

## Hood River News

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## Board work

*Elected or appointed, public service opportunities abound*

No matter where you live in Hood River County, opportunities to serve are right at hand.

As described on page A2, a variety of appointed and elected service opportunities are on the horizon with a variety of local public agencies.

But there will be much more to come.

The filing deadline for local special districts is March 19 for measures to go on the May 19 county special districts election ballot, but by later this week County Elections will have an updated list of open board positions, on its website [co.hoodriver.or.us/elections](http://co.hoodriver.or.us/elections).

County Elections coordinator Kim Kean has been compiling those positions on water, fire, sanitation and other special districts.

These will include positions that naturally come open on a rotating basis, as well as some instances of seats that are unfilled because of resignations — and in some cases that have been vacant since the last election.

Hood River News will continue a running update on positions that are up for election, as well as the ongoing need for people to serve on budget committees and other roles. (Budget committees are a particular need at this time of the year, as agencies including Hood River County School District are setting their calendars and gearing up for that vital work that starts in March and continues in earnest in April and May prior to adoption of budgets in June. There is, to be frank, homework involved in serving on a budget committee.)

Some boards call for an area of expertise or personal or professional background, and such experience can certainly be helpful, but in most cases not having those elements on your resume is not an obstacle to being selected. Serving on a fire or water district requires no particular expertise, just a commitment to serve the public.

There is no getting around the fact that there is a high responsibility placed on special district elected officials, because these are agencies that derive tax revenue to provide vital services. But just about anyone with a concern for the community, and with some time to spare — or the willingness to make that time — can find a way to be an effective servant. Consider doing so now. Your community needs you.

## Our readers write

### Warmest year on record

The earth has a fever. 2014 has been termed the warmest year of the century and perhaps even in 2000 years, there has been no pause. Some say humans are too insignificant to change the climate. A virus or bacteria would seem just as insignificant, but they have killed millions of people throughout history. Interestingly, it's often their wastes and the body's reactions to them that causes the disease.

Our wastes include carbon dioxide and a great variety of chemicals.

Carbon dioxide is not just a greenhouse gas but also creates a weak acid. These wastes have created huge dead zones at the mouths of rivers and the oceans are showing signs of becoming acidic. The ocean has been absorbing both the excess heat and carbon dioxide. Saltwater life is incredibly sensitive to acidic conditions and dies quickly as the water becomes acid. Sea life is also sensitive to temperature changes; if you understand this, then you'll understand that we are very close to creating a great die off of sea life.

Through global warming and ocean acidification, we are creating a situation similar to the impact of an asteroid on the earth. One asteroid is thought to have resulted in the extinction of the dinosaurs. Our civilizations aren't any tougher than them.

**Gregg Morris**  
Hood River

### Know options

I want to thank Kelvin Calkins and Karen Ford for their letters regarding the Common Core standardized tests. It's important for

all parents and members of the community to become aware of the increasing test load on children.

As you might expect, the strongest advocates for standardized testing are people farthest from the action: policy-makers, legislators, education officials, and consultants. In other words, the folks turning up the heat for more testing are the ones farthest from the fire.

In the meantime, children are being tested for weeks every year and testing will increase dramatically with the Common Core standardized tests.

Classroom-based assessments help inform teachers of the academic levels of their students and guide instruction, but standardized tests don't help guide instruction in real time.

In public education, what is best for children must always be our first concern. I hope that parents and community in Hood River will weigh in on assessment practices in our schools.

Ask questions and consider your options as a parent.

For more information, e-mail [optouthoodriver@gmail.com](mailto:optouthoodriver@gmail.com), or visit [OptOutOregon.org](http://OptOutOregon.org), and [fairest.org](http://fairest.org).

**Mark S. Reynolds**  
Hood River

### 'In this together'

I want to commend you for your "Greater Gorge" page, featuring news from all our Gorge communities. I work in Hood River County, Wasco County, and Klickitat County and I read papers from all of them. From my perspective, we live in one place, not many.

I see people from all over the Gorge working together to get things done. In every community in the Gorge, kids and families face the same challenges, and in every community, people stand up to help.

When our communities cooperate and collaborate, we all benefit. When we compete, and when we don't trust each other, we all suffer.

We are in this together. Your Greater Gorge page is evidence.

