

Two West Linn students die in Dog Mountain car crash

Skamania County EMS and Rescue (SCEMS) responded to a reported motor vehicle collision on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 11:42 a.m. that resulted in the deaths of two West Linn High School students, The Enterprise reports.

The three car collision occurred near mile post 54 on State Route 14, at the Dog Mountain Trail Parking Area. Emergency crews arrived to find three vehicles involved in a rear end collision with multiple patients and heavy rear end damage to a mid-size sedan.

A Chevrolet Cruze being driven by an unnamed 17-year-old boy missed the turn for the

Dog Mountain Trailhead and stopped in the middle of SR 14, according to a report by Washington State Patrol Spokesperson Lt. Will Finn. The second vehicle involved, a 2006 Honda Accord being driven by a 16-year-old boy, stopped in time behind the Cruze, but was rear-ended by a Jeep Wrangler being driven by Michael Calarco, 35, of Portland.

"Due to the speed and large bumper, the (Wrangler's) bumper intruded through the trunk and into the rear of the passenger compartment," Finn's report reads.

Cooper Hill and Antonio Caballero, both juniors at West Linn High School, were killed

during the accident. One was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident while the other was pronounced dead en route to PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center, according to Finn's report.

Skamania County Prosecuting Attorney Adam Kick was called to the scene of the accident where it was determined that Calarco would be cited for second-degree negligent driving.

The driver and front passenger of the Accord were transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries, as was the driver of the Cruze.

The investigation of the

crash also overturned "personal-use amounts of marijuana" and smoking devices in the Cruze. The driver of the Cruze and his passengers admitted to possessing the marijuana and charges for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia were referred to Skamania County Juvenile Court.

Though marijuana was found, none of the drivers involved showed signs of impairment.

SCEMS, Skamania County Fire District #1, Klickitat County EMS, Skamania County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Patrol were on scene.



Photo by AP Photo/Yakima Herald-Republic, Gordon King

IN A FEB. 10, 2015 PHOTO, Randy Knowles, a Klickitat PUD commissioner, walks back from a rocky outcrop overlooking the landscape east of Goldendale, Wash. where the PUD wants to build a system of small reservoirs for power generation. The PUD is applying for a federal license for the project.

PUD: Gorge wind farms could store power in reservoir

AP — A small utility plans a \$2.5 billion water reservoir system near Goldendale as a way to store energy generated by Columbia River Gorge wind farms.

The pumped storage system would pump water uphill when there's electricity to spare and release it through turbines to generate power when it's needed.

The Klickitat Public Utility District has begun applying for a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Yakima Herald-Republic reported last week (<http://bit.ly/1A0gcbk>).

With just 11,000 customers, the utility doesn't need a facility of that size, but it has the site to build one. It would be located at the site of an aluminum smelter that closed more than a decade ago. Major

transmission lines are nearby.

Although it's near the John Day Dam, the project would have little impact on the Columbia River. It would be a closed system, recirculating the water between one lower and two upper reservoirs. The only water needed would be to replace evaporation.

The system will use more electricity than it generates. The advantage is the ability to sell the power when it's in demand and prices rise, project leader Brian Skeahan said.

The PUD is hoping larger utilities in Oregon and California will invest in the project.

Getting the backers, license and permits and finishing smelter clean-up work is likely to be a long process. The PUD hopes to begin construction in 2020.

Gun range meeting NRA safety standards coming to Dallesport

By **AKASHA SPINO-BYBEE**
For The Goldendale Sentinel

Gun enthusiasts of the Columbia River Gorge will soon have a place to let off some steam — or ammunition. Thanks to the efforts of Klickitat County Commissioner Rex Johnston, Klickitat County Engineer Jeff Hunter, and several others, a gun range will be opening in Dallesport this coming summer.

"This project is one that I've been working on since I've been a commissioner," says Johnston. "It's really something I love being involved in, because there isn't a gun range anywhere in the Gorge for people to come shoot. We started the process months ago, using the runoff material on Centerville Highway. We'll be using it as a backdrop for the range."

The range will meet the National Rifle

Association's standards and will ultimately be 500 yards, but it will be opened as a 50-100 yard range. Johnston says that very little county money will be going into the project (about \$25,000) and that the overall cost will be more than \$1 million. The rest of the money paying for the range is coming from grants received from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. This money will pay for the construction of the range.

According to Johnston, Hunter will be handling the project. "Once the permits are in place, construction begins (a three to six month process). After it's complete, we'll be looking for someone to run the range on a daily basis. We hope to have it complete by the end of June," says Hunter.

"This is a very popular hobby in the county and in addition to this being a

public-access range, it'll also be used for the Goldendale, White Salmon, and Bingen police departments to come train," says Johnston. Both Johnston and Hunter believe this project will not only benefit the county's shooters but that it will benefit the county's economy as well.

"I envision it being a real draw for this county because of things like cowboy shoot-outs, for instance. This could also be really good for tourism," says Johnston.

"It'll be a positive thing for the community and attract people to the county, it should be a great place for people to go," says Hunter.

For more information about the range, call Klickitat County Public works at 773-4612 or email Jeff Hunter at jeffh@klickitatcounty.org.

Local chambers deny participation in travel video, magazine

By **AMBER MARRA**
The Enterprise

Chambers of commerce in three areas in the Gorge are advising members that they are not participating or advocating for a private company selling advertising and time slots in a travel video.

