

Derailment in Midwest heats up oil train discussion in Gorge

A train that derailed and caught fire last Wednesday in rural North Dakota was hauling crude oil from the state's oil patch, raising questions nationwide and in the Columbia River Gorge regarding the efficiency of new federal safety standards for oil trains.

No injuries were reported in the derailment of the 109-car railway train May 6 at around 7:30 a.m., the Associated Press reported. The accident prompted the evacuation of the nearby 20-person town of Heimdal. It was the fifth fiery crude-by-rail derailment in North America since February.

The derailment came in the wake of a United States Department of Transportation decision on May 1 to tighten railway safety measures nationwide.

Among the USDOT's new

oil-by-rail regulations are a new tank car standard and a risk-based retrofitting schedule for older tank cars carrying crude oil and ethanol.

The announced rule also requires a new braking standard for certain trains, updates operational protocols for trains transporting large volumes of flammable liquids and provides new sampling and testing requirements to improve classification of energy products placed into transport.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, a local conservation group, argued in a May 6 written release that the latest accident reinforces the danger of oil trains and the "inadequacy of new federal rules."

"New oil train rules announced by the USDOT last Friday would do nothing to

prevent most of these accidents or improve communities' right-to-know," the Friends wrote. "This is why proposals for oil by rail terminals along the Columbia River and throughout the Pacific Northwest should be denied."

Hood River adopted a resolution banning coal and oil trains rolling through town in December. The document states, "because the rail alignment runs through our downtown area, the impact of existing and proposed oil trains is potentially catastrophic in terms of loss of life and devastation of the City of Hood River community, environment and economy."

In January, The Dalles passed a resolution urging state officials to pursue tougher federal regulations of crude oil shipments.



Photo by Curt Benson, Associated Press

SMOKE AND FIRE rise from an oil train that derailed Wednesday, May 6 near Heimdal, N.D.

Officials report four Dog Mountain Trail rescues in two week stretch

HOME VALLEY, WASH. — Skamania County search-and-rescue crews responded to four calls at the Dog Mountain Trail near Home Valley over the last two weekends.

Skamania County Emergency Medical Services crews were dispatched May 2, Saturday afternoon for an injured hiker 3.5 miles up the trail. The adult woman was transported to the hospital with an ankle injury.

That evening, crews were dispatched up the Dog Mountain Trail for a hiker with a medical condition. The patient, an adult male, was descending the trail a mile up from the trailhead. He received medical intervention and was able to trek the remaining portion of the trail.

Crews were again dispatched Sunday afternoon for an injured hiker at the top of the Dog Mountain Trail. Moments later, crews were also dispatched to a motor vehicle collision at

milepost 54 on S.R. 14 (the site of a recent fatality collision) just next to the Dog Mountain parking lot and trail head. Crews responded with multiple apparatus and assisted the five occupants from the three car collision. All occupants were evaluated and treated by medical personnel for minor injuries and released.

After officials cleared the crash scene, rescue crew members began up the trail to assist the hiker. The injured hiker, an adult woman, was to the south of the meadow about 3.5 miles up the steep trail. A helicopter transferred the patient to awaiting crews at Home Valley Park, and the patient was transported to PeaceHealth Southwest by ambulance for an ankle injury. SCFD #1, Wind River Search and Rescue, Silver Star Search and Rescue and SCSO were also on scene.

Dog Mountain Trail is a popular destination this time of year due to the



Photo courtesy of Skamania County EMS and Rescue

EMERGENCY CREWS responded to four emergencies in the past two weekends near Dog Mountain Trail. The four calls included medical personnel assisting three hikers and treating people injured in a three-car crash near the trail head.

spring flowers that bloom in the meadow. SCEMS reminded the public in a written release Sunday that the meadow, while beautiful, is at an elevation gain of 2,800 feet from the trailhead—and the trail is

difficult if not dangerous and should only be trekked by experienced, prepared hikers. Rescue operations involving multiple volunteer organizations are expensive and timely, SCEMS said.



Submitted photo

FROM LEFT, teachers Wendy Baker, Erica Miller, Masons Ole Helgerson, Bob Durham, Dan Henderson, Scott Dinger and "Bike for Books" winning readers Dasher Evans and Nia Burtchaeall-Norman.

Trout Lake students win 'Bikes for Books'

Two students at Trout Lake School were awarded bikes as part of the White Salmon Masonic Lodge's 2015 "Bikes for Books" program. Dasher Evans and Nia Burtchaeall-Norman took home shiny two-wheelers as a celebration of their excellence in reading.

