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MIDWEEK EDITION
Vol. 109, No. 40

75 cents
2 Sections, 24 Pages



Hood River News

Official Newspaper, City of Hood River and Hood River County

HOOD RIVER, OREGON ■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

www.hoodrivernews.com

Friends sue USDOT over oil train safety rules

By PATRICK MULVIHILL
News staff writer

Seven U.S. environmental groups, including Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, filed a lawsuit challenging the U.S. Department of Transportation's new crude-by-rail safety rules, calling them too "weak" to prevent fiery derailments.

The coalition launched their legal challenge Friday at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco. The groups hired Earthjustice, an environmental law

organization based in San Francisco, to challenge the federal transportation department on their behalf, calling for a revision of train safety rules USDOT released on May 1.

Under the rules, tank cars built before 2011, known as DOT-111, will be phased out within three years. Tank cars without reinforced hulls built after 2011, known as CPC-1232 will be phased out by 2020 — not soon enough for some conservation groups.

"We're suing the administration

"It's causing Gorge communities to work together for a common goal, and that goal is safety."

MICHAEL LANG

because these rules won't protect the 25 million Americans living in the oil train blast zone," said Todd Paglia, executive director of ForestEthics, one of the seven groups petitioning. "Ten years is too long to wait for improved tank

cars, and emergency responders need to know where and when these dangerous trains are running by our homes and schools."

The petitioners include the Friends of the Columbia Gorge — a conservation group with offices in Hood River and Portland — and six other environmental groups around the nation including ForestEthics, Sierra Club, Waterkeeper Alliance, Washington Environmental Council, Spokane Riverkeeper and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Michael Lang, Friends of the Gorge Conservation Director, said the Friends first became involved in the political charge in response to an increase in oil trains rolling through the gorge and the proposed Tesoro oil terminal in Vancouver. According to Lang, roughly 19 crude oil trains enter the gorge per day.

"It's causing gorge communities to work together for a common goal, and that goal is safety," said Lang.

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A ROYAL ROUNDUP



Photo by Patrick Mulvihill

Knights and maidens from the Society for Creative Anachronism took over the Hood River County Fairgrounds Saturday afternoon. It was the first time the Columbia Gorge shire hosted the event. Roughly 600 members of the Northwest kingdom, An Tir, traveled from as far as British Columbia and Southern Oregon over the weekend. More details in the Saturday edition.

'Women are Veterans, Too'



Photo by Mark B. Gibson

MARGIE ANDERSON displays the PSYOP (Psychological Operations) patch that she earned during a 2006-08 deployment to Iraq with a military police company based in Germany.

By RAELYNN RICARTE
The Dalles Chronicle

Margie Anderson wears a bracelet that says "Women are Veterans Too" and is proud to have been part of the minority population in the military.

She is also grateful, as an Army veteran with a service-connected disability, to now be able to help others who have worn the uniform.

Anderson recently joined U.S. Rep. Greg Walden's staff and will provide assistance to veterans in the Second Congressional District, which includes Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.

"I think she's already brought to the office exactly the kind of experience that will be beneficial to our veterans," said Walden. "Margie is somebody who will understand their issues because she has also been in harm's way. She will be a tenacious fighter to get our veterans what they have earned

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Dalbey is new HRCSD human resources director

Catherine Dalbey has been selected as the next Human Resources Director for the Hood River County School District beginning July. Her selection was approved by the School Board on April 22. Dalbey will be replacing Kevin Noreen, who has resigned the position effective June 30 to take a position with Forest Grove School Board.

Dalbey's move to the District Office is the third change in principals announced this spring. Cascade Locks principal Kim Vogel will retire in June, and Kim Yasui was named principal of Mid Valley in March, to succeed Dennis McCauley, who will also retire in June.

Vogel began her career at the district in August 1990 as a fourth grade teacher at Cascade Locks and taught there for twelve years. In

SCHOOL CHANGES

Sarah Braman-Smith will succeed Dalbey as Wy'east principal. Braman-Smith has spent the last nine years as an administrator at Madras High School. District retirees were honored Monday at HRVHS; details in the Saturday edition.

June 2002, Kim Vogel left the district to take a position as the middle school principal at Howard Street Charter School in the Salem Keizer School District. She worked there until 2006, when she returned to the Hood River County School District to be the principal at Parkdale Elementary while also serving as the Project PM Coordinator (an afterschool program in the dis-

trict).

From August 2010 until this school year, Vogel had been serving as principal for both Parkdale Elementary and Cascade Locks. This year, she has served half-time as the principal for Cascade Locks Elementary School.

"Catherine Dalbey has demonstrated excellence in every position she's held in our school district, from elementary school teacher through her 11 years of administrative leadership at Wy'east Middle School. In every position, Catherine has been dedicated to student success, to our school district's vision, to all educators' growth and success, and to our community partnerships. She has earned the trust of staff and com-

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Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

WY'EAST principal Catherine Dalbey stands in the hallway of the District Office, where she will work as human resources director.

Four To Go

Roald Dahl Literary Challenge May 29

Lauren Hegemann, on ladder, and Max Cordell of the Library Teen Council decorate the library for the May 29 Roald Dahl Trivia Challenge, 5:30 p.m. Youth with a knowledge of the author of the Willie Wonka tales and other children's books are invited to participate.



HRVHS reunion concert May 23

Outgoing director Mark Steighner will lead the May 23 HRVHS reunion concert at 7 p.m. at Bowe Theater at HRVHS.

The concert is free, and donations are accepted to support music education at the high school.

Expect music from the reunion choir, some solos, a mini-reunion performance by Aurora, and some anecdotes and testimonials.

Rehearsals are Friday night and Saturday morning and afternoon. About 80 alumni have signed up to sing, dating back to 1990. Contact Steighner at msteighner@gmail.com if you want a PDF of the music.

Marbach and Cook unveil book May 27

Join photographer Peter Marbach and author Janet Cook for the unveiling of their new book on May 27, "Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area," printed in Hood River by Columbia Gorge Press.

The event will be at the Columbia Center for the Arts, Third and Cascade, as part of the public program "Wild at Heart in the Columbia River Gorge" at 7 p.m.

Book signing starts at 6:30 p.m.

Election results posted on-line

Voting for the Special Districts election in Hood River County ends May 19 at 8 p.m. Take your ballot before that time to either the county building at Sixth and State or to Cascade Locks City Hall.

For results (too late for press time) go to www.co.hood-river.or.us/elections
For CGCC results, go to www.co.wasco.or.us/elections

