

OPINION

The opinions expressed in the letters below are “your voice,” and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Columbia Gorge News*, its staff, publisher or advertisers.

YOUR VOICE

Endorsement

After being taken advantage of, locally I have found a plumbing company that is courteous and friendly and above all honest from the beginning. They will let you know what is going on from the beginning to the end. At the end of the job, you will get a printout detailing everything. The company is Camp's Plumbing. I can guarantee that you won't be disappointed.

Warren Wols
Hood River

Jen for HRCSB Board

I endorse Jennifer Kelly for HRCSB School Board Position #7. My endorsement is based on Jen's proven track record of learning school board and district operations by her active participation over the past year. Jen didn't always agree with the Board or District decisions; but she learned the basis of decisions, provided informed input and suggestions, and has shown significant time commitment to understanding district wide issues. Jen provided significant informed public comment to ongoing COVID-19 policy decision making and went on to provide calculations with direct relevance to the 100-person cohort rule (a concern regarding re-opening of HRV). Jen also provides many years of professional experience with budgets, union negotiations, and a calm, informed approach to constructive discussion and decision making. I believe Jen brings the time commitment and experience to provide excellence to our community in this school board position.

Rich Truax
Hood River

Yacht shrinkage

I live in Lyle, across the River. I am quite upset to find that the Washington Legislature has just passed a 7% capital gains tax on the sale of stocks, bonds and other capital assets where the profit exceeds \$250,000.

How monstrous. No man's property is safe when the Legislature is in session.

My accountant has just informed me I shall have to downsize my 175-foot yacht down to a 150-foot yacht.

I'm in shock. Oh the horror! Oh the inhumanity

Where am I going to put both the pool table and the hot tub in a tiny little 150-foot yacht? Sob!

If it can happen in Washington, it can happen in Oregon. Take



Alan Quintero, a new resident of Hood River, enjoys a quiet lunch at Jackson Park in Hood River. Sunny weather drew a number of people outdoors last week. Mark B. Gibson photo

warning, Oregonians!

Jerrold Richards
Lyle

Elect Litwer

I'm writing this letter in support of Lach Litwer for position #3, Port of Hood River.

I have gotten to know Lach and his family over the course of several years through workforce housing projects that we have partnered up on. While he is committed to attainable housing options for this area, he has a much wider range of experience and expertise that he would bring to the table as a Port representative. He's not a one-issue candidate. We need some younger energy and vision in government, which Lach has an abundance of. He grew up in Portland and has a remarkable resume that I would encourage voters to read at www.votelitwer.com. I'm giving Lach my enthusiastic support knowing him to be a thoughtful, intelligent,

problem solver.

Michael Kitts

Vote

By now, registered voters in Oregon should have received their ballots in the mail. If you haven't yet gotten yours, check with your county clerk's office. Your *vote* is a terrible thing to waste.

This election, I'll be casting my vote for Michael Held, Ellen Woods, and Annette Foley Byers for North Wasco Parks and Recreation District. All three of these people have roots in our community, as well as the skills and ambition to take our parks to the next level — re-establishing Soroosis Park to it's former glory but with more resiliency; adding new parks, including a dog park; bringing more activities and music to our parks; and managing all the budget and other details required of a Parks Board member.

Please join me in voting for Held, Woods, and Byers for parks we can all enjoy to the fullest!

Deborah Ferrer
The Dalles

Scenic Area conflict

The Wasco County Board of Commissioners is moving to separate its planning department from working with the Columbia River Scenic Area planning department after 34 years of working together.

We understand there has been longstanding disagreements between Wasco County Board of Commissioners and the Gorge Commission but what would the citizens of Wasco County stand to gain from this separation?

It appears to us that Wasco County citizens have much more to lose if the Wasco County Board of Commissioners vote to leave this cooperative agreement.

For Wasco County residents living outside the urban growth boundaries but inside the Scenic Gorge Area, they will likely see their permit process increase from months to years and Wasco County will lose the millions of dollars of potential grants from Nation Scenic Area economic development funds.

Wasco County Commissioners need to “bury the hatchet” and represent all of us and help protect our beautiful Columbia River Gorge.

Wasco County's cooperation is greatly needed at this time. Our beauty attracts tourists from all over the world, in part thanks to the

Gorge Scenic Act.

Do *not* separate from the Gorge Commission! it would be a grave mistake. Separating from the Gorge Commission will not solve the problems.

