

## Hood River News

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## Sunday drinking

*Keep The Beast on the field;  
after halftime, pass the dessert*

Football fans around Oregon are gearing up for this weekend's Super Bowl match-up on Sunday as our neighbors to the north defend their title in the big event.

According to National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, impaired drivers contribute to Super Bowl Sunday becoming one of the most dangerous days on the road. Nationwide, approximately 48 percent of traffic fatalities on Super Bowl Sunday involve a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 percent or higher. OSP, local sheriff and police departments will be on the lookout for impaired drivers and encourage everyone to place the designation of a sober driver at the top of their Super Bowl game plan.

Before choosing to drink, choose a sober designated driver. If you're attending a Super Bowl party or watching the game at a sports bar or restaurant:

- Designate your sober driver before the party begins.
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself. Eat plenty of food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- Make sure your ride is sober before letting him/her drive you.
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, friend, or family member to come and get you; or if possible stay where you are for the night and don't drive until you are sober.
- Use your community's sober ride program. (Gorge Yellow Taxi works with Hood River bars, taverns and pubs to offer free rides.)
- Never let a friend drive drunk. Arrange a safe way for them to get home.
- Always buckle up. It's still your best defense against other drunk drivers.
- If you're hosting a Super Bowl party:
  - Make sure all of your guests designate their sober drivers in advance, or help arrange ride-sharing with sober drivers.
  - Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages at the party.
  - If you plan to stay sober, offer to drive guests home.
  - Encourage guests to pace themselves.
  - Host your party like they do at the stadium. Stop serving alcohol at the end of the third quarter of the game. The fourth quarter is perfect for serving coffee and dessert.
  - Keep the phone numbers of local cab companies on hand and take the keys away from anyone who is thinking of driving drunk.
  - Remember, you can be held liable and prosecuted if someone you served ends up in a drunk-driving crash.

Support zero tolerance for impaired driving by reporting impaired drivers to 9-1-1 or OSP at 1-800-24DRUNK (1-800-243-7865).

OSP and ODOT understand that not everyone will be in front of a TV watching the game, so those traveling are urged to "Know Before You Go," monitoring media reports for weather forecasts and keeping up-to-date on road conditions at [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com).

Considering the statistics, what we know as a culture, and the advice above, on this — or any other — there is no reason for anyone to drive while impaired.

Keep your drinking, or those of your guests, from getting to Beast Mode — leave that to Marshawn Lynch.

### WHERE TO E-MAIL

For letters to the editor, guest columns, news items and press releases, the e-mail address is:

[HRNews@hoodrivernews.com](mailto:HRNews@hoodrivernews.com)

For e-mail letters to the editor, please include your name, address and daytime telephone number.

## Our readers write

### Services denied Closer look needed

My brother, Keith Dunn, has been a member of this community all his life. He has developed dementia and has been living in a group home for the past few months. His disease has developed to a point where the group home can no longer care for him. There is an Extended Care Services bed available in Hood River. However, the powers in Salem have decided that, as he is developmentally disabled, he does not qualify for it. He will be placed in a care facility in Hillsboro, away from his family and friends. As usual, the powers in Salem seldom make good sense.

R. Dean Dunn  
Hood River

### Road suggestion

Last time I called it a travesty. This time I call the Cascade to Mt. Adams to Wine Country to Country Club roads just stupid design. I suggest a solution — reopen the access to Country Club and turn the whole new interchange into a (one way) round-about of sorts. A quick sketch on an envelope shows the easy conversion: Freeway on and off traffic flows NON-STOP to town and out; businesses maintain full, if not improved access; west side users of Country Club make one right turn into traffic and go with the flow ... not drag racing across two lanes.

And while you are at it, put in a REAL bike lane with barriers and maybe encourage ... but that's another letter.

Dan Baxter  
Hood River

For the past three decades, we have seen a disturbing trend towards increasing inequality in income and wealth. Wages are flat, the middle class is shrinking, and families see the dream of a better world for their children slipping away.

As we pivot towards the 2016 elections, both parties are looking to tap into concerns over inequality. It will be interesting to see if Democrats can move beyond gender and identity politics to address the concerns of middle-income workers who have left the party in recent years. Republicans face the more difficult choice of continuing to push an agenda tilted towards the wealthy or pursuing policies that benefit the poor and working class.

The first signs from a Republican Congress are not hopeful. The recent rule change requiring the Congressional Budget Office to use "dynamic" scoring to determine the budget impact of tax reforms opens the door for politically driven manipulation.

Consider the words of Bruce Bartlett, former adviser to President George H.W. Bush: "In practice, dynamic scoring is just another way for Republicans to enact tax cuts and block tax increases. It is not about honest revenue-estimating; it's about using smoke and mirrors to institutionalize Republican ideology into the budget process."

A rigged "dynamic" scoring of tax proposals, based on the "supply side" myth that "tax cuts pay for themselves," will worsen economic

inequality, increase Federal deficits and increase pressure to make cuts to Social Security, Medicare and other programs. Voters need to look through the "populist" rhetoric of both parties to the actual impacts of tax and budget proposals on middle and lower income families.

Richard Davis  
The Dalles

### Pioneer descendants

Kudos to Abby Walker for her essay in Young Voices! It was inspiring to read a true telling of pioneering ancestry from a young person in the local community. Family seems to be a very real structure in the overcoming of adversity. The same model could be used in modern times.

We each have a path through this world, and our families are an invaluable part for each individual.

Mike Teems, Jr.  
Parkdale

### Go Seahawks

God gave us the remote so on Super Bowl Sunday we could avoid hours of mindless analysis, inane interviews, dumb questions to players, dumb answers from players, opening ceremonies and coin flip, another disrespectful rendition of our National Anthem, commercials, inane sideline commentary, half-time analysis, and the half-time show.

Go Seahawks! Let's eat!

Jerry Giarraputo  
Hood River



"To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time." —Elie Wiesel

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