

Exhibit 4: (April 20, 2004) Newspaper Article

Cascadia Times

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Thrills Turn to Chills: Rollercoaster Accident at Honeycutt Carnival

Piper County, Cascadia – A routine day of fun turned frightening at the Honeycutt Carnival yesterday when a mechanical failure caused a rollercoaster to malfunction, leaving riders suspended in the air for nearly two hours. Fortunately, all passengers on the ride were safely brought down without any injuries, but the incident has raised serious concerns about safety practices at the long-standing local amusement park.

The incident occurred around 2:00 PM on the carnival's popular ride, the "Thunderbolt." Witnesses reported a sudden stop, causing the ride to jam with approximately 15 patrons trapped at its peak. Carnival staff quickly mobilized to assist the riders, and emergency services were on-site within minutes.

"We were scared at first, but the staff were really helpful. They kept us calm," said Amanda Richards, a mother who was riding with her two children. "It was just a long wait before we got down."

Despite the quick response, the incident has sparked scrutiny over the safety protocols in place at Honeycutt Carnival, a local institution that has been family-owned since its founding in 1924. The carnival, operated by Hayden Honeycutt, has been a staple of community gatherings for generations, drawing families for its rides, games, and food stands.

"It's alarming to hear about this type of malfunction," said local safety inspector, Bill Turner. "We will be conducting a thorough investigation into the carnival's safety records and maintenance procedures." In a statement issued by the Honeycutt Carnival, owner Hayden Honeycutt expressed relief that no injuries occurred but acknowledged the need for a review of safety measures. "The safety of our patrons is our top priority. We will cooperate fully with the investigation and work to ensure that our rides meet the highest safety standards," he said.

The rollercoaster incident comes on the heels of other minor mechanical issues reported at the carnival over the past few years, raising questions about the upkeep of aging rides. Local residents have expressed concerns, noting that while the carnival is a cherished part of the community, its safety must come first.

"I grew up going to this carnival; it's been a part of our family traditions," said Piper County resident, Linda Martinez. "But I hope they take this seriously. We don't want to see any accidents."

As the investigation unfolds, carnival officials assure the public that they are taking immediate steps to enhance safety measures. Meanwhile, the Honeycutt Carnival remains open, hoping to reassure patrons that their enjoyment and safety is paramount.

For now, families can continue to enjoy the attractions, but many will be keeping a closer eye on the rides and the assurances of safety from those in charge.