

## Hood River News

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SO MUCH FOR A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON RACE...

## For Wilhelm

I don't normally write letters to the editor, but as a senior and taxpayer in Hood River, I am concerned about our schools. That's why I encourage you to support Kris Wilhelm for school board.

At first glance, you may not think Kris to be the typical person to run for school board. She wears a lot of hats: A mom, a farmer, housewife, and works at the hospital as an Exercise Physiologist. However, Kris is passionate about and studies in depth issues that affect kids' education on a local level.

As a hospital volunteer, I met Kris more than 20 years ago. Kris is a "can do" person that will always question the status quo. She strives for efficiency and is never afraid to ask "why."

The school board makes important decisions that affect kids, teachers and taxpayers. Please join me in voting for Kris Wilhelm, someone who will take the responsibility seriously, and will be a good steward for us all. She is ready to step up and make a difference.

**Ann Helm**  
Hood River

## Memorial planned

Our son, Brian Paul McClure, died on April 9 while mountain biking on the Dog River trail. We have had a difficult time facing this, of course, and were in Hood River for a few days making our arrangements.

The kindness and compassion extended to us was wonderful. Special thanks to Deputy Mark Smith of the Hood River Police Department. Brian loved Hood River and I certainly see why. We are planning a celebration of his life in Bellevue, Wash., in July. Anyone interested in attending can write to 1400 127th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98005, or call 425-747-5358 to be put on the guest list.

**Marie McClure**  
Bellevue, Wash.

## Recommendation

Here in Cascade Locks, we've got three to five positions open on our Port Commission. Our current commission has been working together for 3-4 years, some much longer; to bring business into our industrial park. In addition, the Bridge of the Gods, which is their responsibility, although repaired enough to satisfy ODOT's requirements to lift weight restrictions, still needs many millions of dollars in repair and maintenance.

I'd like to recommend these three people for our Port Commission: Brad Lorang, past mayor of Cascade Locks, Dave Lipps, who is one of the owners of Bridge of the Gods brew pub, and Phil Schey.

**Nancy Renault**  
Cascade Locks

## For Arnold

I am the founding director of the nursing program at Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC). This program, which graduates candidates for both Licensed Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing, opened its doors in 2001. The effort took the combined energies of the CGCC Board of Directors and the boards of the four hospitals here in the Gorge. Should anyone question the difference a qualified and balanced board of directors makes to our college, they have only to look at this successful program to recognize the value of a committed group of individuals who focus on education for our community.

Today I write in support of Charlotte Arnold as a continuing Director on the CGCC Board. Her dedication, experience and passionate current service on the board demonstrate her commitment to education and fairness. She is positioned to become the next board president and is in a unique place in time to exercise focused leadership to deal effectively with current issues that are well known through previous articles and letters in this publication. Board leadership at this level requires both an egalitarian approach and the strength and experience to champion and achieve progressive change from within.

Ms. Arnold, who possesses these abilities, is also running along with Christina Suarez (telecommunications business owner) and Becky Kopecky (Director of Nursing at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital), two women in our community who continue to demonstrate their credibility and desirable character traits for leadership.

I wish I could vote, but living in Washington State doesn't afford me the opportunity to vote on Director positions for a college that is located in Oregon. However, CGCC has an immeasurable impact on the entire Gorge, so I take this opportunity to speak out and encourage those of you who are able to vote on these positions to endorse Charlotte Arnold and her running mates.

**Linda Hardham, RN, MN**  
Underwood, Wash.

## Running for Position 4

I am running for Port of Hood River Commissioner Position 4. Although the ballots have already mailed out, there is a reason for this late letter to the editor.

First, let me introduce myself. I am the guy riding in the power wheelchair seen all over Hood River. I could have retired anywhere, but I fell in love with Hood River and decided this is where I'll settle. OK, my grandkids had something to do with it.

The Port has done a good job and all anyone can do is work for the future. The Nichols Basin West Edge trail can and will be worked out. I have faith that all parties involved will come to an agreement.

