

OPINION

YOUR VOICE

Flagstone heroes

With tears streaming down my face, I thank God for my three heroes. At the very risk and cost of their health and careers, they strove to meet the critical needs of the Flagstone Memory Care residents against all odds last month. An incredible nurse, and facility chaplain Scott Crimshaw, remained 12 straight days, working through the night, continuing to serve ill residents with every bit of energy that they had.

Their executive director, Sharla Mosqueda, sought, and pleaded “corporate” for supplies, staffing and support, with minimal and delayed response. A resident noticed her office light on at 6 a.m. which then did not shut off until 2 a.m. then next morning. Some days were even longer!

This past month has been traumatic for the residents and staff of Flagstone. Likened to a battlefield, Memory Care became a place of death, with a lack of supplies and caregivers for residents’ critical needs and seemingly ignored by the outside world. (If only the outside world could have known!)

These three people mourn for those so dear to them that didn’t make it, and rejoice that others were able to be transported to facilities out of town. One of my heroes, the nurse, became sick with COVID-19 and Sharla and Scott were fired as if they had been the ones negligent.

You know, as horrific as this real-life scenario has been, I believe that these three would have done it all again rather than to abandon those under their care in the conditions and fate they would have left them. They would not, and could not, leave the residents they loved and served. To me they are the *unsung heroes* of The Dalles! They are my heroes.

Ramona Harwood
The Dalles

EDITOR’S NOTE: This letter was published in the Oct. 14 edition but the last few lines were inadvertently omitted. We print the letter in full, with our apologies.

Vote Zanmiller

Mark Zanmiller for City Council. Mark has served with distinction for the last two terms. I have known Mark for 12 years and had the pleasure to work with him on a variety of projects. He is honest, thoughtful, and a true problem solver. Because of his community involvement and his desire to have a positive impact on the world around him, he is aware of local issues and has the tools to address and build consensus on those issues to affect real change. It is my belief you would be hard pressed to find someone more willing to dedicate himself to serving our community than Mark Zanmiller.

Julie Heinemann
Hood River

No on Measure 110

Regarding Oregon Ballot Measure 110, which is the de facto state legalization of a variety of addictive and dangerous drugs: My first wife died unexpectedly of a morphine overdose at age 49. The medical examiners’ report stated that she had enough morphine in her system at the time of death to kill 1,000 people.

It seems to me that we have too much and too many drugs of all kinds around these days. Why add to the huge problem we already have?

Britt Storkson
The Dalles

Voting plans

I’ve never been more excited to vote and it’s interesting to me that my ballot doesn’t look like the kind of ballot you would be really excited about. Curtis King, State Senator for LD14, doesn’t have an opponent and there are two Republicans running for County Commissioner in District 3.

But, looking deeper, every single race on my ballot is for a powerful position and I connect that to how it will affect us. Reading voter’s pamphlets/guides, researching the candidates, watching forums/debates with the candidates, speaking

directly with them, and with my community, are all actions that have helped me decide who to give my powerful vote to.

I’m voting for Biden for president for the future of my country. I’m voting for Carolyn Long because we deserve someone who is as smart, hardworking, and accessible, as she is. I’m voting for Tracy Rushing for LD14-1 because we need a doctor in the House, especially now. I’m voting for Devin Kuh for LD14-2 because his write-in-to-serious campaign shows how much he can get done for us in a Democratic House. I’m voting for Joanna Turner for Klickitat County Commissioner, District 1 because she will make better decisions and give us better outcomes. I’m voting for Jim Sizemore for Klickitat County Commissioner, District 3 because he is everything his opponent isn’t: Respectful, good, experienced and willing to change if that means improving.

I’m voting for many other candidates and resolutions on my ballot that will affect my future. Please join me.

Sasha Bentley
White Salmon

Stop stealing signs

Well, someone stole my yard sign. Lots of people have these signs — they just have a couple of names on them, they don’t say that you have to like my guy or vote for my guy or believe what I believe about who deserves to be president or governor or representative. Just names. My way of demonstrating my convictions. My sister, who belongs to a different party and who had a yard sign with different names than mine, reports that her sign was also stolen.

