

Freight line expansion set

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Independence will become a hub of importing and exporting goods via train and trucks when White's Hauling expands.

The company hopes to have the new operation on Hoffman Road up and running by June, said Cody White, co-owner.

"Our plan is to connect to the short line there with (Portland & Western Railroad) and bring in a rail siding, or track, to both ship out wheat and bring in grain," White said. "We'll import-export basically anything the local economy demands and supports: timber, lumber, steel."

From the site, located between Marquis Spa and Forest River, trucks will be able to unload onto rail cars, which will then connect with the train, and vice versa, taking products from the rail car and distributing them in smaller loads via truck.

The operation will increase truck traffic in the area, but White said truck drivers will be encouraged to take Highway 99W and Hoffman Roads.

"They want us to use existing routes trucks should take, the Hoffman-99 route right there," he said. "The overpass is significantly safer than turning onto Highway 51."

Traffic should also be diverted from Stryker Road, a concern of residents at the Independence Airpark,



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Cody White, co-owner of White's Hauling, will begin a transloading operation in Independence off Hoffman Road, similar to the company's station in Brooks, this spring.

White noted.

"It will increase truck traffic, but when the mill (Boise Cascade) was up and running, there were quite a few more trucks through there," White said.

Portland & Western will likely not have to increase rail traffic because of the operation, said Larry Gomez, assistant vice president of industrial development.

The goal of the new operation is two-fold, he said.

By using more rail transportation, it cleans up main corridors such as Interstate 5 by removing trucks from

traffic. Every rail car used replaces four semi-trucks on the roads, White said.

Secondly, the operation expands options for local farmers to distribute products.

White said wheat farmers may truck grain to Portland — through "terrible" traffic — or they can take it up the Gorge to Biggs — "which is in the middle of nowhere."

"With this, we can load it on rail and it opens up the doors for a lot of people to purchase this grain," White said.

White's Hauling was started in the early 1970s by

Cody's father and grandfather, who have developed relationships with wheat farmers and buyers.

"We already have a good group of people that want to take advantage of this," White said. "We also have a lot of people who want to purchase it up in that area (Portland), so we have both sides of it. We just want to connect the two."

The project is possible in part through a ConnectOregon grant for \$842,320, awarded through the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Tips to protect you from scams offered

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — When it comes to people trying to get personal information of any kind, it is not rude to just hang up, close the door or delete an email.

In fact, it's the smartest thing to do, said Ellen Klem, director of consumer outreach and education for the Office of the Attorney General, at a presentation about how to protect against fraud at the Monmouth Senior Center on Monday.

"If Rachel from Card Holder Services calls and asks you to press 1 to be removed from the call list, just hang up," she said.

Pressing 1 may remove you from that list, but it sells your phone number and information to 200 other scammers. Even setting the phone down in front of the TV or making loud noises lets her know you're home, Klem noted.

She said people who commit crimes of fraud cast a wide net, hoping to catch one or two people who will send money.

Another thing scammers say they look for is "no trespassing" signs in urban areas. These signs tell the scammer that the person living there is probably older, single and has no pets, Klem said.

Many of the people in the audience on Monday shared stories of how they'd been victims of scam — or

Don't Be a Victim

Ellen Klem of the Department of Justice offers these six "red flags" that something is a scam:

- Receiving a phone call, letter, email or someone at your door out of the blue, unexpected or uninvited.
 - The scammer has invented some kind of emergency or urgent situation.
 - Request for personal/financial information, or asking you to click on something online that you don't know what it is.
 - Asking you to wire money or send a prepaid cash card.
 - The scammer will include a level of secrecy, such as this is a one-time special offer just for you, don't tell anyone else.
 - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Klem said the facts and story might change, but these six signs point to a scam 99 percent of the time.

how they avoided it.

One man said he leaves the names of other relatives living with him on his message machine, even though he lives alone.

If you think you are being exposed to a scam, or have fallen victim to one, call your local police department or Department of Justice at 1-877-877-9392. For more information: oregonconsumer.org.

Nomination deadline for 2015 Dallas community awards is Friday

Itemizer-Observer staff report

DALLAS — Friday is the deadline for nominations for the Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce's 58th annual Community Awards, "Community Champions."

Each year, the chamber

recognizes individuals and businesses in the Dallas area that have made a positive influence on the community at the awards ceremony, to be held this year on Feb. 20 at the Oregon National Guard's Nesmith Readiness Center.

Nominations can be submitted online at www.dallasoregon.org/awards, by printed form available in the chamber office or via email to chamber@dallasoregon.org.

The award categories are: First Citizen, Junior First Citizen,

Outstanding Organization, Good Samaritan, Lifetime Achievement, Exceptional Family, Small Business of the Year, Most Improved Business of the Year, Ag Business of the Year, and Business of the Year.

A selection committee consisting of previous award winners will choose this year's award recipients.

Information about past winners and award descriptions are available on the chamber's website at

www.dallasoregon.org/awards.

Tickets are available at the chamber office, 119 SW Court St., Dallas, and Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St. Cost is \$40 each.

For more information: 503-623-2564.

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