

# OPINION

## LETTERS

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historian Paul Johnson wrote in his book, *Modern Times*, that the greatest menace to the world over the previous century had been (and is) the rise of the professional politician.

**Mike Goodpaster**  
Goldendale

### Bridge issues

I'm wondering how many Port of Hood River customers who have a "breezeby" pass are being deluged with the wasteful bills being sent trying to nick us \$5 for a \$1 bridge crossing. It seems that if your Breezeby sticker does not cross-reference properly (via computer) with the car/truck/motorcycle you happen to be driving, you get one of these bills in the mail trying to fleece an extra \$4 out of us when we already have an account with the port. And just how many people are paying this when they don't need to?

To me it seems like having a "Sears" credit account and charging something in Chicago and then something in San Francisco. It's an account — who cares what we are driving, we have an account with the Port and they charge our credit cards, they still get paid. What a waste of time, effort and money ... and then we have to respond to this bill and waste our time to clean their mess up.

Motorcycles were always cheaper than cars/trucks as we do ZERO damage to that bridge, now we are the same as a car, ridiculous.

And now the port has the "option" to buy the property off Country Club Road (former potential Super Walmart property) to the tune of \$4 million. Why? What do you need that property for and ... who's paying for it? Oh that's right, the Port has a printing press for money called the toll bridge. Aren't you supposed to be saving money in the "Bridge Replacement Fund" to replace the 95-year-old bridge?

How much is enough Port of Hood River? You have the bridge, the marina, the Waucoma buildings, the Sprint buildings, the DMV building, the airport, and I'm sure more than that (Odell Business Park), how much is enough? And why are you competing with the private sector? You have a distinct advantage with your toll bridge money machine.

The port is like an out of control cancer gobbling up everything in it can, like the out of control medical system in this country, they keep getting bigger and bigger and more bloated eating up everything in its path.

**Stephen J. Curley**  
Hood River

### Truth challenged

I recently received a letter from Dan Christopher in the mail in which he claimed that he is a "Bipartisan Candidate" despite being a Republican.

I was intrigued. Being a progressive from the western side of Klickitat County, I often lament my lack of representation in my county. For the past several elections in District 1 the Democrat has won the primary only to lose the county-wide election for the very same seat to a Republican that is supposed to represent the western side. Now here is someone saying that I deserve a "seat at the table" which so many "Good Old Boy" establishment Republicans have unjustly taken from me. Hell, yeah, Dan Christopher! Tell me more!

Then I did a Google search — "Dan Christopher Goldendale." The sixth result is an article about another one of Dan Christopher's letters which basically says

that Dan Christopher is a liar. One of his lies is claiming that Jim Sizemore supports I-1639.

I-1639 is a pretty Democratic law. Why would someone who says that he is a Pro-Democrat Republican be slandering another candidate for supporting that law?

A little further sleuthing and you read more about Dan Christopher in the voter pamphlet. He's a member of Sheriff Bob Songer's "posse." Who is more of a "Republican Good Old Boy" than Bob Songer?

He doesn't care about Democrats or the truth any more than Donald Trump does. In fact he's just like Trump — he's doesn't know what the truth is.

**Ryan Dougherty**  
White Salmon

### Vote for Sizemore

Voting's not easy. There are complicated ballot measures, nonpartisan candidates, etc. You ask your-self where do I drop the ballot off and by when, which envelope, has my signature changed? There are voter pamphlets/services, forums, newspapers, communication with candidates/your community, etc. This is a lot of necessary work to use your vote-power wisely. There are rare times when you still don't see a clear choice. One race on my ballot that is confusing is Klickitat County Commissioner, District 3. Dan Christopher has confusing information out there. I went to Dan's website in the primary and found things about being a "constitutionalist" and promoting access to guns. I go there now and he's talking about change and he won't serve the "good old boys." I saw a mailer he sent to Democrats where he's calling himself Bipartisan but in his application for endorsement to the KCDPhe said he didn't agree with Democratic values. Who is this flip-flopper?

What is this deceit? Where is the authenticity? Democrats hold a lot of power in this race and I know Dan has made it confusing (is he who says?), and tempting to others (maybe we should burn it all down?). The answer is we don't know who he is (and from what I've seen, I'm worried), so how has he earned our vote? And no, we should not burn it all down (do you remember 2016?). Let's use our vote-power in this race. Vote Jim Sizemore. Vote for honesty, respect, integrity, kindness, reliability.

**Sasha Bentley**  
White Salmon

### Helfrich for balance

In the midst of a contentious and divisive election like this one, it's easy to think that the parties have always been unable to work together and that bipartisan-ship is a pipe dream. But it hasn't always been this way.

During the 2011 and 12 legislative sessions, the Oregon House and Senate were nearly evenly divided with an almost equal number of Republicans and Democrats. In the House it was and even 30-30 split and the Senate had a narrow 16-14 advantage for Democrats. In the evenly split House it meant that every part of the legislative process was bipartisan. From the committee hearings to the floor of the House every piece of legislation had to have support from both Democrats and Republicans in order to be considered and passed into law. There was no place for extremism on the left or the right and moderation ruled. In short, it was a picture of collaboration. The legislative sessions were hailed far and wide as an example of how state government should function.

