

# Seasonal weekend transit begins May 2

Going to the Gorge Blues and Brews, tired of trying to find parking on the weekend at Dog Mountain trailhead, or need a ride to Vancouver?

If so, ride the WET bus seven days a week starting May 2. The seasonal weekend expansion will add four runs a day on Saturday and Sunday. The last run on Sunday is an express to Vancouver/Fisher's Landing and back. The bus is ADA accessible.

The bus schedule includes

stops at Stevenson, Carson, North Bonneville, Fisher's Landing in Vancouver on 164th Avenue, and then a return to Columbia River Gorge trailheads and resorts. The additional stops include Salmon Falls Park and Ride/Cape Horn Trail, Beacon Rock, Bonneville Hot Springs, Pacific Crest Trail, Skamania Lodge, and Dog Mountain.

The public transportation grant is intended to relieve congestion at trailheads and

shuttle guests from hotels and motels, festivals and fair visitors from resorts to trailheads, and locals from town to town.

Paid for by a grant from Western Federal Lands, Washington Department of Transportation, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Stevenson, and North Bonneville Tourism funds.

For a complete schedule, see skamaniacounty.org or call 509-427-3990.



Photo by Patrick Mulvihill.

**THE BRIDGE OF THE GODS** may see electronic tolling and major deck upgrades as part of the Port of Cascade Locks' 10-year bridge plan.

## NEPAL

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to Kumari. We have option to walk and hiking 3-4 hours from the highway. We can supply all supplies nearby Kumari and all needy people will come to pick it up from village. We will monitor all records and collect numbers of victims from Kumari.

"Recently, we need about 5,000 sleeping tents, blankets about 10,000, medicines and foods. Foods are Dal (lentil), rice, salt, sugar, and kerosene, etc. These all we can buy here in Nepal and just need funds to get it.

"More emergency supplies

for the injured and some social supports and counselling to the children and people. Children and women are the really fearful and whole days they are on to the hill and (won't go) home because scaring from the destroyed buildings and houses. I am thinking all the times about my Kumari and clinic building, my 85 year-old Mom, also my home where I was born 43 years ago.

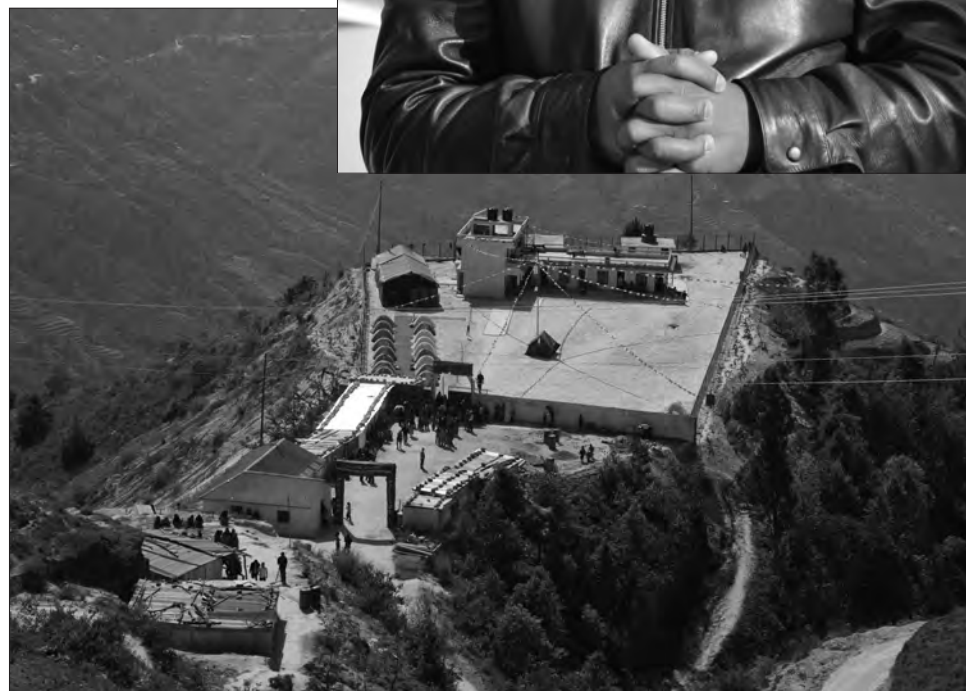
"It has been really hard life here and we don't have net services, telephones and not able to communicate with anybody. Our all banks and offices are closed and we can't check yet. I will try tomorrow once if they are open. Thanks brother for

your thought and recently, we are not getting any supports from anybody. I hope, if this money been collected into bank then will see because, in Kumari we have really big trouble to save our (supplies) from the clinic building and have to buy as soon as tents, plastics and shelters for (families).

