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Volunteer Photographer Marvin Yamaguchi/Cascade Bicycle Club
Riders leave the starting line July 12, 2025 at the start of the ride in Seattle, WA.

Seattle to Portland Bike Ride comes through Tenino

By Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

The 47th annual Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic presented by Alaska Airlines (STP) is happening July 11 and 12. The ride is Cascade Bicycle Club's yearly fundraiser for the non-profit, whose goal it is to make Washington state safer for bikers by lobbying the local government.

All riders should be going through Bucoda and Tenino on July 11, as the resting stop at the end of day one is Centralia Community College. 10% do finish it the route one day.

"We want to make sure STP is not a race, it's a big group bike ride," Paul Tolmé, the media relations manager of Cascade Bicycle Club and the event, said. "Everyone who participates is a winner."

When the riders go through Bucoda and Tenino, they may

stop for food, drinks or other needs as they ride through the town. Tolmé said the organization considers the ride a small "economic boost" for the places cyclists go through.

From Yelm, the riders will take the Yelm Tenino Trail to Crowder road SE. Then they will ride on 507 through Bucoda until they reach Centralia, where they will rest and continue their route to Portland the next day.

"If you happen to be out driving on the route that weekend, please be cautious so everyone gets there safely," Tolmé said. "Please be patient. Try to avoid driving on the route."

To support the riders "gather by the side of the road and offer cool drinks and misters," Tolmé said. "Cheering is a nice way too."

This year, there are 6,400 cyclists signed up for the 207 mile ride. There are also hun-

dreds of volunteers with the organization to provide food, water and mechanical support every 20 miles for the two days of the ride.

There are also people who help move rider's luggage from Portland to Centralia to Seattle for the riders' convenience.

In addition to the volunteers and riders, there will be thousands of people at the start and finish lines, cheering the riders on. There may be a large number of people at the middle point in Centralia too, according to Tolmé.

"It's more than a bike ride, it's a Pacific Northwest outdoor happening," Tolmé said.

To prepare for the ride, the Cascade Bicycle Club encourages riders to train before going, but ultimately, it's up to the individual.

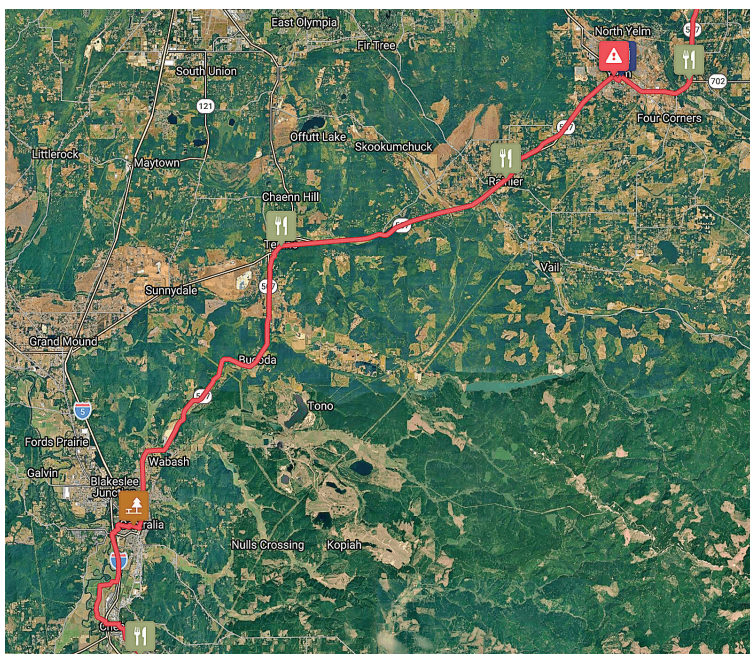
"Anyone who can train themselves to sit on a bike for six to eight hours a day, you can finish it," Tolmé said. "If you're determined, you can finish it."

Some people make it their New Year's resolution and some start when the weather turns nicer in spring. They train over several months, slowly increasing the mileage each ride.

"Everyone in the STP can feel good as we're in the most bike friendly state in the nation," Tolmé said. The League of American Bicyclists rates Washington as the top most 'bicycle friendly' in the country as of its most recent information release in 2024.

The finish line is Holladay Park in Portland where a big party waits for everyone. Families cheer and a beer garden awaits.

"It's quite inspiring when you see people doing an incredible athletic endeavor," Tolmé said. "It's just a heart warming thing to witness."



