

OPINION

LETTERS

Continued from page 6

Saunders, Gladys Rivera, Mark Zammler and Kate McBride for City Council and Mayor. They have a track record of doing the work we need.

Greg Crafts
Hood River

Vote for Gina

I would like to let you and Goldendale residents know you have the best representative out there. I am very grateful and thankful for Gina who truly is a voice for the people. I had written about animal abuse and how it needed a tougher penalties for the people who abuse them. She reached out and met with me took lots of notes and started the research needed to make sure there were no surprises or anything to stop the process. She updated me through the legislative process and had me come to Olympia and testify. Scary but my wanting animals helped gave me the courage and Gina was with me. The Bill passed and my stepdaughter and myself were there when Inslee signed it. Such a great experience for us!

Gina Mosbrucker is the voice of the people! Vote for Gina!

Jill Ketzenberg
Selah, Wash

Retain Mays

So, many of you have seen me over the past 50 years, standing on a street corner protesting something or another ... usually against a war. I'm 73 now. I do a lot of research before deciding what and who I will support. As a voter I try to educate myself on all the candidates and ballot measures.

I am an unaffiliated voter; I cross party lines and try to vote for the person who will best support my country, my community and my beliefs. I have done that re-search again this year for the local Mayoral race. After hearing differing opinions, listening to candidates and watching what is happening with our city council, I will be voting to retain Rich Mays as our Mayor.

Rich has a long history of community service and administration. He has been accessible and responsive

when I have had questions. Prior to the pandemic, he had begun several projects which he would like to see to completion. He has an affinity for Parks and Rec., and safety in the community. From what I have seen, Rich is able to listen to both sides of a situation and make reasoned responses, also being able to remain silent when it is prudent.

There's a line in an old Bob Dylan song that says, "I'll know my song well before I start singing." That's why I research who I'm voting for. Yes, by the way, I've heard the controversies. After looking into those, I have decided that Rich Mays would be the most appropriate choice for Mayor. Hope you do too. Thanks for your time.

Widge Johnson
The Dalles

Turner and Sizemore

I have talked to Joanna Turner. I found her to be intelligent and a good listener. She sincerely wants to do what is best for Klickitat County and all of its residents. She wants to find a solution to the county's housing crisis. She strongly supports bringing broadband internet to all parts of the county. She supports senior programs and wants to find solutions for the county's mental health and drug problem. She won the support of 58 percent of the voters in her district. I believe that she deserves to be elected county commissioner and that she will serve us well. I will be voting for her and encourage you to do so as well.

I recently received a letter from Dan Christopher. It stressed that he considered himself a "bipartisan" candidate (he underlined it.) Compare that to his statement in the Voters' Pamphlet where he states, "It's time we elect a 'REAL' Republican to represent 'Real' Republicans. Sounds a little two-faced. I will vote to re-elect Jim Sizemore.

Roger Gadway
White Salmon

Voting for Jaime

America is at a time of great rancor and division requiring people in Congress to come together for solutions. For 10 years Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler has proven

herself to be that person. She has sponsored or supported numerous successful bipartisan bills. Jaime is ranked among the top 15 bipartisan officials in Congress as well as the most effective legislator from Washington State. She's championed issues from maternal-child health and veterans to forestry and fisheries. As a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, she wields tremendous clout for our region.

Critics complain she doesn't hold town hall meetings, but Covid-19 prevents any large in-person gatherings, so she's used electronic means to connect with her constituents. Prior to the virus, I had no problem speaking with her in public many times, including job fairs she sponsored to a pleasant half hour visit walking around the Clark County Fair last year. She listens carefully and gives honest, thoughtful responses.

Being raised in Clark county and living in Battle Ground, she is in touch and deeply cares about southwest Washington. Her opponent is a recent Oregon transplant who has never won nor held a major office, but only taught political theory out of a book. This is not the time to learn on the job. We need Jaime's experience, influence in Congress, and healing touch now more than ever. I support her without reservations.

Pete Bartel
Ridgefield

Choices for wildlife

I write concerning a letter in the Oct. 14 issue of Gorge News falsely claiming that Congresswoman Beutler has helped our declining salmon and steelhead runs. Killing sea lions and additional spending on hatcheries are not going to recover salmon or prevent further decline. My letter published in the White Salmon Enterprise on Oct. 11, 2018, describes why previous comments by Rep. Beutler and those in a letter to me from her are erroneous.

