

YOUR VOICE CONTINUED

All who know this person says the same thing, he helps everybody no matter what. Now this person is in a wheelchair, was hit by a drunk driver at the age of 13. Talk about a traumatic ordeal to live with the rest of your life. To walk in those shoes, many different outcome journeys I would think. Yet this person, even with the bad reputation, with a good heart wakes up and rolls on. This person is Rudi.

I thank him for helping others like he does.

This is one journey of the people that come from all walks of life.

I feel that there is positive in the homeless community too. Not just negative. During these trying times we all need that positive.

I found my calling in life, I know what it is I am suppose to do and that is help others from all walks of life. Thanks again Rudi.

Samantha Bly-Brock
Bingen

Anybody there?

Hello, anybody there? No reader so far has commented on David Hupp's letter of March 17, reporting the theft of our Black Lives Matter lawn sign.

We discovered later that every Black Lives Matter sign was stolen from our neighborhood that night. We have driven all over Hood River, looking for Black Lives Matter signs, haven't found any left in place.

How many of you have also had a Black Lives Matter sign stolen from your yards? Have you reported the theft to our local police? We did. We were blown off by "political signs always get stolen," therefore justifying the theft. No. We've never had another lawn sign stolen in the last dozen years, only Black Lives Matter signs.

Even though Hood River is mostly a "white village," many of us want to show our respect for Black lives, and what we are seeing on our televisions and reading in our newspapers.

What do we need to do to counteract the complacency concerning what looks like White Supremacists in Hood River? Maybe put our story on international news?

I love Hood River. It is disheartening to realize that racism may be deeply embedded here.

Lori King
Hood River

Miracles

I've seen four miracles in the last 30 some years. Yes, true miracles. Four people that abandoned the ways of the world and entered into a worthy life style centered round a daily reading, studying and open discussion of "The Scriptures." Yes a miracle. An amazing peculiar fact about these four people is that they were all casual evolutionists. Miracle.

Persuaded through intelligent commonsense reasonable suggestions they took the gamble to turn their backs on the politics of the world, the social ways of the world and of course the lie of the world...evolution. They choose to take on the very challenging task of discovering what is "the truth."

It takes a lot of work to convince a person to abandon evolution and the great significant social battle of today. It takes information that has indisputable convincing value. It has to be good sound information to counter the great evolution lie. I have seen it.

I am not talking about

church. Lord no. Churching is no different than evolution. Churching offers a false answer that is supposedly in the sky. Evolution offers a false answer that suggests it is under the ground deep in the dirt. The truth is that the answer is found here ... right on top of the ground. "The Scriptures" informs us very plainly and clearly that the answers remain right on top of the ground. Life started on top of the ground. Life continues on top of the ground. Life, painless, peaceful life will be right here where you stand, on the ground.

The evolutionist wants to tell you that some important facts of life are found in the bones of dead animals. Foolish. There are no answers to life there. Evolution is all speculation about a past that is entirely irrelevant to contributing in solving any of our dire problems. Telling people that dead animal remains are where the answers are actually offers no solutions.

Pastor offers the same useless lie but they point towards the sky. The answers and solutions are in a personal reading and study of "The Books." Sure some courage is needed.

Gary Fischer
The Dalles

Promise fulfilled

Just as you promised, the *Columbia Gorge News* has blossomed into a fine newspaper. I always look forward to Wednesdays when I receive it in the mail.

Thanks to you and your staff for the courage and determination to undertake this.

All the best for continued success.

Portia Masterson
Lyle

Kindness and generosity

There is still kindness and generosity in the world, even during COVID-19.

While shopping at Bi-Mart this afternoon, the man just ahead of me said something to the clerk and continued to stay at the counter. Then the clerk rang up my purchases and this total stranger paid for all of mine. Wow!

I wish I knew his name. Hope he takes the paper and reads my thank you.

I am so grateful!

Donna Rhodes
The Dalles

Gratitude and appreciation

On behalf of our graduating high school senior, my family would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the teachers, staff, and school board in Trout Lake. Last fall, the school had a lot of difficult choices to make. Using guidance from the state and federal COVID guidelines, and with input from multiple surveys sent out to families, the school was able to hold in-person classes almost the entire year.

For my daughter and her peers, the half-days have been a high schooler's dream. My daughter has been able to apply for college, participate in some new sports, and work a part-time job with a lot less stress than a full school day requires. The shorter days have also kept the classroom time more focused so the time spent on homework has been better balanced.

While there have certainly been many disappointments with dances, events, and trips canceled, I have also seen

tighter and better friendships formed amongst her peers. These are memories that will last forever.

So, a big *thank you* to the Trout Lake School District, the community, the teachers, and the staff who have leaned into this year, adapted to the changes, and overcome the obstacles. To *all* teachers that embraced the year, we appreciate you!

Lisa Evans
White Salmon

Love and support

Why am I being judged for my disability because of almost losing my life a number of times, starting in Vietnam, Operation Giant Sling Shot as part of a Patrol Boat river detachment base in Ben Luc, South Vietnam?

The support that has been there for me has been my kids and mother.

The word family means parents and children. That is who has been there for me in the dark days.

As I cry writing this letter my support dog, Missy, lays next to my feet because of the tears she saw.

All of my family is my support, even my support dog, Missy.

We all need love and support, not judgment!

Steve Cochenour
The Dalles

Radical Democrats

Years ago, I wrote that the most important move that Obama did for America was to become the first man of color elected president. I still believe that to be true. It was one of the few facts about Obama's presidency I admired and cheered. Mercy me! Many of those that believed Obama to be a great president thought I was wrong and expressed those feelings vehemently or worse. Those that believed Obama to be a huge mistake expressed doubts about my sanity, or worse. That is American politics in a nutshell.

