

YOUR VOICE CONTINUED

a plan purchased through the exchange. There will be a special enrollment period April 1 through May 15.

People who don't have health insurance, because the cost was unaffordable, or people who bought plans off the exchange may want to take a look at how much premium subsidy they can now qualify for under the ARP changes.

This is a complicated topic and the limitations on content in a "Letter to the Editor" make it difficult to provide detailed information on this subject.

However, if you are interested, there is an article posted on the Hood River County Democrat's website that provides additional information; visit hoodriverdemocrats.org and click on the article titled "Important Changes to ACA Premium Subsidies" for more information.

Jessica Berty
Hood River

Kudos!

For 21 years, departing *Hood River News* editor Kirby Neumann-Rea has helped to keep Hood River informed. He has been the faithful chronicler of endless events and meetings. He has given us thoughtful editorials filled with integrity and good will. He has made our community richer, thank you Kirby!

For eight years, departing Columbia River Gorge Commissioner Janet Wainwright has served the National Scenic Area passionately advocating for Gorge Protection. She helped bring the new Climate Action Plan into being and helped to increase the diversity of the commission, advocating for the appointment of two Native American Gorge Commissioners. Thank you for your service Janet!

Peter Cornelison
Hood River

History lost

I never dreamed that our well documented past could be changed in any manner. Guess who was incorrect? Me. Quietly but aggressively, our country's history is being erased and rewritten by America's schools, colleges and universities, the media, Big Tech companies, and the cancel culture.

Our schools and college students are being taught that America was built on racism and evil ... that capitalism is wicked and socialism is the way we should go. It's unfortunate that many youngsters of this day and age don't know that capitalism has lifted tens of billions of people out of poverty and is the greatest anti-poverty program ever developed ... yet alarmingly, these young folks are not advised that socialism has only created poverty, misery, starvation and death wherever tried.

Bill Davis
Hood River

Stice for CGCC

Columbia Gorge Community College is a major asset in our region, and it is governed by a board of directors elected from the area it serves.

I write to express my support for the election of Nate Stice to that board.

Nate grew up along the Columbia River in rural Umatilla County and did his undergraduate work at Willamette University.

Graduating Phi Beta Kappa, his degree included political science, economics and Russian language. He later earned a master's

degree in public administration from the University of Oregon.

His work history has been in public service, including some time in government relations at the University of Oregon.

I have long served on a state group of regional leaders focused on problem solving local issues. Nate took on staffing efforts for that group several years ago and has led efforts to deal with the pandemic, with accessible housing, and broadband.

In that work, he has become well known as a problem solver and leader in bringing people together.

Nate has been serving on the CGCC Budget Committee for over two years, demonstrating his commitment to higher education in our community.

We need him on the board.

Please vote for Nate Stice for the board of directors of Columbia Gorge Community College.

Keith Mobley
Dufur

Books are real

There are probably a thousand reasons why millions of decent, law abiding, intelligent people avoid "The Scriptures" (the bible). "Opium of the people." All one has to do is review the horrid history of those who have claimed to be readers of their (bible). One of my favorite (bible) reading groups was those who hanged "witches" in Salem. What of the very intelligent (bible) reading group found in the Waco, Texas, compound? Maybe the wonderful incident down in Guyana when 900 folks drank poisoned sugar water while reading their (bible).

Well, maybe you would want to live in Ireland and become a Protestant (bible) reader or a Catholic (bible) reader and inherit the religious duty to kill your brother. What of the history of the Catholic Church in Europe for a thousand years? What words of the (bible) did they read before arresting, torturing and killing what millions in the name of Jesus?

What of enslaving Africans and slaughtering Native Americans without shame since they were not good (bible) reading "Christians"?

How is it possible that a book that claims to teach love, peace, compassion, understanding and forgiveness and be authored by a divine being produce so much hate and sickness? Is it even necessary to include the grotesque TV ministry shows who constantly beg for money with (bible) in hand? If you can not put out the message freely then don't do it at all.

Why would any reasonable person ever touch these books when one considers the behavior of those who claim to be reading them? They would not.

Thus the religion of evolution is an answer for those who see the hypocrisy and cruelties perpetrated by those who claim to be guided by a reading of their (bible). Who could blame an evolutionist for denying that the book is the word of an intelligent loving Creator? Not me.

What is going on? It is not the books. Pastor and the church system are the culprits. The books are real and there's proof!

Gary Fischer
The Dalles

April is Gorge Earth Month

By Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network

On April 22, 1970 — 51 years ago — the first Earth Day took place with the participation of 20 million Americans. This was the catalyst for environmental action across the United States and eventually worldwide.

In the Columbia Gorge we know that a single day isn't enough; we are celebrating all of April as Earth Month.

Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network (www.CGCAN.org) and partners will again offer classes and activities during Earth Month via an online event calendar.

Earth Month offerings will include the April 3 presentation "Warming of the Gorge and its Impacts" by Biologist Bill Weiler. On April 8, a socially distanced rally for climate action and celebration will be led by the Earth Action Club of Hood River Valley High School at

Overlook Park at the waterfall, Hood River from 6-7 p.m.

Sustainable fashion will be featured April 12, when Taylor Hill of the Renewal Workshop, Cascade Locks, will speak on the environmental impacts of "fast fashion" and how the Renewal Workshop is mobilizing to promote a circular economy.

On April 20, filmmaker Rose Madrone will introduce three short films from The Connectivity Project — "Plants have Wings," "Interconnections" and "Speaking Out." Join Mountain View Grange and CGCAN for an online screening and discussion afterward.

Explore how awakening awe enhances our well-being and release the grips of anxiety with Ellen Donoghue, Ph.D., on April 21. Learn simple mindfulness techniques to cultivate a sense of aliveness, ease, and resilience.

Earth Day evening, April

22, will feature a stimulating group of Gorge area spiritual leaders from a variety of religious traditions and an open discussion on "What has mother earth taught us in the past year?" The gathering will honor the gift of earth and include readings, blessings and music.

On April 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., bring your hard to recycle items, bailing twine, Styrofoam and plant pots to the Gorge Rebuild-it Center in Hood River. A presentation called "Recycling Realities" will also take place at some point during the month.

More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Month activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world, said the press release. Join the movement this April, visit www.CGCAN.org or on Facebook for all the details.

St. Mary's Academy IT'S OUR

MOVE

April 24, 2021

St. Mary's Academy will be hosting a 47th hybrid auction where you can participate from the comfort of your home or get your closest friends and family together at a venue to view the auction.

**Silent Auction- April 23rd
Live Auction- April 24th**

Bargeway Pub

VALUE \$45.00

Get your family & friends together at the pub to watch the live auction.

Dinner & drink ticket included

SmokeWring BBQ

VALUE \$45.00

Bring your friends and family for a good time to watch the live auction.

Dinner & drink ticket included

Sunshine Mill

VALUE \$45.00

Drive-in with your friends and family to watch the live auction displayed on the big screen at Sunshine Mill.

Dinner & drink ticket included

Free Parking

VALUE \$30.00

Rather stay home? Free parking will allow you to view the live auction from home.

Wine & Cheese tray included

**Call St. Mary's Academy
541.296.6004 for tickets**

Venue space limited