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A R I Z O N A

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Hazmat teams prepared for the worst

More trains and trucks than ever with hazardous cargo are coming through Flagstaff, and emergency responders have geared up

EMERY COWAN
Sun Staff Reporter

It was 10:20 on a Monday night in 1981 when a 97-car freight train en route to New Mexico derailed on the east side of Flagstaff, overturning two cars containing thousands

of gallons of highly flammable liquid petroleum gas.

Three thousands people were evacuated and then-Gov. Bruce Babbitt declared a state of emergency, mobilizing local National Guard units to assist with evacuation and security.

It's an event that Scott Walton, Flagstaff area regional fire training coordinator, clearly recalled when talking about the risks posed by hazardous materials transported through Flagstaff and Coconino County every day. Walton worked

with Flagstaff Fire Department for decades and oversaw the department's hazardous material team for 15 years, overseeing responses to petroleum truck rollovers, chlorine gas releases and other hazmat incidents.

Local emergency responders can bring up other instances of fiery train crashes and trucks spilling diesel on the interstates that cross the region.

Like many safety-related issues,

See **HAZMAT**, A10

Questions mount over Bakken crude oil

Train derailments, explosions and massive spills have focused national attention on the safety of hauling crude oil from the Bakken shale oil fields. Although the accidents have happened thousands of miles away from northern Arizona, the substance is certainly on the radar of local and state emergency managers.

The oil, which federal regulators have warned may be more flammable

than traditional heavy crude oil, isn't coming through northern Arizona at this time, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway spokeswoman Lena Kent said.

That doesn't mean the possibility doesn't exist for that to happen in the future though. When oil prices were higher and space was tight on rail

See **OIL**, A10

WHEELY GOOD FUN



Bicyclists of all ages dressed up in colorful costumes to participate in the annual Hullabaloo bicycle parade Saturday morning. For more photos, see page A3.

FUSD works to go green

The school district has gardens and solar arrays at most schools,

MICHELLE MCMANIMON
Sun Staff Reporter

Flagstaff Unified School District will have two new greenhouses and a new solar panel array when the students come back to classes this fall.

Earlier this year, SCA, which operates the tissue mill in Flagstaff, awarded environmental education grants to Cromer Elementary School and Summit High School.

Cromer received \$5,000 to construct a greenhouse to grow seedlings that will assist community members who were affected by flooding after the Schultz fire in 2010. The project also involves the construction of a stream table to demonstrate and study the effects of erosion.

Summit High received \$4,141 to build a greenhouse to expand its community garden. The students will use it to practice sustainable food production. The project includes the installation of an irrigation system to promote water conservation and sustainability. Food grown in the garden produce will be donated to local food banks.

FUSD spokesperson Karin Eberhard said the new greenhouses will be part of the district's ongoing effort to go "green."

"I can only think of two schools that don't have gardens," she said. "All of our elementary schools do and because they're not certified, they give all the food to their families."

GARDENS IN CURRICULUM

The FUSD gardens are fully integrated into the curriculum. Students from kindergarten to high school work in the gardens, conduct experiments and collect data to learn about things like nutrition, sustainability, ecosystems, the life cycle of a plant, precipitation, insect migration patterns and erosion, to name a few.

At Knoles Elementary School, the kindergartners plant seeds, nurture them in the classroom and then plant them in the garden in the spring.

At Killip Elementary School, children are working with Northern Arizona University students to build a water catchment and filtration system for the school garden.

And at Marshall Elementary School, the students have spent hundreds of hours working planting milkweed with the non-profit organization Terra Birds to build a healthy habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

See **WARMING**, A9

See **FUSD**, A10

Report: Warming hiatus an illusion

MONTE MORIN
Los Angeles Times

Was it all really just an illusion? Ever since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change acknowledged that the ominous rise in Earth's mean surface temperature had begun to slow in 1998, scientists have struggled to explain this puzzling "pause" or "hiatus" in warming.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Some have argued that dust and ash blasted into the sky by Mount Pinatubo and other volcanoes had reflected the sun's heat back into space before it could be trapped by greenhouse gases. Others hypothesized that the sun had entered a rare period of calm, temporarily interrupting its habit of explosive tantrums.

Still more insisted this "missing" heat was absorbed by the Pacific Ocean, and other waters, and still lurks deep below the waves awaiting a stormy return to the surface.

“One way to think about it is that global warming continued, but the oceans just juggled a bit of heat around and made the surface seem cooler for a while.”

Joshua Willis, climate scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

On Thursday, however, researchers at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration published yet another explanation in the prestigious journal *Science*.

Their assessment: The hiatus never happened.

In an argument that drew criticism from both sides of the rancorous debate over man-made climate change, NOAA researchers wrote that long-existing instrument biases have masked rising sea surface temperatures.

Once those biases are accounted for, "this hiatus or slowdown simply

vanishes," said lead study author Thomas Karl, director of NOAA's Climatic Data Center.

Karl and his colleagues insist that global average surface temperature has climbed 0.2 degrees Fahrenheit each decade since 1950, without interruption, due to the heat-trapping effects of man-made greenhouse gases.

In contrast, the IPCC had determined that from 1998 to 2012, the warming trend was just one-third to one-half what it had been from 1951 to 2012.

"The IPCC's statement of two years ago — that the global surface temperature 'has shown a much smaller increasing linear trend over the past 15 years than over the past 30 to 60 years' — is no longer valid," Karl and his team concluded.

Not surprisingly, this conclusion was quickly dismissed by so-called climate change skeptics — those scientists and policy groups who say the hiatus proves climatologists have

See **WARMING**, A9

Spring opening for new Harkins

The new cinema complex behind the mall will trigger the move of DMV from South Milton and the extension of Beulah Boulevard to University

SUZANNE ADAMS-OCKRASSA
Sun Staff Reporter

Flagstaff movie buffs will have to wait until next spring to catch a flick at the new Harkins movie theater complex behind the Flagstaff Mall & The Marketplace.

Harkins Theaters broke ground on a new 16-screen theater at The Marketplace, east of the Flagstaff

Mall at the end of May. The 72,000-square-foot theater will have more films, more screens, more seating and more parking than the west Flagstaff facility, according to the company.

Every auditorium will have stadium seating with Harkins "Ultimate Rocker" seats and wall-to-wall screens. The concession

stand will be expanded to include Freschetta pizzas, White Castle cheeseburgers, Nathan's mini-corn dogs, mac and cheese bites and popcorn chicken.

The current movie theater on Woodlands Village Boulevard will remain open until the new theater is finished. Then, as part of an agreement with the city of Flagstaff, the Arizona Department of Transportation and Vintage Partners, Harkins will close

See **HARKINS**, A10



Harkins Theaters broke ground on a new 16-screen movie theater behind the Flagstaff Mall at the end of May. The outside of the new theater will be similar to this drawing of a new 16-screen theater going in at Goodyear.

High: **72** Low: **40**
5-day forecast — **A2**

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