

THE DALLESSPORT/MURDOCK NEWS

*SERVING THE PENINSULA COMMUNITIES
OF DALLESSPORT AND MURDOCK*

Fire Prepared and Aware

Fire season has arrived in Dallesport. The Fire Boss aircraft have returned to the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport, and Klickitat County's 2026 burn ban is already in effect for our area.

Dallesport and Murdock are served locally by our Klickitat County Fire Protection District No. 6, also known as the Dallesport/Murdock Volunteer Fire Department. Dallesport is located in Klickitat County Burn Ban Zone 2, where the 2026 burn ban began May 18 and remains in effect until rescinded.

During the burn ban, open outdoor burning is not allowed. Burn permits are suspended, and yard debris burning and burn barrels are not allowed.

This year deserves extra attention. Washington saw a warm winter with low snowpack, even though many areas also saw spring rain. Rain can help grasses and weeds grow, but once that fine fuel dries out, it can carry fire quickly. In Dallesport, wind adds even more risk.

For those with acreage, preparation can feel overwhelming. The goal is not perfection; the goal is thoughtful risk reduction. Start closest to homes, shops, barns, sheds, propane tanks, vehicles, equipment, fences, wood piles, and access roads. Mow or trim what you can, clear dry weeds and brush where fire could move toward structures, and keep driveways and gates accessible for emergency vehicles. Even small improvements can help slow a fire and give responders more room to work.

A lot of fire prevention comes down to common sense. Be careful with the everyday things that can start fires: mowers, welders, grinders, dragging trailer chains, ATVs, tractors, and vehicles parked or driven through tall, dry grass. On hot, dry, windy days, it is worth waiting.

With the Fourth of July approaching, fireworks are another place where a little thoughtfulness can make a big difference. In Klickitat County, fireworks are more limited than many people realize: consumer fireworks are generally allowed only on July 4 and New Year's Eve, with local fire district guidance listing July 4 discharge hours as 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Even when fireworks are legal, residents should check current county and fire district restrictions before lighting anything, avoid dry grass and open fields, keep water nearby, and be mindful of wind, neighbors, pets, livestock, and first responders. In a rural area like ours, one spark can quickly become a much larger problem.

As part of your fire season preparation, take a few minutes to make sure you are signed up for alerts before you need them. Residents can download the Watch Duty app to receive wildfire updates, nearby incident information, and helpful fire tracking details.

Klickitat County also uses the RAVE Emergency Notification System to send official emergency alerts for wildfires, evacuations, severe weather, flooding, chemical spills, and other urgent situations.

You can register through the county’s Emergency Notification page and add multiple addresses, which is helpful for homes, businesses, rental properties, or family members. Just as important, know what evacuation levels mean before an emergency happens: Level 1 means “Get Ready,” Level 2 means “Get Set,” and Level 3 means “Go Now.”

It may feel unlikely that you’ll need it, but it is far better to be prepared early than to be scrambling when conditions change.

Klickitat County Evacuation Information Potential Evacuation Notices are sent due to Wildfires, Flooding, Chemical Spills, & other Emergencies	
READY LEVEL 1: GET READY PACK YOUR VALUABLES & IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS	Level 1 is an advisory notification. Residents should be aware of the potential hazards & monitor local media outlets for information. Residents with special needs or with pets/livestock should take note and make preparations.
SET LEVEL 2: GET SET	Level 2 indicates significant risk to your area and residents should relocate, either to a shelter, with family/friends or <u>be ready</u> to leave at a moments notice. Emergency personnel may contact residents through door to door notifications.
GO LEVEL 3: GO—EVACUATE NOW! LOOK FOR INFO ON RESOURCES AND SUPPORT	Level 3 indicates there is danger currently affecting your area or is imminent and you should leave immediately. If you do not leave the First Responders may not be able to reach you.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES NIGHT

Join the Dallesport Community Council on Wednesday, July 9 at 6:00 PM at the Dallesport Community Center for a candidate forum featuring those seeking two of the local offices that have a major direct impact on our community.

Invited candidates include:

Klickitat County Sheriff

Dwayne T. Matulovich
John Bruce
Tony Warren

Klickitat County Commissioner, District 2

Andy Kallinen
Gene Klejeski
Lori Zoller

The forum will be moderated, and if time allows, questions will be taken from the audience. This is a great opportunity to hear directly from the candidates before the August 4th Primary Election and ahead of the November 3rd General Election.

We encourage all residents to attend, learn more about the candidates, and participate in the democratic process.

THE WHITE BALLOON: PROBABLY NOT A CONSPIRACY!

A lot of residents in Dallesport, Murdock, and even across the river in The Dalles have noticed the large white balloon, or aerostat, near the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport and wondered what it is. Fair question. It is hard to miss!