**Heidi Venture**  
The Next Door  
Hood River

### Justify raise

Why is Columbia Gorge Community College paying for their president's \$35,000 per year pay raise on the backs of their students with a 6 percent rise in tuition?

Because the president is in need of two of those students' entire year-end earnings.

What is the justification for such a raise?

**Michael Hope**  
Gresham

### ABOUT LETTERS

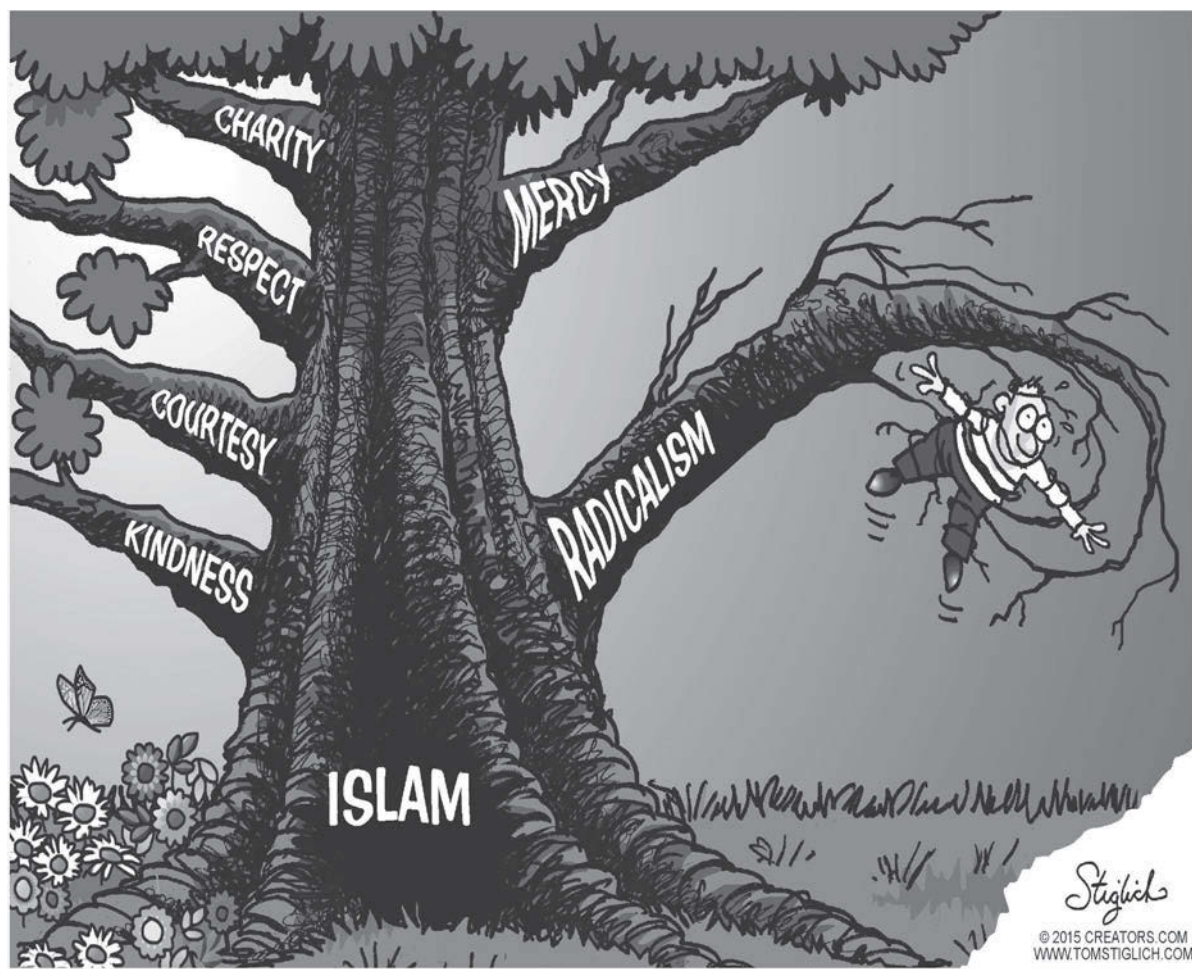
*Hood River News reminds letter to the editor writers that shorter is better: Concise letters are not only better-read, they are more likely to be published because limited space is available.*

*Almost any point can be made in 350 words or fewer, so this is set as an upper level for length.*