Karen and Steve Murray
The Dalles

Swift for Port

Some of us might let a Port of The Dalles commission election go by without much comment, though these are important positions. But for this month's special election, I am happy to be voting for Marcus Swift.

I've heard this statement several times from people in the past year: “We don't want to be Hood River.” The Dalles is and needs to be its own community, a place not just to visit, but to build a life, to raise a family, maybe start a business, retire in peace.

A place that's both prosperous and affordable, in other words.

That's my vision as a city councilor, and I know Marcus Swift shares it, too, in his campaign to join the Port of The Dalles. Our community benefits when we have experienced voices in balance with fresh perspectives — which is just what Marcus will bring to the Port.

I appreciate Marcus' entrepreneurial spirit, and his commitment both to values and to people.

Whatever he digs into, he digs deep. He's a small-business owner who is investing in The Dalles. Marcus is a guy who can be both tough and compassionate, someone we all would benefit from in public office.

I know that with Marcus on board, we can expect a Port commission that is fiscally prudent, and works to attract not just companies, but good-paying jobs. Let's elect Marcus Swift to the Port of The Dalles.

Dan Richardson
The Dalles

Governmental chaos

I am an older white male retired and currently residing in The Dalles area for the past 30 years. I am a registered independent voter and over my lifetime I have voted for both Democrat and Republican candidates.

Never in my lifetime have I seen such a disarray in the nation's political status. We also have a “nit-wit” governor who seems intent

on ruining what's left of the state's economy through her inconsistent and ill advised handling of the pandemic.

It has been said that the populace gets the government they deserve. After seeing what's happening to the once fine city of Portland, it scares the hell out of me.

Scott Maitland
Mosier

Race relations

I simply must respond to a letter to the editor in the April 28th edition of this [under the headline “Vote Hosford, Kelly, Parr.”

I agree with [with the author] that schools should have waited until fall to reopen, but I cannot for the life of me understand how the author came to the conclusion that it is the fault of President Biden and Governor Brown.

Kate Brown, for her part, is considering a shutdown of indoor dining again, and has been facing down recall efforts by Republicans who continue to downplay COVID-19 in favor of economic growth. [The author] may want to reevaluate the cause of the continuation of this pandemic.

Even more insulting though, is the thinly veiled suggestion that race is biological, and that “critical race theory” is an “ideology” that amounts to teaching white people to hate themselves.

“Race” is a pseudoscientific category based primarily on skin color, and which has adapted over hundreds of years to meet the ends of structural power. Irish, Italian, and German immigrants in the 19th century were considered non-white until they were folded into “whiteness” in order to consolidate social power against black and brown folks.

And finally, critical race theory is not about white guilt and self hatred, but about examining privilege, and the intersection of society, law, and race.

To illustrate: A racist would look at a disproportionately high rate of crime amongst black populations and attribute it to their skin color, their race. A student of CRT would assess the rate of criminality as being a result of decades of red lining and gentrification pushing generations of colored folks into slums with little economic opportunity within legal means.

That's not ideology; it's a lens of

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Want to write a letter?

COLUMBIA GORGE NEWS encourages readers to submit letters to the editor for the weekly opinion page. Letters on all topics are welcome.

Writers must include their name and hometown (for publication) and daytime phone number (for verification, not for publication). Letters from an agency or group must be credited to the author or a contact person.

Anonymous or “name withheld by request” letters are not accepted.

Letters must be 350 words or fewer; generally, the briefer the message, the better. Opinion pieces longer than 350 words may be published as a guest commentary at the discretion of the editor.

Letters are published as space allows, and efforts are made each week to provide as much space as possible.

Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday prior to publication.

We reserve the right to edit all letters:

Letters must be civil.

Vulgar or inappropriate language will not be considered, nor malicious, false or misleading statements.

Letters attacking an individual, rather than an opinion, are not acceptable.

Letters criticizing a particular business over a particular complaint or grievance will not be considered.

The opinions expressed in letters are “Your Voice,” and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Columbia Gorge News, its staff, publisher or advertisers.

Letters may be submitted online at www.ColumbiaGorgeNews.com: Scroll to the bottom of the page and select “Submission Forms,” then select “Letter to the Editor.”

NEW — Letters also may be sent via email to Letters@gorgenews.com or to Mark Gibson at markg@gorgenews.com.

Or mail your letter “attention editor” to any of the Post Office boxes listed at bottom of page 4.

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