An aerostat is a tethered, lighter than air aircraft, usually filled with helium, that can hold equipment above the ground. Aerostats are commonly used for testing, communications, cameras, research, or other aviation-related projects. They are not the same as a hot air balloon, and they do not float away freely.

CGRA regularly supports aviation related research, and this current aerostat project was evaluating payload and the resiliency of fabric in high winds. No better place to test wind than the Gorge!

Residents with specific questions should contact the Columbia Gorge Regional Airport or Hood Aero, the airport's fixed base operator.

In the meantime, curiosity is welcome. Panic is optional!

***PROPOSED DATA CENTER IN DALLESPORT:
QUESTIONS RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ASKING***

A recent Goldendale Sentinel article reported that a large scale data center is being explored for privately owned farmland in Dallesport near Highway 14 and State Route 197.

The article identified the site as Webster Orchards/Williams Ranch and says early stage feasibility studies are underway through the Bonneville Power Administration process. Klickitat PUD told the Sentinel it has submitted Line Load and Interconnection Request forms to BPA on behalf of the project, but the project is not approved, construction is not imminent, and future study phases could take years if it continues.

For Dallesport residents, this raises a few important questions.

The first is water. KPUD told the Sentinel it has not seen a water plan for the proposed project. Would the project require a new well, an existing well, municipal water, industrial water rights, or a changed agricultural water right? In a dry area where residents, farms, vineyards, orchards, and future growth all depend on water, this needs clear answers.

The second is land use. The article reported that a now removed Cushman & Wakefield listing described the site as within an industrial park zone and near industrial park, rural center, and general commercial zoning areas. Residents should understand what approvals would be required and when the public would have a chance to comment.





The third is power and public cost. The Sentinel reported a possible initial data center load of 300 to 350 megawatts, with potential expansion. A project of that scale could require major electrical infrastructure. Who would pay for it? Could local ratepayers be affected? Who would benefit financially?

Dallesport is not empty land on a map. Before any data center moves forward, residents deserve clear facts about water, power, zoning, roads, emergency services, and long-term community impact.

Residents should watch notices and meeting agendas from Klickitat County, Klickitat PUD, the Port of Klickitat, BPA, Klickitat County planning, and Dallesport Water District. Ask questions early, review public records, and make sure your voice is heard in the process!

JUNE

2026

AA Meetings Wednesdays and Sundays 7pm Lyle School Library 625 Keasey 360-870-3321	1 Lyle Lions Club Meeting 6:00pm	2 County Commissioners Mtg. 9:30am	3	4 WAGAP Mobile Food Bank @ Dallesport Community Center 12pm-2pm	5  Lyle High Graduation 6pm	6
7	8  Lyle Middle 8th Grade Promotion 6pm	9 County Commissioners Mtg. 9:30am KPUD Commissioner Mtg. 2:00pm County Water Conservancy Board 5:00pm	10 Bookmobile @ Dallesport Community Center 1:30pm-3pm Last Day of School! 	11 Dallesport/Murdock Community Council Meeting 7:00pm	12	13 Alder Creek Pioneer Rodeo <i>Bickelton, WA</i>
14 Alder Creek Pioneer Rodeo <i>Bickelton, WA</i>	15 Lyle Lions Club Meeting 6:00pm	16 County Commissioners Mtg. 9:30am	17	18	19 Airport Board Meeting 7:30am Gorge Blues & Brews Festival 6pm-10pm <i>Stevenson, WA</i>	20 Gorge Blues & Brews Festival 2pm-10pm <i>Stevenson, WA</i>
21	22	23 County Commissioners Mtg. 9:30am KPUD Commissioner Mtg. 2:00pm	24 Bookmobile @ Dallesport Community Center 1:30pm-3pm Lyle School Board Meeting 6:00pm	25 Goldendale	26 Community	27 Drain Raider Pro Fishing Tournament Qualifier <i>The Dalles</i> Yard Sales →
28 → Goldendale Community Yard Sales	29 Full Moon Strawberry Moon 	30 County Commissioners Mtg. 9:30am			Farmer's Goldendale Saturdays 9:00am-2:00pm White Salmon Tuesdays 4:00pm-7:00pm	Markets Hood River Saturdays 9:00am-1:00pm The Dalles Saturdays 9:00am-1:00pm

KEY CONTACTS

Dallesport/Murdock Fire Dept - KCFD # 6

630 Central Ave. PO Box 215
509-767-1252

Dallesport Water District

302 Sixth Ave, Dallesport, PO Box 131
541-980-6514
dwdclerk@dallesportwater.org
dallesportwater.org

Dallesport Post Office

Monday-Friday 8:00am-2:00pm
Saturday 7:30 am-11:00 am (package pickup
only) 509-767-1577

Dallesport/Murdock Community Council

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