

# Port Report



Participants in the Cross Channel Swim

## Cross Channel Swim Recap

This Labor Day marked the first year of Roy Webster Annual Cross-Channel Swim being held in Cascade Locks. More than 400 swimmers boarded the sternwheeler for the mile-long ride upstream to the jump-in location early in the morning. In addition to moving the race to Cascade Locks, it was also a return of the beloved event following two years of cancellations due to poor conditions. Event organizers, as well as participants and spectators, were pleased with the re-launch of the event here in Cascade Locks. “The new location mirrors our former location so well it didn’t really change the program that much,” said Ashley Huckaby May of organizing Hood River Chamber of Commerce. “The swimmers were ... excited and raring to go today. The weather is beautiful — and no wind.” They all look forward to this event returning next year.

## Tolling Technology

The automated toll technology installation is now complete at the Toll Booth and the Port is finalizing an agreement with the Port of Hood River to partner with the Breezeby system. The Port is now preparing for the transition from local stickers and coupon books to transponders. After a transition period, transponders will be the only way to continue to get the discounted toll. Once customer transponder distribution goes up, wait times to cross the Bridge are expected to improve as Toll Collectors will soon be handling about half as many manual transactions. Active Port of Hood River Breezeby customers will already be set up to cross the Bridge of the Gods with their Breezeby account. The Port expects to go live with Breezeby in January of 2019.

## Free Museum Day

Cascade Locks Historical Museum is offering FREE admission into the museum on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> the day of the Magical History Tour. Be sure to stop in and tour the exhibits before the museum closes for the winter season. As a reminder, the museum close on September 30 and open again in May.

## Delegates Visit DC to Talk Title 23

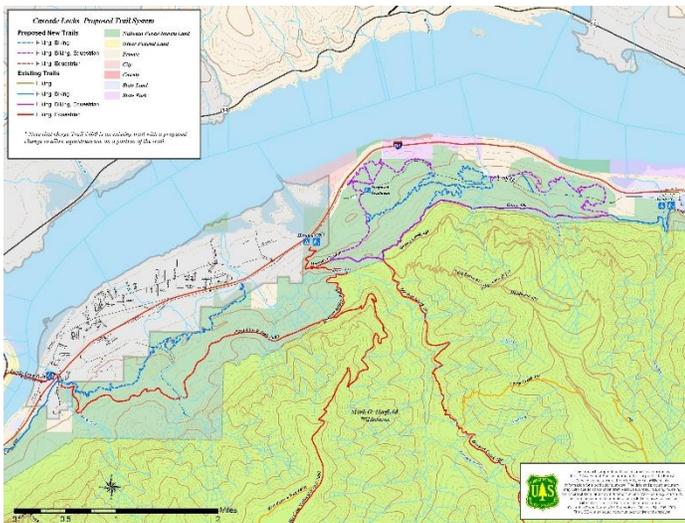
The Port of Cascade Locks sent two representatives to Washington DC this month to advocate with members of Congress on important issues for the Port. Commissioner Brad Lorang and Government Affairs Director Mark Johnson joined with a team from the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association for the trip from September 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Brad and Mark were able to add the Port of Cascade Locks priority issues into the PNWA presentation. The primary focus for the Port remains receiving federal support for the Bicycle/Pedestrian pathway to be attached to the Bridge of the Gods. The dramatic increase in PCT users is creating serious public safety concerns as growing numbers of hikers are required to share the narrow bridge with vehicular traffic. In addition, a bike/ped lane would make it possible for cyclists in the Gorge to cross the Columbia River safely to access regional trails and businesses in both states. Over the quick two-day trip, Brad and Mark met with staff from 11 members of congress. Most were from the Pacific Northwest but they also spoke with staff from other states whose members have key positions on committees that will be moving the legislation of interest to the Port. They had a meeting with the office of the Secretary of Transportation to check on the Port of Cascade Locks’ important infrastructure grant application. Though it was a brief visit, this trip was very crucial for the Port’s active agenda, which is focused on economic development for Cascade Locks and the Gorge region. Brad and Mark returned from DC with a positive report and we will know more later this fall on the progress of our priorities.



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## Local Postal Customer



### Bridge of the Goddess Marathon

The Annual Bridge of the Goddess Half Marathon & 10K returned to Cascade Locks on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 1,500 women dressed in their best goddess garments started on the Bridge of the Gods and ran a section of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, then returned to Cascade Locks to cross the finish line in Marine Park. While participants finished the race, they were welcomed by various festivities including food, beer, and live music. The event was concluded with an awards ceremony, highlighting this year's best costume. To join in on the fun next year, visit <https://runwithpaula.com/bridge-of-the-goddess-half-marathon-10k/>

### Proposed 26 Mile Trail

Throughout several years, the Port of Cascade Locks, in partnership with the US Forest Service and NW Trail Alliance, invested a significant amount of resources into a proposed trail system, which would connect existing trails along the south and east end of Cascade Locks to make a total of 26 miles of multi-use interconnected trails. The US Forest Service put the project on hold for a period to address trail restoration work needed after the Eagle Creek Fire. However, recently the US Forest Service made much progress collecting data and working towards the environmental impact survey. On October 17, the Port Commission will hear a presentation of the data collected, progress on the project, and next steps. The community is invited to provide input or simply listen in at the commission meeting starting at

**DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:**

- Oct 1.....Economic Dev. Sub-Committee
- Oct 4.....Free Museum Day
- Oct 4.....Magical History Tour
- Oct 8.....Port Commission
- Oct 12.....Cyclocross Crusade
- Oct 15.....Economic Dev. Sub-Committee
- Oct 17.....Port Commission
- Oct 17.....CL Action Team
- Oct 24.....Joint Work Group Eco. Dev.

*If you have further questions on meeting times or locations, contact our office at 541-374-8619 or visit [portofcascadelocks.org](http://portofcascadelocks.org).*