The Columbia River Gorge Travel Council, also known as the Oregon Travel Council, is a private, for-profit business out of Idaho. The Travel Council produced a video and online magazine featuring businesses and scenes throughout the Gorge last year and has similar publications and videos for areas in nine states, according to the council's sales manager, Charles Stanley.

Last year's video features businesses and sights ranging in Troutdale and contin-

ues to Cascade Locks, Hood River, Stevenson, Goldendale and The Dalles while the online magazine offers points of interest, various photos of the Gorge, feature articles, and advertisements.

According to Stanley, the video is distributed at trade shows all over the country.

"The website is a brand new, innovative web design using an e-magazine you can flip through. It's the world's first of that sort where videos play along with the magazine. The Columbia River Gorge gets to be the first area that has this kind of click-and-play feature," Stanley said.

The Columbia River Gorge Travel Council, which recently began calling local businesses again, contacted local businesses to participate in last year's video and

publication, both of which can be viewed at <http://columbiarivergorgetravelcouncil.com/index.html>, under the name "The Oregon Travel Council."

The Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, Skamania County Chamber of Commerce, and The Dalles Chamber of Commerce have all notified members that those chambers do not endorse The Travel Council, nor do they intend on participating in any videos or publications produced by the business.

Casey Roeder, executive director of the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce, said about 10 of her members have been contacted by the Travel Council so far this year and that representatives are falsely using the chamber as a reference.

"My issue is that last year

I told them we didn't want to participate and this year they're saying we are referring them to members and that's just wrong. When one member questioned them on it they hung up on them," Roeder said. "I'm not saying they didn't perform like they promised, but my concern is that they're using our name as a reference."

Maria Foley, executive director of the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, said she has gotten similar reports from her members, despite the fact that the chamber has never agreed to work with the Travel Council.

"It is alarming to hear that a group is purposely focusing on our Gorge area businesses and misrepresenting themselves to our chamber members, looking to take advantage of good, honest peo-

ple," Foley wrote in an email to The Enterprise. "They are saying that they have worked with our local Gorge chambers (referring to several by name)-but they have not worked with our chamber, nor have they been recommended and/or vetted by our chamber."

Lisa Farquharson, executive director of The Dalles Chamber of Commerce, also recently sent out a notice to her members explaining that the chamber is not "participating or endorsing this project."

That said, Stanley feels that the Travel Council doesn't need the chambers' blessing to work with businesses here.

"The chambers are all sort of out of date, so we'll let them take advantage of our services if they want to, but we don't need them because what we do is 10 times better than what they do," Stanley said. "Our website and video are first class and we definitely do not misrepresent ourselves on purpose."

ODFW considering 10K-acre land acquisition on Deschutes

In collaboration with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is considering acquiring about 10,000 acres in the Lower Deschutes River Canyon in Wasco County.

The property is known as the Lower Deschutes River Ranch. Its purchase by ODFW would add to the existing 8,000-acre Lower De-

schutes Wildlife Area and create 25,000 acres of contiguous wildlife habitat and public access on the west side of the Deschutes River.

The parcel contains several key Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats, including the easternmost remnant stand of oak woodlands left in Oregon. ODFW staff are working with TPL to establish a purchase and sale

agreement for ODFW to buy the land from TPL.

Funds for the purchase have been obtained through the TPL and multiple outside grant sources. ODFW would also use internal mitigation monies and other funds.

Members of the public may come to a public meeting Thursday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m., at The Dalles ODFW Screen Shop, 3561 Klindt Drive, to

learn more and provide comment. Comments can also be emailed to odfw.comments@state.or.us, faxed to 541-298-4993 or mailed to ODFW, 3701 W. 13th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Thompson at 541-296-4628.

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Child rape charges filed in Skamania Co.

Detectives with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office arrested a 37-year-old Tualatin man Feb. 18 after they learned he had come to Skamania County with the alleged intent of transporting a juvenile female back to Oregon to have sexual contact with her.

SCSO says they believe Edward Blake Smith had been utilizing the internet to communicate with the juvenile victim and drove from his residence in Oregon to Skamania

County to pick her up.

Using the victim's internet profile, detectives were able to arrange to meet Smith at a pre-determined location where he was taken into custody. SCSO says the investigation has revealed there are at least two female juvenile victims in Skamania County.

Smith was booked into the Skamania County Jail in Stevenson on the following charges: Rape of a Child, 1st degree; Rape of a Child, 3rd

degree; Attempted Rape of a Child, 3rd degree.

SCSO says there may be additional victims in two other jurisdictions in Washington. Detectives have contacted law enforcement in those jurisdictions and are sharing information with them.

The investigation is ongoing and detectives are reportedly working with the Skamania County Prosecutors Office to determine if additional charges are appropriate.

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- Steel, tin and aluminum cans, rinsed, do not flatten, do not place lids loose (crimp inside a can).
- Paper labels can be removed and recycled as scrap paper.
- Small metal items (bottle caps, steel wool, paper clips, nails, 2" or less in length): Place inside a metal can and crimp it shut.
- Aluminum foil ("balled up") and aluminum trays (clean)
- Large metal items up to 30" x 8" and up to 30 pounds
- Empty aerosol cans, Remove cap but not nozzle. Do not puncture or flatten can.

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