Obama, Biden and Kerry made a horrendous mistake with the Iranian decision and infantile agreements. I believe that the jury is still out on the Affordable Care Act. Dogged if I can think of anything of vast importance that Obama achieved besides the least transparent administration known in American politics.

Not much substance to 'ol Joe. Biden's grasp of unity is "my way or the highway." As more and more of his push for citizen control, liberalism and socialism becomes revealed it will become plain. Democratic leadership has done all be vilify Trump, make impotent virtually every progressive move Trump made and quash those that supported and voted for Trump. The old lies, innuendo of media and social media bashing has begun all over again. If Democratic anger and hate has its way, Trump will be erased from the cadre of ex-Presidents, even history itself.

I suspect Biden will reinstate every attitude and latitude that Obama promoted. Biden is now on a witch hunt to eliminate any

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radically conservative members of our armed forces. How un-American is that? How do Democrats define "radical?" Biden has banned words like "Chinese virus." Why? Biden may believe the virus came from outer space. Seems someone elected an emperor.

G. D. Summers
The Dalles

Thanks board members

Underwood Conservation District extends a big thank you to our board of supervisors, including the many who have served over the years since our formation in 1940! Without you we couldn't be where we are today.

For many years, Underwood Conservation District (UCD) operated with only our board members' volunteer service, without any paid staff at all. Established in 1940 by a group of orchardists and farmers from the Underwood area, UCD was formed to address concerns with forest productivity, soil erosion, irrigation, and water quality. At the time, the only technical staff were employees of the Soil Conservation Service, a federal agency which formed in response to the Dust Bowl era, now called the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Volunteer board members of the local conservation district, most of them private landowners and farmers, guided and planned projects to support agricultural operations and natural resources.

Now encompassing western Klickitat County and all of Skamania County and staffed by five full-time employees, UCD is still directed by five volunteers who serve as our valuable Board of Supervisors. Current UCD Board Supervisors include: current chair, Paul Newell serving nearly 20 years, vice-chair Barbara Bailey, Joyce Eastwick, Bengt Coffin, and Marie Perez.

With heartfelt thanks we bid farewell to Joyce Eastwick, who is retiring from UCD's Board of Supervisors after 11 years of outstanding service. Joyce has served as the board's auditor, taking the lead on reviewing monthly

and annual financial reports and representing the board during regular state audits. We've benefited from Joyce's keen eye on the full range of issues the board oversees. Thank you, Joyce!

UCD as benefited for over 80 years now from the wealth of knowledge and experience provided by its Board of Supervisors. We owe our successes to these farmers, ranchers, foresters, and caring citizens.

Tova Tillinghast
District manager,
Underwood Conservation District

Violence is nonpartisan

Violence and systemic oppression against Americans is *not* a partisan issue or rather it should not be a partisan issue. However, there seems to be a segment of society who choose to make it so. There are Americans who should be horrified by the ongoing violence and oppression but they are not, even when it is explained to them. Believe people of color when they tell you violence and oppression are systemic.

Many Americans suffer daily because of their gender, race or sexual identity. From the fact that every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted (mostly women) to Derek Chauvin's knee on George Floyd's neck to (vulgar) ex-presidents. So, I did not find it surprising that men on The Dalles City Council objected to the original language of the recent Proclamation marking April as Sexual Assault Action Month. To acknowledge the fact of systemic violence and oppression makes them feel bad. Why? Because they know in their hearts that they have benefited from a system that is inherently unjust. It is an uncomfortable truth.

Men of all political persuasions are capable of heinous sexual crimes — Andrew Cuomo, Bill Cosby, Harvey Weinstein, Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, Matt Gaetz — the list goes on and on. Famous men who abuse their power at the expense of weaker Americans.

But in reality it's not the famous men who make life

unbearable for so many Americans. It's the daily indignities; it's the heightened sense of danger, the ongoing challenges — am I too nice, too loud, too Black, too gay, too sexually dressed — it is exhausting! And it is the simple things like changing the Proclamation language so that the men don't feel uncomfortable.

It is especially galling when these type of micro-aggressions are done by "respectable" men.

Believe women when they tell you there is systemic violence and oppression.

I am not implying that all men are violent rapists or racist thugs. But if you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem.

Believe Americans when they tell you there is systemic violence and oppression.

Debra Lutje
The Dalles

Carter for parks

As a member of the City of The Dalles Beautification Committee, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Rachel Carter on Community Clean Ups. She is the driving force behind these events, and has an immensely generous spirit for community betterment. Charismatic and gifted with the knack for organizing effectively using volunteers, Rachel knows how to build partnerships and civic pride. She is a fountain of ideas for our parks — return regular music events; more activities for children and families; grow and improve dog parks. And more!

Vote Rachel Carter for Seat 1 No. Wasco County Park and Recreation!

Connie Krummrich
The Dalles



Greatness in action

You show up, every day, for the people who count on you. That's your greatness in action.

We're here to help, with Wattsmart® tools that can help you save money, resources and insights to help you manage your budget, rebates on energy-efficient upgrades—and efficiency offerings that meet you where you are and power the greatness in all that you do.

To learn more about all of our offerings, visit [BeWattsmart.com](https://www.BeWattsmart.com).

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WALKER SACON
Mill-A, Washington

Walker grew up in Skamania County where he now lives with his partner, Diana, and their somehow-still-growing puppy, Rudy. He spends days off fishing, hiking or recording music. During the dry season, Walker works on a fire engine on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. He covers a bit of everything for CGN and is always looking for a chance to grab his camera and get outside.

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HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

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