 p.m.

REGIONAL WEATHER



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: To Hercules's lower right is the constellation Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

| Time | High | Time | Low |
|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| 5:00 a.m. | 8.4 ft. | 11:40 a.m. | -0.9 ft. |
| 6:09 p.m. | 8.3 ft. | none | |

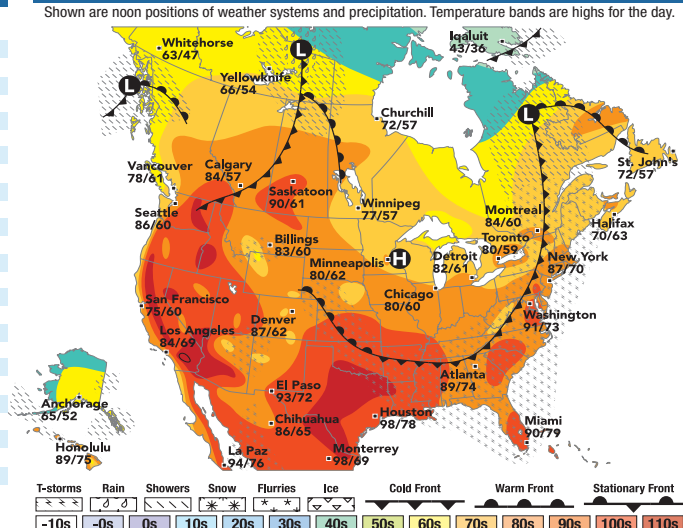
NATIONAL CITIES

| City | Hi | Lo | W | Tues. | Hi | Lo | W |
|----------------|-----|----|----|-------|----|----|---|
| Atlanta | 87 | 73 | t | 89 | 74 | t | |
| Boston | 83 | 72 | s | 87 | 70 | t | |
| Chicago | 86 | 65 | t | 80 | 60 | s | |
| Denver | 90 | 62 | pc | 87 | 62 | t | |
| Des Moines | 85 | 63 | pc | 85 | 65 | s | |
| Detroit | 89 | 66 | t | 82 | 61 | s | |
| El Paso | 89 | 71 | pc | 93 | 72 | s | |
| Fairbanks | 62 | 47 | sh | 62 | 44 | sh | |
| Honolulu | 89 | 75 | sh | 89 | 75 | pc | |
| Indianapolis | 86 | 68 | t | 84 | 59 | pc | |
| Kansas City | 90 | 69 | pc | 89 | 66 | pc | |
| Las Vegas | 105 | 87 | pc | 106 | 88 | pc | |
| Los Angeles | 85 | 68 | pc | 84 | 69 | pc | |
| Memphis | 92 | 76 | pc | 92 | 72 | t | |
| Miami | 91 | 78 | pc | 90 | 79 | pc | |
| Nashville | 90 | 73 | pc | 89 | 65 | t | |
| New Orleans | 92 | 79 | t | 92 | 79 | t | |
| New York | 90 | 77 | pc | 87 | 70 | t | |
| Oklahoma City | 93 | 71 | pc | 92 | 71 | t | |
| Philadelphia | 92 | 76 | pc | 90 | 70 | t | |
| St. Louis | 92 | 70 | pc | 90 | 66 | s | |
| Salt Lake City | 96 | 73 | pc | 96 | 73 | s | |
| Salt Lake City | 94 | 73 | pc | 95 | 60 | pc | |
| San Francisco | 91 | 61 | s | 86 | 60 | s | |
| Seattle | 95 | 79 | pc | 91 | 73 | t | |
| Washington, DC | 95 | 79 | pc | 91 | 73 | t | |

REGIONAL CITIES

| City | Hi | Lo | W | Tues. | Hi | Lo | W |
|---------------|-----|----|----|-------|----|----|---|
| Baker City | 94 | 50 | t | 97 | 50 | s | |
| Bend | 95 | 57 | t | 97 | 53 | s | |
| Brookings | 69 | 53 | pc | 70 | 54 | pc | |
| Eugene | 96 | 52 | s | 90 | 51 | s | |
| Ilwaco | 68 | 56 | s | 66 | 59 | pc | |
| Klamath Falls | 91 | 56 | s | 94 | 53 | s | |
| Medford | 103 | 67 | s | 103 | 63 | s | |
| Newberg | 96 | 57 | s | 91 | 57 | s | |
| Newport | 65 | 52 | s | 64 | 53 | pc | |
| North Bend | 66 | 53 | s | 65 | 55 | pc | |
| Olympia | 92 | 50 | s | 84 | 54 | s | |
| Pendleton | 100 | 68 | s | 102 | 66 | s | |
| Portland | 97 | 63 | s | 91 | 63 | s | |
| Roseburg | 98 | 60 | s | 93 | 58 | s | |
| Salem | 98 | 60 | s | 91 | 59 | s | |
| Seaside | 72 | 55 | s | 68 | 59 | pc | |
| Spokane | 95 | 66 | s | 96 | 63 | s | |
| Springfield | 96 | 57 | s | 92 | 55 | s | |
| Vancouver | 95 | 59 | s | 90 | 60 | s | |
| Yakima | 101 | 65 | s | 101 | 63 | s | |

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



OBITUARIES

Jammie Rose "Shrub" Foley

Warrenton
Sept. 12, 1980 — July 5, 2018

Jammie Rose "Shrub" Foley passed away peacefully July 5 at her home in Warrenton with family and friends present.

