

OPINION

Activities supports Indigenous women and girls

Virtual activities run from April 29-May 5

■ **Tammy Kaufman**
For Washington Gorge Action Programs

Programs for Peaceful Living supports an ongoing nationwide effort to declare May 5, 2021, as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. The effort is being led by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC).

According to the NIWRC website, indigenous women face violence and murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average in some tribal communities. The movement encourages local

communities to increase awareness of the issue and work at the tribal, state and federal levels to build better communication and legal framework to create clarity on jurisdictional responsibilities, and improve efforts to find those who are missing.

Together with the National Partners Work Group on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), the groups are organizing a National Week of Action from April 29 - May 5. The week will be full of virtual events and local community action is encouraged, including the opportunity to sign on in support of the Senate and House resolutions to recognize May 5 as the official day of awareness.



Online registration for the week begins with a National Briefing focusing on Advocacy in Action at noon PDT on Thursday, April 29. Followed by a series of other webinar events over the week including: Using International Law to Respond to the MMIW Crisis, N Hanauna Ho'ola (Healing Generations), Spotlight Alaska and the Crisis of MMIWG, and Uplifting the Voices of

MMIW Survivor Families. To learn more and find all of the registration links go to www.niwrc.org/mmiwgnatweek21#.

The week's activities end with a call for solidarity for "No More Stolen Sisters" and encourages participants to wear red and participate in a self-paced Running for Justice: Remembering Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives virtual run/walk between May 5-9. Registration is open at events.elitefeats.com/justice21 for the independent 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon. Participants are encouraged to upload their times and photos. All donations will be divided between three organizations: National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Native Women's

Society of the Great Plains, and Rising Hearts.

Programs for Peaceful Living serves all Klickitat County residents including indigenous women and their families with domestic violence prevention, sexual assault prevention, and general crime victim services. All services are free and confidential, and referrals are made for those who reside outside of the county.

If you are in crisis, call the 24/7 toll free crisis line: 844-493-1709. For assistance, or more information, call the Goldendale office at 509-773-6100 or the Bingen office at 509-493-2662. If advocates are working out of the office, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

YOUR VOICE CONTINUED

committed to supporting and growing our local small businesses by supporting start up opportunities and working to revitalize downtown The Dalles.

Please join me in voting for Marcus Swift for Port of The Dalles. Sincerely,

Chris Schanno
The Dalles

Vote Nelson for D21

Within the next week, registered voters in Wasco County should receive their ballots in the mail for the May 18 Special Districts election. Please take time to learn about the candidates and vote for those who will perform their duties with diligence and integrity, and will always have the best interests of our community in mind.

One such candidate is John Nelson for D-21 School Board, Zone 4. If you live in that zone, please join me in casting your vote for John for the following reasons:

Since 1993, when John and his wife first moved to The Dalles, John has been extremely active in volunteer service to our community, including serving on the Wasco County Forest Collaborative, The Dalles Beautification Committee, The Dalles Watershed Council, The Dalles Planning Commission, volunteer teaching assistant at CGCC's GED program and Gorge Literacy program, SMART Reading Program for young readers, Urban Renewal Advisory Committee, just to name a few!

Before retiring in 2008, John worked as an educator for 39 years in a variety of capacities: as an elementary school teacher, running day care programs, and teaching on the Warm Springs Reservation. He understands the needs of a diverse population of students, and there is no one who has more compassion for helping them all achieve their dreams.

John has also served on the D-21 School Board for the past eight years, and as chairman for the past two years. His experience matters. He has participated in OSBA's training for school board members; he has worked to improve existing policies and create new ones to better meet our students' needs; he has been working toward the creation of community advisory committees that will help determine the future of our schools; he has worked with community leaders to move our school district in a direction that will help ensure all students have full and equitable access to a quality education.

Electing John Nelson will ensure that we have someone who will hit the ground running and will serve with thoughtful compassion, at a time when our students need it the

most.

Debi Ferrer
The Dalles

School board candidate

Hello, My name is Heidi Parr, I am writing to introduce myself and announce that I am running for the At-Large position on the Hood River County School Board. I am running for many reasons, but mainly because I have a vested interest in helping make Hood River schools the best they can be. I value our public schools, our educators and the entire village that helps to raise our kids up and keep them safe. I'm proud to live in a county that values and supports public education. I'll work hard to represent all parts of the county on their school board.

I've lived in Hood River for 26 years. I met my husband while working on ski patrol at Mt. Hood Meadows many years ago, and we now have two boys in Hood River Middle School. I commute to the Vancouver Fire Department where I am a fire captain and was a paramedic for over 22 years. I love our community and the awesome array of activities we have access to in the Gorge. I feel pretty lucky to live here.

As an elected board member I will prioritize creating more transparency so parents can have confidence in what decisions are being made and how those decisions impact their families. As we emerge from the pandemic I believe we need to refocus on teaching core subjects and getting all our kids back on track. Every kid deserves excellence every day and the opportunity to reach their potential.

As a working mom in the fire service, I have seen first hand how vulnerable children have been trapped in horrible conditions, because they couldn't be in the classroom. Without schools, many of the children are facing hunger, neglect and abuse. We owe it to our kids and families to safely and fully open our schools, sports and activities.

Heidi Parr
Hood River

A vote for Held

I'm voting for Michael Held as board director for Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District, Position #1. I met Michael when he was working as a RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environment) worker in The Dalles.