Here is what I want to say to whoever stole our signs — stop it! I’m sure your mom taught you that stealing is wrong. As a mom and grandma myself I want to grab you by the ears and make you stand in the corner until you say you are sorry and promise you will never do it again.

As a person who loves this country, I want to remind you that one of the things that make this country amazing is the right to free speech, the right to support and vote for your choice of candidates. Stealing yard signs is petty, childish and un-American. So stop it!

Heather Weisfield
White Salmon

Nation in crisis

I know what crisis looks and feels like, and now so do you.

As an American, I have always believed in the American dream, “anything is possible, all you have to do is work for it.”

That is no longer true. People are working without the ability to get ahead. Some work without the ability to pay their basic bills. Many find it difficult to keep enough food in the house. This country’s systems have been broken for a long time without many of us knowing about it.

However, a rare opportunity for to become aware of our broken systems has become real with this pandemic. You may not have understood the uprise of the protesting and riots without the pandemic to help unveil this country’s system failures.

The people in this country, especially our elected officials, are not respecting the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and that is the core of our crisis.

The U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights are the base for the American dream, a promise that the quality of life we desire can be achieved.

The core of our crisis is the uncertainty of our safety. If those we have put in place do not honor the oaths and ethics that require them to be held to a higher standard of person, they should not have taken the job. With their job descriptions outlined for them, they are given budgets and tax payers’ monies to carry out a plan.

Let us elect officials that can show us the difference that one voice can make backed by the people, people that have our safety and quality of life at the top of their

Eagle eye



A red-tail hawk perches on a dead tree east of The Dalles. The hawks are common throughout Oregon and often seen circling over the landscape watching for small rodents. Photo courtesy Gary Elkinton

priority list. Joanna Turner has researched and focused on the issues necessary to heal the areas that our broken system has hurt.

Joanna Turner and like minded people are part of the solution necessary to bring our country’s systems back up and working for the American people so we can again have an “American Dream” to reach.

Vote for Joanna Turner, County Commissioner

Elizabeth Mutch
Dallesport

Rushing and Kuh

I am deeply grateful to Tracy Rushing and Devin Kuh, candidates for State Representative, District 14. Kuh is a teacher, and Rushing is an emergency room physician. Neither had political experience prior to this election. Both felt compelled to run for office when they saw the unopposed incumbents actively obstructing efforts to control and contain coronavirus, while Yakima County, in the 14th, was one of the hardest hit places in Washington State.

Rushing and Kuh both see healthcare as a human right, critical to building healthy communities. Their platforms are solid on other issues as well. What makes them extraordinary candidates, however, is the love, intelligence, and caring shining through their campaigns. Rushing’s opponent, Chris Corry, has only right-wing ideology to offer. Kuh’s opponent, Gina Mosbrucker, is busy climbing the GOP ladder to success in Olympia. Rushing and Kuh offer something quite different — genuine care for people and for the planet. It shows in the work they have chosen, and it shows in their campaigns. We are fortunate to be able to vote for Tracy Rushing and Devin Kuh. Please join me in doing so.

Patricia Arnold
Trout Lake

Workers United

In central Washington, our food goes from farm to table on the backs of agricultural and packinghouse workers. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, we were quick to label these workers essential, but we were slow to protect them from dangerous working conditions.

When cases exploded among the close quarters of Yakima packinghouses, workers realized that no help was coming. So they took it upon themselves to organize and strike; they came together to save their lives and their jobs. Trabajadores Unidos por la Justicia (Workers United for Justice) was able to negotiate safer workplaces and protective equipment, hazard pay and the right to organize.

I stand in solidarity and support with Trabajadores Unidos. I’m running for Washington State House of Representatives to represent working families, but more

importantly, for working families’ rights to organize and to represent themselves.

Tracy Rushing
White Salmon

Retain Lannen

Tom Lannen has been working for Skamania County, long before he was ever a commissioner. I had met Tom while he had been doing volunteer work for the county. Tom’s entire mission during that time was to hold accountable the Forest Service for their management of the Gifford Pinchot Forest and to maintain the sustainable logging and management they have said they were going to do for over 25 years.