Fast forward to today: Democrats in Salem now have super-majorities with a huge 38-22 advantage in the House and an 18-12 margin in the Senate. How has this impacted the process? The majority party completely dominates the committee process and can pass any legislation it wants from policy bills to new taxes. The minority party has little to no input. Rather than being known as a model for collaboration, Salem is now known for its division and contention as the majority party imposes its extreme will.

That's why I'm supporting Jeff Helfrich for State Representative. Electing Jeff will help reduce the Democrat super-majority and restore balance to Salem. He will stand with us and not vote in lockstep with the Portland crowd as his opponent has done in her first term. Please join me!

**Rosemary Brown**  
Parkdale

### ICG endorsements

Indivisible Columbia Gorge (ICG) is pleased to endorse the following candidates and ballot measures at the local, state, and federal levels.

Hood River City: Mayor — Kate McBride; City Council — Gladys Rivera, Megan Saunders, and Mark Zanmiller.

State: Attorney General — Ellen Rosenblum; Secretary of State — Shemia Fagan; State Treasurer — Tobias Reed; State Representative (HD52) — Anna Williams.

Yes on all state ballot measures: Measure 107 (campaign finance limits), Measure 108 (tobacco and e-cigarette tax increase), Measure 109 (psilocybin mushroom services program), Measure 110 (drug de-criminalization and addiction treatment).

Federal: President/VP — Joe Biden/Kamal Harris; U.S. Senator — Jeff Merkley; U.S. Representative — Alex Spenser.

Submitted on behalf of the ICG Steering Committee.

**Bonnie New**  
Hood River

### Sizemore for Klickitat

When I filed to run for Klickitat County Commissioner in District 3 back in May, I knew it was a long shot to win, but after years of serious effort and some success in advancing economic development in Klickitat County as both a paid consultant and a volunteer, I had to run. Though I'm sorry about the outcome of the election, it was worth effort, and I'd like to thank my supporters, former colleagues who endorsed me, and the hundreds of voters who cast their ballots for me in District 3 on Aug. 4.

The runoff to the primary was unlike any I've ever seen in a Klickitat County Commissioner's race. With the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, getting the message out to the voters wasn't easy. But one candidate, Dan Christopher, stood out during this campaign for his inflammatory and unsubstantiated claims regarding his other opponent in District 3, Jim Sizemore.

Dan Christopher garnered a majority of the votes in District 3 and I urge Klickitat County voters to reject his candidacy in the general election because of his lack of leadership experience.

While Jim Sizemore and I don't always see eye-to-eye on important issues such as EDA grants, and economic development, I've known

him for years and respect him as a public servant who takes his position on the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners very seriously.

In Klickitat County District 3, Jim Sizemore is the candidate who deserves your vote this November.

**Miland Walling**  
Goldendale

### Lannen understands

I first met Tom Lannen seven years ago when Tom was leading a volunteer community group exploring how to insure a more sustainable revenue stream from our State and Federal Forest partners. Tom understood the delicate balance between the timber industry and the recreational/environmental concerns and was an advocate of sustainable forest management.

During this time he developed strong relationships with both the State, Federal and private timber interests who control 98 percent of the land in our county. This relationship remains critical to sustaining a balanced county budget. He has lobbied on behalf of the local school districts efforts to find a long term solution to the Secure Rural Schools funding. And Tom continues to work with staff to seek partners such as the Department of Transportation or grant agencies to help with the maintenance of existing infra-structure. Our county is unique and we need creative leadership that understands the needs of its citizens while preparing for potential new business developments and maintaining a good working relationship with our State and Federal agencies.

**Mary Ann Duncan-Cole**  
North Bonneville

### Scary numbers

Seems just a few short years ago (well, 19, actually — remember 9/11?), law enforcement were heroes; praised and held up high. Today they have become the villains in society, perpetrators of all sorts of evil things, racists and who knows what else ... What has happened?

As one previous contributor suggested, "Just the facts, ma'am."

FBI UCR data (fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr) 2018-19 data:

Last year — 10 million arrests by police.

Of those 10 million arrests — 1,004 officer-involved fatalities.

Of those 1,005 officer-involved fatalities — 41 individuals were unarmed.

Of those 41 officer-involved fatalities — 19 were white, nine were black (the data does not specify the circumstances of those killed).

Number of police officers were killed in the line of duty — 89. (We certainly do not often hear their stories.)

Want some scary numbers? Just check the weekend shooting/death toll in Chicago or New York — any weekend will do.

Are there racists? Of course, the reality is that every organization/society/demographic has some, maybe yours? Institutional racism? Not so fast on that. If I dial 911 I prefer the police and not Ghostbusters!