The "Bikes for Books" program, incorporated by teachers Wendy Baker and Erica Miller, gives out bikes to student readers through a raffle. Students qualified by reading a "threshold" number of books. As an inducement, the bikes were displayed at the school. After acknowledging all participating students, the winning readers were then selected to the applause of their fellow students.

The nationwide Masonic "Bike for Books" program supports local elementary school reading programs by awarding bicycles, helmets and locks to students who have demonstrated reading

proficiency according to their school's standards.

The local program was supported by Hood River Walmart providing a discount on the bicycles and by Providence Hospital Hood River providing bicycle helmets as part of its youth "free bicycle helmet" program.

For information on the Masonic Bikes for Books program, contact Ole Helgerson of Masonic Lodge #163 at 509-427-4455. For free bicycle helmets, contact Jane Burke, Providence Hood River Hospital 541-386-3911.

HOOD RIVER NEWS (ISSN 07465823) is published twice weekly, every Wednesday and Saturday. Subscription rates: \$42 per year prepaid (\$36 for senior citizens, 65 and over) in Hood River County and western Wasco County, Oregon; and Klickitat and Skamania counties, Washington. Elsewhere, \$68 prepaid per year. Known office of publication, 419 State Ave., Hood River, OR 97031-2031. Periodicals postage paid at Hood River, Oregon. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOOD RIVER NEWS, P.O. Box 390, Hood River, OR 97031-0103.

Tournament bringing pickleball athletes to Washougal

Hathaway Park in Washougal will come to life with the popping sound of pickleballs against paddles, cheering and laughter at the Washougal Rivers Edge Tournament - Pickleball for the Ages on June 5, 6 and 7. The competitive yet fun event will be presented by the Columbia River Pickleball Club (CRPC) with some

tourism support from City of Washougal hotel/motel tax funds.

The three-day tournament is sanctioned by the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) and will be bracketed by age groups in ten year increments starting with age 19. A field of more than 150 athletes are expected to max out participation. Partici-

pants will travel from Vancouver, the Seattle-area and throughout Oregon.

Men's doubles are Friday, mixed doubles will be played on Saturday and women's doubles will be held Sunday. Each day's play begins at 8:00 a.m. "Spectators are welcome," said Mike Hoxie, CRPC president and event organizer.

On Friday, players and the community are invited to a social at Domsday Brewing, 421 C. Street in Washougal, featuring local, professional Elvis impersonator, Mark Stevenz. Cost at the door is \$10 and will include your

first drink (beer, wine, soft drink), bar snacks and entertainment from "The King" starting at 7:30 p.m. There will be food concessions at the park on Saturday provided by Local Girls Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Grill.

Early registration for the Washougal tournament is May 15 for \$35. Final registration is May 29 at a cost of \$45. Registration is limited to the first 50 teams on each day.

For details and to register, go to pickleballtournaments.com. Contact Wolfe at 360-335-1333 or wolfemike@aol.com

Correction

A May 6 article on water fluoridation contained two errors. The projected lifetime cost of a cavity, \$6,000, includes additional opera-

tions. The cost of fluoridating a community water supply is between fifty cents and \$4.00 per citizen per year.

The Hood River News strives for accuracy at all times. If we make a factual error, we welcome readers to let us know about it by calling the news department at 386-1234.

Skamania Lodge Golf Course Gorge Resident* Open House May 29th - 31st

Come play your challenging neighborhood course FREE during this special event designed just for you. Carts are only \$15.** Complimentary hot dog, chips and soda also included!

Advance tee times required - reference "Open House Event." Reservations begin May 15th at 800.293.0418.

We look forward to hosting your best game of the season!

*Must be a resident of Skamania, Klickitat, Hood River or Wasco County. **Green fee is complimentary and does not include a cart fee of \$15 per player. Golf cart is required to ensure pace of play.



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WEEKLY SUDOKU

This week's Sudoku presented by:

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Answers on Page A6

			1	2		3
2	4	5		6		7
			7	8		9
	9	6		3		
4		7			3	9
		5		1	4	
	2	7	1			
9		3		5	8	2
3		8	5			

Fill in all 81 squares on the puzzle with numbers 1 to 9. You can use each number 1-9 only once in each nine square section, in each horizontal line of nine squares, and in each vertical column of nine squares. The puzzle is completed when you correctly fill every square.

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