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Contact:

Laura Kennedy, Director, Passenger
Department
Reading and Northern Railroad
610-562-2102
<http://www.readingnorthern.com>



**Reading and Northern Railroad kicks off 2009 passenger excursion
season with monumental trip to Jim Thorpe**

Port Clinton, Pa., May 19, 2009 — Reading and Northern Railroad kicked off its 2009 passenger excursion season this past weekend, as it brought over 700 rail and history enthusiasts into Jim Thorpe.

During the day-long trip from Tunkhannock to Jim Thorpe on May 16, 730 passengers on 11 standard coaches and two private cars, as well as numerous steam fans, who lined roadways along the route, were able to enjoy the railroad's prized steam engine, the 425, as it made its first of five excursions of the season.

The train left Tunkhannock at approximately 9 a.m. and arrived in Jim Thorpe at 1 p.m. Passengers were then able to walk around town, enjoy the Jim Thorpe Birthday Festival, and shop, before returning to Tunkhannock later that evening.

“In these hard economic times, we at the railroad are trying to give families the opportunity to enjoy a day-long vacation without having to spend a lot of money,” said Andrew M. Muller Jr., CEO of Reading and Northern Railroad.

Laura Kennedy, director of the Passenger Department, added that part of all ticket proceeds from the trip will go to the Wyoming County United Way, as part of a fundraiser. This is the second year Reading and Northern has teamed up with the United Way to raise funds for the organization.

A second fundraising steam excursion, Kennedy explained, is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 6. During that roundtrip excursion, which will travel from Pittston to Jim Thorpe, Reading and Northern Railroad will partner with state Rep. Michael Carroll's office. Proceeds from the trip will benefit several organizations in the Greater Pittston area.

Later in the year, during the height of fall foliage season, four roundtrip excursions from Port Clinton to Jim Thorpe are also being planned. Passengers can enjoy the scenic beauty of Pennsylvania during these trips. Steam excursion dates include Oct. 10, 17, and 18. A diesel locomotive trip will also take place from Port Clinton on Saturday, Oct. 24.

More information and ticket prices on these excursions can be found at Reading and Northern Railroad's Passenger Excursions Web site at www.rbmnrr.com/passenger.

Reading and Northern's sister company, Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, based in Jim Thorpe, will also be kicking off its season this weekend with three trips into the Lehigh Gorge State Park. Trips run 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. every weekend until December. For more information and ticket prices, visit the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway's Web site at www.lgsry.com.

Reading and Northern Railroad, with its corporate headquarters in Port Clinton, is a privately held railroad company serving major businesses in eight counties in Eastern Pennsylvania, including Carbon, Schuylkill, Luzerne, Northumberland, Lehigh, Lackawanna, Berks, and Wyoming counties. It has expanded its operations over the last 25 years and has grown into one of the premier railroads in the state, with both freight services and passenger excursion operations. Reading and Northern continues to grow and currently employs 100 dedicated employees.

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