"Our situation is much critical and hard to live safe. Diseases everywhere because of dead bodies around. I am really worrying because, my 12 years young son and wife is in Kathmandu on the road tent and the rest of (supplies) with us. Our Kathmandu house is all damaged and very fearful to spend nights. Namaste ..."

Photos by Peter Marbach

**KUMARI LEADER** Jagat Lama in happier times; the view of the hillside clinic in Kumari, where Hood River visitors have visited and delivered assistance to a community that lacks access to health care and education even in normal circumstances.



## PORT

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automated.

In addition to speed and efficiency, a goal of the upgrades is to efficiently raise prices for bridge crossers from out of town without raising prices for locals. "The commission decided that we don't want to raise tolls for the locals, but we may want to raise tolls for people who are not local," said Groves.

The raised prices are intended to fund the bridge's necessary upgrades over the upcoming years, said Groves.

Estimates for the electronic tolling project range in cost from \$800,000 to \$1 mil-

lion, although the port has not yet accepted bids. According to the Port's Interim General Manager Paul Koch, several companies have laid out an alternative system, which would charge two or three cents per bridge crossing, instead of one blanket cost.

The electronic upgrades, which would be installed and coordinated by companies like Xerox and 3M, would use radio transmitting devices, transponders, which are attached to a vehicle's windshield or dashboard and are then read by an antenna as they pass through the toll booth. The transponder could be connected to the driver's bank account like a credit card.

The Port of Hood River installed similar technology,

called "BreezeBy," on the Hood River Bridge in 2007.

Koch said the Port of Cascade Locks hadn't yet confirmed a decision on whether to upgrade its tolling system. "This is the beginning of the process," said Koch. "At this point the commission has only authorized us to get proposals. The (proposals) deadline was just last week. We haven't had a chance to analyze what's there and hold work sessions."

Koch said the port is targeting to make a decision on the electronic upgrades by the end of the year. In the meantime, the port staff will review proposals from electronics companies and then hold work sessions through the upcoming months, narrowing down their search.

## Kindergarten Roundup May 4-8

The Hood River County School District will hold their annual "Kindergarten Roundup" during the week of May 4 - 8, 2015. This is the time for parents to register their children entering kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year. Parents are to register their children at their local school on the following dates and times:

- Cascade Locks, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- May Street Elementary, Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; May Street is having a parent orientation on May 12 at 6 p.m.
- Mid Valley Elementary, Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Parkdale Elementary, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Westside Elementary, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Westside is having a parent open house on May 4 at 6 p.m.

Students must be five

years old on or before September 1st to meet the age requirement for entry into kindergarten.

Parents need to bring the following to registration:

- Child's birth certificate, immunization records, and social security card (voluntary)
- Proof of residency in Hood River County: Parent electric bill, other utility bill, current rent receipt with address signed by landlord or mortgage statement, Oregon driver's license or Oregon DMV card or Oregon voter registration card.

Oregon law requires the following shots for a child entering kindergarten. These vaccinations may be obtained from your family doctor, local county health department, or health screening clinic.

- 5 Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)
- 4 Polio

- 1 Varicella (chickenpox)
- 2 MMR or 2 Measles, 1 Mumps, 1 Rubella
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 Hepatitis A

Contact the following if you need further details:

- Cascade Locks School, 300 WaNaPa St., 541-374-8467
- May Street Elementary, 911 May St., 541-386-2656
- Mid Valley Elementary, 3686 Davis Dr., 541-354-1691
- Parkdale Elementary, 4880 Van Nuys Dr., 541-352-6255
- Westside Elementary, 3685 Belmont Dr., 541-386-1535
- Prime Time After School Program, 1009 Eugene St., 541-386-2055
- ExCel After School Program, 4880 Van Nuys Dr., 541-352-6255



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**Look for this month's Adopt-A-Pet page in the May 9 Hood River News**