*Thank-you letters are no longer accepted, neither are unsigned letters, letters signed with fictitious signatures and copies of letters sent to public officials.*

*We limit letters on a subject when we feel it has been thoroughly aired, to the point of letters becoming repetitive.*

*Also rejected are letters that are libelous, in bad taste or personal attacks on individuals or private businesses. Writers must include addresses and telephone numbers. These are for identification purposes only, and will not be published.*



## Ten years after tragedy, fond memories endure

By LAURIE JONES

It is hard to believe that 10 years ago a horrible plane crash claimed the lives of three young men from the Hood River community: my husband Chris Jones, who owned Son-Rise Development, Paul Linck, the pilot of our plane, and Brook Campbell, who owned Rockin' the Gorge, a local drywall company.

I remember the night of Jan. 20, 2005. It was my son Matthew's birthday and I was in Portland out to dinner with Matt, my daughter Kim and my son Jeff. I was driving back to Hood River and by Viento Ridge around 8:10. I called Chris at 8:11 and no answer. He always answered the phone when he was flying. I understand now that the plane went down around 8:14. Paul was a very experienced pilot. When we hired him as our pilot, we sent him to receive training specifically for the Cirrus. He was a "by the book and never take any chances" pilot. There were times when Chris really needed to get to one of our job sites and Paul would not take off due to weather. There was never a doubt in my mind that there was no way that Paul was at fault for this crash. Even though the rumors out there were that Paul was scud running (fly-

ing under the clouds) and the National Transportation Safety Board eventually ruled that the cause of the crash was pilot error, I knew in my heart that this was not true. After many years of investigation into the cause, it was discovered that it was a malfunction of one of the instruments in the plane that caused the crash.

Jan. 20, 2005, was a long night.

I contacted the Hood River Police and we drove out to the plane hangar to see if the plane was there and something else had possibly happened. The hangar was empty. I went back home and just sat there. I called all three of their phones. No answers. Finally Jenny, Kara and I started to call each other. Jenny called the FAA and the search began. I stayed awake all night not allowing myself to think the worst. Our plane had a parachute so that if the pilot was in trouble all he had to do was deploy the parachute and they would glide to safety. In my mind, it was just a matter of figuring out where they landed.

I still hadn't contacted anyone except the other two wives and the police. I received my first phone call around 6:30 that morn-

ing from a friend who was on his way to Portland. He said he heard on the news that a plane was missing that had left Salem en route to Hood River. I knew at that moment I had better start making some phone calls to family. This made it too real for me.

So, around 6:45 I started calling family. I called my daughter. Jan. 21 was her birthday; she turned 30 that day. I called my sons, Chris's brother; a few close friends and then just sat there. People starting coming to my home. The phone was ringing nonstop. Food was being brought over. It was surreal. I kept thinking how strange it was that everyone was coming over. Didn't they know that we are going to find them because they parachuted to safety? I really only wanted to talk to Jenny and Kara. Then Sheriff Joe Wampler was in constant communication with me and I would then call the other two wives. They knew they were going to be okay too! It is amazing how your mind works. I got the phone call around 4:30 that they had located the wreckage. Then around 8:30, Sheriff Wampler was at the door and my whole world came crashing down.

I think about how we have all made it through. I think about how my life is forever changed. I think about the amazing community of Hood River. I think about all the people searching for Chris, Paul and Brook. The Crag Rats, The Wind River Searchers, Civil



Photo courtesy of Laurie Jones

**THE LATE** Chris Jones in the Cirrus, Mt. Hood in the background, in 2004.

Air Patrol, the many people who used their own planes to search, the helicopters, the boats on the Columbia, all our friends and family and all the volunteers from the community helping, searching and supporting.

I moved out of Hood River three years ago to be closer to my family. I miss the closeness of Hood River. I miss my friends, my church and the feeling of community. I will forever be grateful for my time in Hood River. I have continued to build since Chris's death. We loved building homes for people. Chris took pride in the quality and construction of each and every home he built. What a

blessing to have that passion. Son-Rise Development built over 150 homes in Hood River and loved every minute of it. It has been 10 years of building without Chris, my partner, and I have made the decision to retire. It gave me satisfaction to continue what Chris had started but also sadness that he wasn't working beside me.

Thank you, Hood River! The best years of my life were spent living and working alongside my husband Chris in such a beautiful town!

*Laurie Jones now lives in Tigard.*