Jammie was born in Yuba City, California, and raised by her loving parents, Vada Foley and Richard Harris-Davis.

She lived with her family in Grass Valley, California, before moving to Astoria, Oregon. She graduated from Astoria High School in 1999.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Vada Foley, and by her grandparents, Howard and Geraldine Shain.

Jammie was loved by all, and a one of a kind. She had a contagious laugh and a smile that could light up the room. She had a generous heart, and when she loved, she loved with everything inside her. Jammie was the type of person that no matter what time of day or night you were in need, she was there.

She loved watching football with her dad, and was a huge Oakland Raiders and University of Oregon Ducks fan. Jammie had a passion for sports and loved playing softball, basketball, soccer and volleyball. She loved spending time

with her family and friends.

She is survived by her dad, Richard Harris-Davis, of Warrenton, Oregon; her sister, Leisa Kiminki and Bryan Kiminki, of Warrenton, Oregon; nephew, Christopher Shain, of Warrenton, Oregon; niece, Ashley Antonio-Ramon and Juvenito Antonio-Ramon, of Durant, Oklahoma; nephew, Brian Snow, of Enid, Oklahoma; great-nephews, Kyler Antonio-Ramon, Matteo Antonio-Ramon and Issac Antonio-Ramon; uncle, James Shain; aunt, Kathy Shain; cousins, Erik Shain and Ana Eyre; uncle, Donald Shain; aunt, Peggy Shain; and cousins, Ben, Jonathan and Nathan Shain, and Rebecca Young.

There will be a celebration of life on Sunday, July 29, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Warrenton Community Center.

Contributions for the memorial can be made at Wauna Federal Credit Union, account No. 155769.

If any family or friends have any pictures, please email them to foley.jammie@gmail.com



Jammie Foley

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• At 4:36 p.m. Saturday, Vincent A. Debellis, 40, of Sherwood, was arrested by Seaside police on the 2360 block of Roosevelt Drive and charged with fourth-degree assault and strangulation. Debellis allegedly gave a woman a black eye, held her down by her neck

and choked her during a domestic dispute.

DUII

• At 2:16 a.m. Saturday, Justin T. Peterson 35, of Hammond, was arrested by Seaside police on the 1200 block of G Street and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants.

CORRECTION

Address incorrect — The new location of Old Things and Objects is 1144 Commercial St., Astoria. A page 9 story in Thursday's Coast Weekend incorrectly listed the old address, 1015 Commercial St.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Ecola Creek Watershed Committee, 4:30 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St., Cannon Beach.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., Suite 209, 10 Pier 1.
Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertz Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

| OREGON | WASHINGTON |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 7-0-1-0 4 p.m.: 7-6-0-0 7 p.m.: 3-9-5-7 10 p.m.: 5-5-5-8 | Estimated jackpot: \$3.4 million Saturday's Powerball: 22-41-42-49-67, Powerball: 11 Estimated jackpot: \$110 million Friday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 5-2-7-1 4 p.m.: 0-8-8-7 7 p.m.: 7-3-3-2 10 p.m.: 7-3-5-4 |
| Sunday's Lucky Lines: 02-08-11-14-18-23-27-31 Estimated jackpot: \$14,000 Saturday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 1-4-7-0 4 p.m.: 6-1-5-1 7 p.m.: 9-9-9-1 10 p.m.: 4-6-7-5 | Friday's Lucky Lines: 04-06-11-14-18-23-28-29 Estimated jackpot: \$11,000 Friday's Mega Millions: 21-22-39-59-68, Mega Ball: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$375 million |
| Saturday's Lucky Lines: 03-05-09-13-20-23-28-32 Estimated jackpot: \$12,000 Saturday's Megabucks: 7-11-15-19-23-43 | Sunday's Daily Game: 4-3-4 Sunday's Keno: 03-05-12-13-18-19-22-24-25-26-29-33-34-39-41-49-50-70-71-79 Sunday's Match 4: 02-05-13-14 Saturday's Daily Game: 0-3-4 Saturday's Hit 5: 17-21-24-25-37 Estimated jackpot: \$220,000 Saturday's Keno: 15-19-23-24-27-28-33-35-38-40-43-48-51-54-58-61-66-67-74-80 Saturday's Lotto: 08-10-17-29-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$4.9 million Saturday's Match 4: 15-17-21-22 Friday's Daily Game: 8-5-7 Friday's Keno: 01-02-04-05-07-08-14-16-21-22-29-33-37-48-55-61-63-75-78-79 Friday's Match 4: 07-16-18-22 |

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