Cascade Bicycle Club
The route riders will take for the Seattle to Portland ride on July 11 through 12, 2026.

'Battle on the Blacktop' girls' soccer set over OTD weekend

With the United States, Canada and Mexico playing host to the FIFA World Cup soccer tournament this summer, futbol (soccer) fever is running high. That may help local soccer events.

The Tenino High School Girls Soccer program will hold its Eighth Annual "Battle on the Blacktop" Tournament on the black artificial surface at Beaver Stadium in Tenino on July 24-26.

Admission is free for all. Kona Ice will return (for sure Friday and Sunday, Saturday TBD) as well as concessions featuring chili dogs and chili cheese nachos. Other tournament info:

- Standings will be decided by: 3 points for win, 1 point for draw, 0 for a loss. Tiebreakers will be head-to-head, goals against, goals scored, and

goal differential. We will only do shootouts on Sunday.

- Matches will be 60 minutes long with a 5 minute half-time. Hydration breaks will be taken if needed.
- For the fourth year in a row we plan to give out medals for the Golden Boot, Playmaker (most assists or best midfielder), Defensive MVP, and Tournament (overall) MVP. The MVP awards will be voted upon by the referees. Medals will be given out after the championship game just before presentation of the championship trophy.

The field is divided into two groups. In Group A will include Aberdeen, Black Hills, Onalaska, Tenino and the W.F. West Gray squad. Group B will include Centralia 2, North Mason,, Rochester,

Toledo and W.F. West Crimson.

Play begins at Beaver Stadium Friday, July 24 at 8:30 a.m., with 10 games scheduled, including North Mason vs. Rochester at 1:50 p.m., Aberdeen vs. Tenino at 3:10 p.m., Rochester vs. WFW Crimson at 5:50 and WFW Gray vs. Tenino at 7:10.

Ten more games are scheduled Saturday, July 25, with Rochester playing at 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. and Tenino playing at 1:50 and 7:10 p.m.

Sunday's action begins at 2 p.m. with three straight consolation matches – between the fifth, fourth and third-place finishers from the two groups, followed by a match for third place and the tourney title match at 8 p.m.

The Tenino Girls also have a home scrimmage July 14 against W.F. West at 6 p.m.



Photo by Charlie Plante
The car sits off to the side of the road along with the telephone pole on Skookumchuck road on July 2.

Telephone pole goes down after being hit by a car

By Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

A car hit a telephone pole knocking out power to both Bucoda and Tenino for 45 minutes on July 2 on Skookumchuck road. No one was injured, according to the sheriff on the scene.

The sheriff on scene said the crash was reported at 3:16 p.m., but as it involved a minor, more details could not be provided.

"Everything was out, we couldn't really do much of anything," Krissy Butterworth, the manager of Joe's Place, said.

The power came back on

around 4 p.m. and the road opened back up around 4:30 p.m. after the Puget Sound Energy Inc. (PSE) had a lineman containing the electrical wires from the telephone pole, making the road safe to drive through.

The lineman, who declined to share his name, said replacing the pole and rewiring the electrical work would be a 10-hour job, as the system was underground.

The further outages on the street were restored by 1 a.m. on July 3, Gerald Tracy, a spokesman at PSE said. However, the pole was not confirmed to be fixed at this time.

DSHS van to visit Tenino Food Bank

Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

For help signing up for social security, EBT cards, medicare, insurance and SUN bucks, attend the Tenino Food Bank from 9 a.m. to noon

on Friday, July 10, where the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) will be in a van offering their services to anyone who attends.



Photo by Charlie Plante
Cheri Launders shows what would go into a food bag for families at the Tenino Food Bank on July 2. She started the program back in 2013.

Free sack lunches for all age 18-under

Charlie Plante
DeVaul Publishing

Free sack lunches are provided to all children under the age of 18 at Cheri's Kids Food Program 11 a.m. to noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday outside of the Bucoda Community Center. Even children who don't live in Bucoda or Tenino are welcome to pick up food.

This program extends all summer long and starts up again during winter and spring breaks working in conjunction with the Tenino Food Bank to supply anyone who is hungry.

The Tenino Community Service Center wrote there has been a 144% increase from 2025 to 2026 of people under 18 receiving services.

Correction

Last week there was an article released focused on fire awareness for the Fourth of July. In that article, the "Tenino fire department" is mentioned. This is incorrect, the Tenino Fire Department does not exist anymore. Instead, there is the Thurston County Fire District 12, who does business as South Thurston Fire and EMS. We apologize for this error.