Nobody wants to be labeled as the bad guy. We need a new bridge. The Port is involved in talks with ODOT

and others. Let's escalate the discussions and take it to the next level and talk about options. There is a nice big empty building. An option to consider is utilizing it as a business or public incubator: Hood River has enough sponsors and partners to make it work and it fits in with the Port's mission.

If you want to talk to me, be patient because I speak primarily Ataxia. My iPad will translate it. No, Ataxia is not a foreign cab.

**Dennis Cullington**  
Hood River

## Support Arnold

We strongly support Charlotte Arnold for Columbia Gorge Community College Board Position 4. Charlotte is intelligent, hardworking and dedicated in all her pursuits, including small business owner, dance instructor and parent. Students will benefit from Charlotte's efforts to support important course offerings, such as computer science, welding, nursing and renewable energy. She will help solicit volunteers with expertise to mentor students. Charlotte will be open minded and creative when addressing difficult school funding issues. She will help build bridges between the college and community, and between faculty and staff.

**Jerry Jaques**  
**Deborah Whiting Jaques**  
Hood River

## Wear helmet

Spring has sprung and that means families out on bicycles. Parents, if you put helmets on your kids and you don't wear one, whose future are you protecting? Traumatic brain injuries can happen to anyone at any age or skill level. So put a lid on your melon.

**Garry Koop**  
Hood River

## For Reitz

Chris Reitz has my full support as the best Hood River County School Board candidate for Position 1 in the upcoming election.

It is important that school board members be community members with a strong history of volunteerism and presence in the local schools. Chris has that experience. She has served the communities' children by volunteering in the schools, which is important because she will bring to the board an understanding of and a familiarity with our local school system and how it works.

It is also crucial that school board members volunteer for their important role motivated mostly by a simple commitment to education and children. Candidates should not be motivated by a personal agenda. Chris has stepped forward as a school board candidate interested in creating the best school setting possible for all kids in our district. The energy she has already put into the district demonstrates her commitment and motivation.

Lastly, Chris is a free thinker: I have known Chris and her family

for several years and know her to be a person who can listen with an open mind and then can diplomatically think, speak and make sound decisions.

Please join me in voting for Chris Reitz.

**Ted Ostrye**  
Hood River

## Parks and Rec candidate

Ballots for the May 19 special election are out and I wanted to introduce myself as a candidate for a seat on the Hood River County Parks and Rec Board. My name is Matt Rutledge and I feel that living in Hood River provides a world class base from which to recreate and enjoy the outdoors. I have a B.A. in Recreation Administration and am currently employed as an elementary teacher locally. As a long term Gorge resident, avid recreationalist, and parent, I feel that I am tuned in to the recreational opportunities and needs in Hood River County.

As a Parks and Rec Board Member, my priorities will be to expand the current parks and recreational offerings within the county, work towards diversifying the type of opportunities that are developed to align with the changing population of the Hood River Valley, and to provide an increased scope of recreation opportunities during the winter months for residents and families.

I hope to earn your support in the coming election.

**Matt Rutledge**  
Hood River

## Support CL

It is getting really tiring to read the hysterical "sky is falling" attitude of the opposition to the Nestlé plant in Cascade Locks. If we believe most of what is printed, Nestlé will buy up all the world's water and we will die of drought and thirst! Dire consequences (which never materialize) are always predicted by those trying to "save" the Gorge.

Let's stop the bullying and actually support Cascade Locks whose decision it is, after all.

**Ruth Turner**  
Hood River

## Stop passivity

I realize my passivity in many matters regarding the health and well-being of the Gorge needs to stop.

I agree with Pamela Dussaut's letter to the editor on April 29, and Pamela Larsen's on April 15, that we must educate ourselves around the issue of Nestlé gaining water rights to tap and bottle water from Cascade Locks. I appreciate it is not a simple issue, and the romance of how Nestlé coming in will "rescue" CL's economy is an attractive one, one I can see myself falling for. However, don't get seduced by their propaganda, dig for the truth.

It is not in anyone's best interest to allow big business to take over control of natural resources for any

reason, including short-term gains.