Many published scientific studies describe why predator control is usually an ineffective wildlife management strategy. More specifically, science has shown that sea lion mortality is a small percentage of adult Columbia

salmon mortality. Sea lions have a zero percent mortality on juvenile salmon. Bigger problems, greater sources of adult and juvenile salmon mortality, are the hydropower system, its management and river habitat (which includes water that is too warm.)

Another difficult truth to understand is that our already huge and awfully expensive hatchery system is harmful to wild salmon, both young and adult. If hatcheries were the answer, we would not be in a salmon crisis; they have not been successful. See this from UW Fisheries scientist Ray Hilborn: www.seattletimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/the-alaska-hatcheries-model-is-not-for-washington.

Also, 90 percent of the time, Rep. Beutler has voted against bills friendly to fish and wildlife, for clean water and air and others for environmental conservation. This means that she has a 10-year League of Conservation Voters (LCV) score of only 10 percent. Please see www.LCV.org which tracks these Congressional votes. Both U.S. Senators and seven U.S. representatives from Washington have lifetime LCV scores of greater than 90 percent. I am sure candidate Carolyn Long would have a score of more than 90. So, if you support salmon recovery and a healthier environment in southwest Washington, vote for Carolyn Long. Oregon voters will also be interested to know that US Rep. Greg Walden also has a lousy lifetime LCV score of 10 percent. Candidate Cliff Bentz would continue that regrettable voting pattern; Candidate Alex Spenser will vote for conservation if elected.

Felton Jenkins
White Salmon

Helfrich gets vote

Jeff Helfrich will get my vote for the following reasons:

1. He values unborn babies and wants to protect their lives.
2. He served in the US Air Force and supports the military.
3. He is a devoted husband and father and values working families.
4. He served as a law

enforcement officer and supports them.

5. He supports the Second Amendment.

6. He supports teachers and the improvement of schools and school choice.

7. He is for tax relief in Oregon. He opposes cap and tax.

Donald Rose
Hood River

McBride for Mayor

Kate McBride is running for re-election as Hood River's mayor. I have known her for 15 years and during that time she has been active in the City serving eight years on the Planning Commission and seven on City Council. On Planning Commission, she heard many, many legislative and quasi judicial land use applications and understands and knows how to apply the laws governing each. I watched her for eight years at public hearings listening to testimony from citizens, asking questions, and making well-informed decisions. This is important knowledge to have as

Mayor because much of the Council's work is conducting complex public hearings on finalizing planning actions (zone changes, transportation plans, economic inventories and land use decisions). Her background is invaluable to her current success as our Mayor. She has also been on the Budget Committee for seven years.

I have read her opponent's web page, and she brings up some good ideas about how Council and public participation could operate differently, but did not see that she had the expertise or knowledge to jump in as Mayor of a city as busy as ours. Serving on other City committees first is a good way to start involvement in local government.

Kate is smart, she is objective, she has passion, she has knowledge and is the best person for the job. Vote for McBride, City of Hood River mayor.

Cindy Walbridge
Hood River

'Stories of Hope'

Each year, The Next Door hosts "Stories of Hope" to share firsthand narratives from Gorge community members who have been helped by the organization's many services.

"With the ongoing pandemic, this year's Stories of Hope will take place virtually Oct. 22-25," said a Next Door press release. "The four-day event will include powerful stories of resilience and triumph from the Next Door's Bridges of Health program, Health Promotion Services department and more."

To participate in this year's event and access the videos, visit givebutter.com/VirtualStoriesofHope.

Stories will include this one from a young woman currently participating in The Next Door's Bridges to Health program:

"... For the last couple years, I was abused by my ex. Finally, for the safety of my kids, I left and moved to another city ... I found a job, but my kids and I had almost nothing and couldn't find a

place to live. Some nights, we slept in my car, my babies (ages 6, 2 and 1) all sharing one blanket ... I felt like I was holding my breath just trying to make it one more day."

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began more than six months ago, The Next Door has added 13 programs to meet new and urgent needs, bringing the total number of services it provides to 45.

The new programs include The Next Connection, a bilingual information and referral phone line, as well as Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Outreach Coordination and contact tracing script support.

The Next Door relies on sustaining monthly gifts to ensure the survival of these programs, and others, in the Gorge community. The goal of this year's Stories of Hope event is to engage 30 new monthly donors. Visit nextdoorinc.org/donate to sign up. For more information contact info@nextdoorinc.org or 541-386-6665.

In Baja's 'Hood River South', Gorge residents' good life can make things harder for the locals

■ By Alison MacDonald

First of all I must apologize for how my anger slips out about the gringo presence in Baja. At one in the morning, I wake to a painful echo of my snide comments to some neighbors about shrimp tacos. It is not kind to mock, nor is it useful. Creating resentment is not the way to help improve the situation in "Hood River South."

