

Seattle PI, 9/24/08

State to count cyclists, walkers

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Olympia

Volunteers are needed across the state to help the state Department of Transportation (DOT) tally the number of people who bike and walk to their destinations.

The information will be used to set benchmarks and track progress toward the state's goal of encouraging people to get out of their cars.

"Just like counting cars and trucks, counting bicyclists and pedestrians at specific locations will help us more accurately measure demand, benefits of existing paths and trails, and help us identify new needs," said Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond.

The DOT and the Cascade Bicycle Club are looking for volunteers to count people bicycling and walking on paths, bike lanes, sidewalks and other facilities on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 and 2.

Those who want to volunteer can go to the DOT's Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/Bike_Counts.htm or contact Cascade Bicycle Club at organizer@cascadebicycleclub.org or calling 206-957-0689.

Seattle

Pedestrian killed by car is identified

The King County Medical Examiner's Office has identified an elderly woman who died Monday after she was struck by a car while crossing a street in West Seattle.

Rosemary MacCorkindale, 92, died at Harborview Medical Center. Around 12:45 p.m. Monday, a vehicle traveling south on California Avenue Southwest struck her as she was crossing the street near Southwest Dawson Street, according to Seattle police.

Traffic-collision investigators are still looking into the accident.

Anacortes

Backups expected on 2 ferry routes

Washington State Ferries has a message for Anacortes-bound passengers this Sunday: Be prepared to wait.

The annual Oyster Run motorcycle rally will cause backups as hundreds of motorcyclists head to Anacortes, many traveling on the Port Townsend-Keystone or Mukilteo-Clinton ferry routes.

There is limited capacity on the Port Townsend-Keystone route because it is served by one 50-car ferry with service every 90 minutes. Drivers of all vehicles and motorcycles are encouraged to make a reservation in advance for priority boarding on this route. Reservations are available on the Ferries Division Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries or by calling 511 between 7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. daily.

Motorcyclists traveling from Mukilteo to Clinton on Whidbey Island will be transported on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mount Baker

Artist Point road reopens, for a while

The road to Artist Point is open again.

Crews reopened the three-mile stretch early Tuesday morning above the ski resort at the end of the Mount Baker Highway.

The road was temporarily closed Monday after more than 2 inches of snow blanketed it. Pictures of the snowstorm are available on the state Department of Transportation's Flickr account — www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157607451604559/.

Drivers who plan to take a trip up to Artist Point should call the department at 360-788-2500 to check on road conditions. Weather conditions change rapidly at Artist Point and crews may close the road at any point for safety.

For more information, visit the Artist Point Web page: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Northwest/Baker/ArtistPoint.

Everett

Driver in fatal crash was N. Bend man

The State Patrol has identified the man who died in Monday's collision of an SUV and a semi-truck.

Jeffrey A. Minugh, of North Bend, died after his SUV collided with a FedEx semi-truck and rolled over on Interstate 5 in Everett.

Minugh, 45, was not wearing his seat belt, troopers said.

Olympia

Tenino High teacher won't be charged

A Tenino High School teacher and coach who was arrested Friday on suspicion of first-degree sexual misconduct with a former student was released from jail Monday.

A Thurston County deputy prosecutor, John Skinder, says no charge will be filed because of a three-year statute of limitations. The 23-year-old accuser says the misconduct took place more than five years ago.

Teacher Sean Dillon, 35, remains on paid administrative leave. He taught history and coached boys basketball and girls tennis.

School officials contacted police on Friday after a psychologist contacted the district about Dillon.

Times staff and wire reports

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