We must come together and educate and find better sustainable options to support our community here in the Columbia Gorge. If the answers look simple, as in Nestlé recent propaganda video, you know something is amiss. These issues are never simple, and the complexity of the repercussion in allowing this need to be exposed. By sneaking in through the backdoor, and bypassing public opinion and time for residence to research the issue, only demonstrates further the insidious nature of this company.

I know for one, I will educate myself more and help support the intentions of stopping Nestlé from taking over water rights in the Gorge. I'll start by watching "Tapped" tonight and begin to take my own head out of the sand.

**Carrie Fuentes**  
Hood River

## Support SB 920

Oregonians are ready for a healthier, more transparent food system. That's why, as a farmer, I am asking Senator Thomsen to support the passage of Senate Bill 920, requiring the responsible use of antibiotics in agriculture.

I own a farm called Terra Farma at the west end of the Gorge and I raise livestock in a manner that promotes animal health and which also produces a superior product. Many of our customers seek us out because they feel that knowing their farmer is the only way to purchase meat, milk, and eggs that they trust feeding their family. In contrast, many large confinement operations give their animals regular, low doses of antibiotics in their feed. These antibiotics are used to promote rapid growth and to stave off disease in unsanitary conditions. These animals often stand snout to tail in crowded, indoor facilities, often in small pens or crates, with daily antibiotic doses to bolster their immune systems against these conditions.

Unfortunately, this comes with unintended consequences like antibiotic-resistant "supergerms" which can spread to humans and other animals. The CDC has linked antibiotic resistant strains of salmonella and campylobacter to this practice, with about 25 percent of campylobacter cases presenting resistance to antibiotics. Additionally, from an ethical standpoint, this practice is one of the pillars holding up a system of inhumane animal treatment on factory farms in Oregon.

Fortunately, SB 920 offers a solution. This bill would require farms to stop using "preventative" antibiotics on healthy animals, and large farms would have to report on their total antibiotic usage annually. This would address concerns around antibiotic-resistant bacteria and encourage more ethical treatment of animals in these operations. I urge the Senate to pass this important piece of legislation.

**Michael Guebert**  
Terra Farma  
Corbett

## ANOTHER VOICE

# Look down for evidence some dog owners are dropping their responsibility

By PEGGY DILLS KELTER

Just returned from a walk to one of my favorite places in Hood River — Waterfront Park. As is usually the case on a sunny weekend, the park was being well used by athletes, parents, children and dog owners. I was enjoying the blue sky, the light breeze, and the noise of kids playing on the play structures when some things green caught my eye. These green things, lined up along the path's edge and gleaming in the sun, were not one

of the native plants that have been planted along the river. Rather, they were poop bags, full of dog feces and left for the rest of us to "enjoy." I shook my head, left behind the abandoned bags, and continued on my walk.

When I reached the gravel road leading to the Hook, I noticed another dog owner walking along behind her unleashed dog, fastidiously picking up her pet's droppings in several green bags ... and tossing the filled bags onto the ground, already littered with still

another discarded sack of dung. I stopped her and asked, "Are you planning on picking up those bags and putting them in the garbage can?" to which she replied that she was helping out the park by making sure her dog's poop was inside a bag, and thus unable to contaminate the park with E-coli. When I asked her again if she planned on picking them up, she said, "I have a dog and only two hands." She also explained that the maintenance guys, personal acquaintances of hers, would be by Mon-

day to clean up. I shook my head, picked up all four bags full of feces, and carried them to the garbage can on the west end of the park.

On my return walk eastward, I stopped her again, once again filling another green bag with her dog's poop and leaving it on the side of the path. By this point steam was beginning to pour from my ears. I picked up her dog's bag, and a few yards later on grabbed another set of four full bags left by earlier visitors. As I walked away,

my hands full of feces, I heard her yell at me, "You missed one!"

Every day, I work on modeling for my students how to be kind, safe, respectful and responsible. We spend hours practicing these skills, and we work to teach tolerance, not rudeness, to our young friends.

At Waterfront Park, some visitors need a refresher course in these skills.

■  
*Peggy Dills Kelter of Hood River teaches at Mid Valley Elementary and is a Hood River News columnist.*