A large contingent of Hood River water sports enthusiasts go to La Ventana and Los Barriles during the winter. Many also bike in the desert or mountains as well, and there are plenty of partners who just SUP, snorkel, and hike. More recently people also go to play pickleball, especially in the 10-court resort in Los Barriles. It certainly is a way to escape the harsh winters of our area.

The problem is the unintended impact on these small Mexican towns, and lack of awareness of the locals' ambivalent feelings about the foreigners' presence. The Gringos bring money and spend it on food, lodging, and construction of their large houses and gardens. Many locals must be happy to have work. However, the impact of

the U.S. and Canadian dollars on their community has large downsides. The prices of food and housing are rising astronomically. The houses built by the foreigners are huge. They use a lot of precious water, and the hotels now have swimming pools. Meanwhile the locals cannot always afford to buy the bottled water, and their own tap water is getting more and more salinated due to over use of the aquifers below ground, which then draws the Sea of Cortez's salty water into the underground reserves. Local people are said to be having increasing kidney problems from drinking their tap water.

The overfishing of the Sea of Cortez has put local fishermen out of business. The tourists love to eat fish and shrimp, oblivious to the harm to this precious resource for food. Many locals see huge two-story houses appearing between their modest houses and the sea, pushing them out of their own town.

Many give up and sell their meager houses for what they see as huge amounts of money, and move their families to the north and western dry hills. They later find out they sold their property for a pittance compared to the gringo marketers, and one

more modest local house is demolished to make way for another huge American "second home" in Baja.

Many of us have tried to bring improvement projects for the towns and the locals. One conscientious American couple decided to install a system for recycling their grey water to use on their landscaping gardens. They trucked in water from a town on the other side of the bay in order to have non-salty water for their vegetable garden (the local tap water being too salty!) There are projects by well-meaning visitors to spay the local dogs to reduce glut of puppies in the streets, some of them bred by Americans' large, long haired dogs — not a good look for dogs in the desert. This effort, plus garbage pick up programs are something I have participated in. However, come to find out that there is no public place for locals to take their garbage, and they cannot afford hauling fees, so the problem is not truly addressed.

The locals and the foreigners often have little conversation. I know a lot of Americans have taken some Spanish in school, but few seem to make an effort to communicate, get to know

the local people, to listen to their concerns. There is now a demand from the gringos for good organic produce, and the Saturday markets offer a venue for a few local farmers to sell their veggies — but locals cannot afford the prices that the Gringos pay.

The cost of food in their local stores has gone up due to the catering to gringo tastes and specialty items. I think perhaps the ejidos (local business/governance groups) are profiting from tourist mostly suffering. Yes, some work for the gringos: Building

their houses, cleaning their houses, tending their gardens, feeding them their much loved "shrimp tacos", etc. in a frenzy of tourist business during the few months of acceptable weather. Local taverns offer American music, and beer and cocktails. La Ventana and Los Barriles have become party towns for the rich Northerners, much like the hugely expensive and built-up tourist havens in Cabo at the bottom of the peninsula. I call it the Cabo Creep. Does all this improve the lives of the locals? Are they just there to serve the

Gringos during the season, and hope to have enough savings to last through the broiling summer and fall, until the next invasion arrives months later? Foreigners will then spend their U.S. dollars to play and party in their "Hood River South." Is all of this sustainable? I think not. Global warming will have it's way with the desert and the water shortages. Is it fair, is it ethical?

Could the situation be improved?

Alison MacDonald is a retired teacher who lives in Hood River.

DEMOCRATS

for the future

★

JOE BIDEN AND KAMALA HARRIS

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<p style="font-style: italic;">U.S. Senate</p> <h3>JEFF MERKLEY</h3> <p style="font-style: italic;">Attorney General</p> <h3>ELLEN ROSENBLUM</h3> <p style="font-style: italic;">State Senate Dist. 30</p> <h3>CARINA MILLER</h3>	<p style="font-style: italic;">U.S. Congress Dist. 2</p> <h3>ALEX SPENSER</h3> <p style="font-style: italic;">Secretary of State</p> <h3>SHEMIA FAGAN</h3> <p style="font-style: italic;">State House Dist. 59</p> <h3>ARLENE BURNS</h3>
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The Dalles City Council

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DAN RICHARDSON

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YES

BALLOT MEASURES

107, 108, 109, 110

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