At the time we were both board members of the Main Street Organization. Michael created the downtown Parklet program, which gave the Main Street Program the impetus to grow into one of the most successful Main Street

programs in the state.

Michael now works for Business Oregon, the state's economic development organization covering Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties. He knows how to bring people with diverse opinions together through collaboration and consensus building to get things done. These kinds of experiences make him uniquely qualified to work with other Park and Recreation board directors to plan the future direction of the district and improve and build on past successes.

Michael is an articulate, convincing spokesperson for all the work experiences he has been involved with.

That's why I'm an avid supporter of his candidacy for NWCP&R District Position 1. Join me in voting for Michael Held. He does good work!

John Nelson
The Dalles

Vote Nelson for D21

John Nelson is running for re-election as board director, North Wasco County School District, Zone 4. John has experience with the educational system as both an educator and as a school board member. He also has a long track record of being an involved community volunteer. He is a thoughtful, kind, intelligent person who has the well-being of the community as his primary motivator. He strives for solutions to problems through finding common ground and with respect. He listens and he thinks. We believe he has earned and deserves your support in this upcoming election.

John and Kathy Schwartz
The Dalles

Dig safely

Spring is here! With the ground ready for planting, you might be gearing up to start an outdoor project that involves digging. Before you reach for that shovel, remember to call 811 before you dig.

April is National Safe Digging Month, a designation to remind us that our land has a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires and cables. Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

That's why it's important to call 811 or submit a request via our NW Natural Safety App at least two business days before digging, regardless of depth or familiarity with the property. It's free and it's the law.

Most importantly, no damage is too minor to report — even a small dent or scratch could weaken

a pipeline. If while digging, you accidentally hit a gas line, report it immediately by calling 911 or NW Natural's 24-hour emergency line at 800-882-3377. Also, always remember: Smell. Go. Let us know. If you smell natural gas, leave the area immediately, then call us at 800-882-3377 and we will come over to check things out.

We hope you have a beautiful and safe spring. For more tips, visit nwnatural.com.

Tonya Brumley
NW Natural Community Affairs
The Dalles

Vote D21 Board

This past year has pushed the envelope of the school system — if you think about it, the educational service delivery model in public schools has been face-to-face since schooling began.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed that, and presented a separate and very difficult challenge for students, teachers, classified staff, administrators, coaches, parents, and school board members. I applaud all of the district staff for all the hard work they have done to keep students and schools safe while still endeavoring to fulfill their mission of educating our kiddos.

I have observed John Nelson and Rebecca Thistlethwaite in action on the D21 Board and can speak from personal experience that they have always acted with the students' best interests in mind, all the while working on selecting our next superintendent and managing the regular board business.

Both John and Rebecca have exemplified civility, integrity, impartiality, professionalism, thoughtful consideration, and transparency in their work on the board. Brian Stevens embodies those same characteristics.

Because the work of the board is focused on policy, not politics, and puts students above everything else in the board work, I heartily endorse these three individuals for representation on the D21 Board.

Dawn Rasmussen
The Dalles

Elect Swift

In this May 2021 election, Marcus Swift is the clear choice for the Port of The Dalles Commission, Position 3. Marcus Swift loves our community and is invested in our residents — no matter what political party they belong to. I should know: Marcus personally helped me and my family during a difficult time. Throughout it all, he demonstrated the strategic thinking, tireless advocacy, and bold leadership that we need at the port.

Just like his opponent, Marcus is not originally from The Dalles.

Many of us, including my family, aren't. But you would hardly know it. He grew up in a very similar community and Marcus has invested his life savings to start a small business in our community. He and his partner have settled down here. He spends countless hours giving back to our citizens through free and low-cost legal work, volunteering with community groups, and serving on the Wasco County Planning Commission.

Marcus Swift will work to support and expand local small businesses, create new good paying jobs, and revitalize downtown The Dalles. And he will do it all with a commitment to transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. That's why Marcus Swift is the clear choice for the Port of The Dalles Commission, Position 3, in this May 2021 Election.

Sincerely,
Kevin & Ida Arbo
The Dalles

Elect Thistlethwaite

Our community sustainability depends on our ability to attract and keep well educated people in Wasco County, maintain security for our environment and our citizens, and provide the resources needed for a flourishing future. All of this depends on one vital element: a successful, thriving public school system. It is vital that elected school board officials are focused on real student needs.

We are very fortunate that we have such a person in Rebecca Thistlethwaite, who is willing to run for reelection, and understands the demands and responsibilities of the position. Rebecca understands that successful School Board Directors must work hard to research decisions, must enter the position with their minds free from personal preexisting assumptions about students, teachers and administration, and should focus on current realities and necessities to meet the needs of our students.

We are about to welcome a new Superintendent, and North Wasco County School District is at a point in its history where the physical state of our schools can no longer be put-off and ignored. After COVID, good decisions must be made, and our new administrative leadership will need to have support. That includes advice that is well-researched and based on rationale unfettered by political opinions. Often such fixed preconceptions are counterproductive to student learning and children's future success within our community. Unlike many other school board

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Congrats
GRADUATE

Congratulations Mackenzie Booth on your graduation from Washington State University Class of 2021. We are so very proud of you and love dearly.

Grandma & Grandpa Mom & Jeff & Tanner