After he began working as a volunteer for the county in the name of sustainable and healthy forest practices, Tom began to consider running for county commissioner. It seemed suitable for someone who had already given an abundant amount of time working for the good of our county, coming to every commissioner meeting for three years prior and wanting what was best for our county.

In the four years since Tom became county commissioner, he has worked to bring to task the Forest Service on better management practices on our Forest, hold DNR to task on their Management of the local State lands, he has added \$3.5 million to the County coffers since taking office, has worked hard for Secure Rural Schools, has strong relationships with our local, state and federal officials, and has done a number of things within the inside operations of our county that will make us a stronger and brighter county for years to come.

As a lifelong resident, business owner, raised all 10 of my children in the county, and now am a proud grandparent, I strongly support re-electing Tom Lannen for District 2, for four more years.

Jim Waters
Carson

Rushing for health

Over the decades, the word “environmentalism” has been hammered by negativity from corporate elites. More recently, it has been linked to radical left thinking. And that’s a shame. Because caring for the land that feeds and houses us and for the water and air that is necessary for all life should never be construed as a bad thing. I spend a lot of time on public lands, observing wildlife and studying plants, and I am deeply concerned about the conditions we are leaving for our children and grandchildren. Insects, especially pollinators, are in decline. Pollinators are responsible for two-thirds of the foods we eat.

According to the EPA, childhood asthma is negatively impacted by air pollution.

We know that the development of many cancers is linked to the toxins

in our environment. Thousands of Americans and millions of world citizens die each year as a result of our ever-increasing toxic load on the planet. Recently, despite the science (or perhaps because of the science), the Trump administration rolled back over 100 rules and policies designed to protect our land, water, and air, which in turn, protects all life. Did the American voters ask for those rules and policies to be overturned? No. Corporations and millionaires wanted them overturned so they target politicians. Nowadays, it is the Republican party that caters to the corporate demand for deregulation of environmental policies and laws. Our current Washington representative Chris Corry, does not consider this an issue of concern. He has made it clear that he prefers business over people and will do their bidding.

I am supporting Dr. Tracy Rushing for Washington State Representative because she is trained in science and not political games. Her vision is for a healthy community and state which starts with science-based decision-making and policies that support not only human health but the health of the land we live on.

Sue Kusich
White Salmon

Maupin needs Burns

What has Daniel Bonham done to fight for a healthy Deschutes and its benefits for the town of Maupin? I’ve been asking if anyone can recall anything he has accomplished to help restore the lower Deschutes. I’m certain he was aware of the seriousness of the river’s decline but, to my knowledge,

Mr. Bonham has not used his office with any sustained, effective effort to help save Maupin’s lifeblood. Civic centers are fine, but river money sustains Maupin. A shiny new grocery store is wonderful but river money makes it possible. Multiple city parks are the cats meow but river lovers don’t come just for the parks. We have lots of restaurants for a small town but they shrivel away without the river’s attraction. A healthy river keeps our nifty resort afloat. Two fly shops are great but they can’t thrive without a healthy lower Deschutes. River visitors keep Maupin’s smaller shops alive and they help our hardware store, downtown bar and grill and coffee shops.

River visitors are the backbone of Maupin’s motels, rental cabins and B-and-Bs. High speed internet and Wi-fi are icing on the cake, but people won’t come here simply for that — a healthy river is an absolute necessity for healthy growth in Maupin. Times were hard when Mountain Fir Lumber pulled out. When the river dies, Maupin will

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Regional news for the Gorge

Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Mailing Addresses:

PO Box 1910, The Dalles, OR 97058
PO Box 390, Hood River, OR 97031
PO Box 218, White Salmon, WA 98672

Columbia Gorge News (ISSN 0747-3443)
Published every Wednesday.

Known offices of publication: (Open by appointment)
1800 W. 10th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058
600 E. Port Marina Way, Suite B, Hood River, OR 97031
Elba Offices, 288 E. Jewett Street, Suite 650
White Salmon, WA 98672

Periodical postage is paid at The Dalles, Oregon.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
P.O. Box 1910, The Dalles, OR 97058

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