**Steve Nybrotten**  
White Salmon

### Rushing is prepared

The White Salmon Valley School District website states, "The district is starting the planning process for bringing our students back into an in-person hybrid learning model tentatively for the end

of October." I've spoken with several parents and district staff members regarding their return to the classroom. The reactions have covered a range from tentative eagerness to outright fear, with impending anxiety felt by all who will make that personal decision for themselves and their families.

The district website goes on to say, "Lastly, we are working towards bringing back K-6 students into a hybrid model, with board approval, when state and local health department measures are met." The time is right to elect the candidate best qualified to assist school districts in making these kinds of community decisions; decisions that will affect the health and well-being for all of our families. Dr. Tracy Rushing is running to represent us in Legislative District 14. She is the representative for these times.

Dr. Rushing is well-equipped to tackle public health issues. As our LD 14 Representative, she will assist our schools and communities in making tough decisions. Dr. Rushing relies on data, research and best practices, while focusing steadfast attention on the well-being of the public. She'll bring her calm, thorough decision-making to Olympia and work in the best interests of all her constituents. We need Dr. Rushing's expertise now and we'll need it in the future, as we navigate the aftermath of living through a pandemic.

Please join me in voting for Dr. Tracy Rushing for LD14 WA State Representative.

**Michelle Mayfield**  
White Salmon

### Health in blood

What this letter's not: This letter is not about the Good News, even though you're having seen a sick person becoming the utmost in spirit is not an unwelcome experience.

Blood: Nor is this letter about the kind of blood we inherited — genes and all; but about whether our blood is — flowing — in our veins. What's that got to do with it?

Pardon my language but we can gum it up with exactly what we eat, or not.

It turns out that our bodies and minds can feel health and vibrance to the end of our days by eating a lot of certain things, not including meds.

That is true based on years of scientific evidence. The evidence is in "How Not To Die" by Michael Gregor M.D. Check it out.

**Donna Gray Davis**  
Hood River

### Reelect Jaime Herrera Beutler

She has continued to be extremely effective as our representative in representing small businesses, military vets, those looking for employment and families in Southwest Washington.

We need more people in congress that truly care about the people they represent and work on meaningful legislation, like our congresswomen, Jaime Herrera Beutler.

### Retain Beutler

Jaime Herrera Beutler was ranked by Vanderbilt University's nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking as the most effective legislator in Washington State throughout the last two years. This is based on

her ability to work with her colleagues and get legislation across the finish line.

Recently, Jaime Herrera Beutler reached across the aisle to pass legislation to cut the cost of prescription drugs. As a result, big pharma ran attach ads against her — but Jaime is going to keep standing up to the drug companies to make prescription drugs more affordable.

Jaime bipartisan ACE Kids Act that was passed, and signed into law by the President, makes it easier for children on Medicaid with medically complex conditions to access high quality health care services across state lines. As a result of ushering in this monumental legislation, Jaime received the "Champion for Children's Health" award from the Children's Hospital Association.

Jaime Herrera Beutler helped introduce the Continuing Coverage for Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019 which would ensure people with preexisting conditions are guaranteed health care coverage, regardless of the outcome of ongoing litigation related to the Affordable Care Act.

Jaime Herrera Beutler Will keep working in the best interests of Southwest Washington to lower the cost of prescription drugs and make health care more accessible and affordable.

**Carl Keels**  
Camas

### Yes to HR incumbents

Mike Kitts and I developed Katie's Way, Andy's Lane and Cottage Lane in an effort to create housing for people who work in Hood River. They aren't as affordable now, but at the time, they were a great option. Building these homes was complex and required discussion and negotiation with the City and neighbors because we needed to densify to make it affordable. A shorter process would have saved us some money, but the bottom line was that we could do it because the cost of the land coupled with densification allowed us to do it.

I received a postcard in the mail today that said "If we want affordable/attainable/middle housing to be built, we must be clear that Planning and Building department functions are time-critical priorities." This naïve statement is disturbing because it ignores the biggest challenges — the cost of land and neighbor concern about densification. When lots cost over \$200,000, a faster processes won't create housing for the people who work here — we need thoughtful, creative solutions. Check out bigriverclt.org for what I'm working on now.

My wife received a postcard that said "more parks, not less". She was disturbed by this because it implies that the City is trying to decrease the number of parks. In fact, the City Council worked with multiple local and regional agencies to create a multi-jurisdictional park plan for our area. The next step is working out how to move forward.

We need people on the City Council who take the time to understand the complexity of land-use issues that affect our area. We need people who value all members of our community. We strongly support Megan

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**DIRECTORS.**  
Mortgage

**JEFF SACRE**

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**Dr. Cullen's**  
Student of the week

**Benjamin Kramer**  
as the Algebra 1 Student of the Week: Regardless of the struggles present in the distance learning format, Benjamin has shown resilience and determination in his math studies. Thank you Ben for all your hard work and excellent communication!

**Congratulations**  
Benjamin Kramer, TDHS

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