

Hood River News

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Good Parents

Resources rise for local families

There's a scene in the play "Good People," on stage at CAST, in which two friends from the same South Boston neighborhood debate why one of them succeeded in life and the other didn't — how one got "a leg up." Hard work is one thing, but to what extent do circumstances determine how we fare later on?

"You had a parent checkin' your homework," the out-of-work single mom tells the physician, 30 years since they last saw each other.

No one factor decides how a person will do in life, and the play considers the general socio-economic factors which might have hindered kids growing up in South Boston, the same things that can hinder a kid in any town in Oregon: low income, uncertain nutrition and housing, unsafe neighborhoods, lack of health care, and absent or uninvolved parents.

But a parent checking homework, or in some similar way taking the time and showing an interest, is undeniably a positive influence.

And sometimes it is the parent that needs "a leg up."

Next week is National Parenting Education Week, and as future editions of the Hood River News will show, more and more things are happening in Hood River County in terms of giving parents new and better tools for nurturing their children. As well, there are those mentoring programs that serve as an auxiliary to meeting the challenges of serving kids who could use a bit of attention that parents might not give or be equipped to give.

These include the newly-formed Home Visiting Connection, coordinated by Hood River County Health Department and North Central Public Health District, in association with other seven other sponsoring agencies in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam counties. The Connection provides education and outreach for families, women and babies on subjects ranging from car seat safety and post-natal questions to safe relationships and toddler behavior concerns.

The Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative reports that brain research shows that the quality of parenting affects a child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. Good parenting is not instinctive, it is learned, and that parenting education honors the important work that parents do, helping them gain skills and strategies, as well as realistic expectations for themselves and their child.

According to the Collaborative:

- Improved knowledge of positive parenting practices will promote loving and skilled parents, helping ensure the well-being of children.

- Parenting practices are significantly influenced by one's own upbringing;

- Of all the things that influence a child's growth and development, the most critical is reliable, responsive, and sensitive parenting;

- Children must have early relationships that provide stability, consistency, affection, and responsiveness as well as protection from harm and support for growth of new skills and capabilities.

Access to help is already a proven priority among local social service agencies, and more help is on the way. It neither starts nor ends with checking your kids' homework, but involves establishing a consistent awareness and attitude so that parents see fit to do so, and kids know they can expect such nurture.

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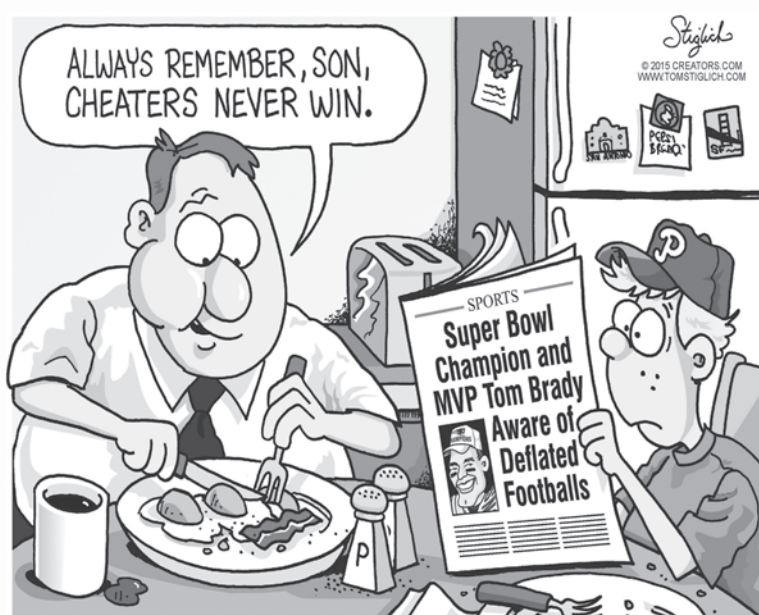
Web address: www.senate.gov/member/or/wyden/general/

Our readers write

Thanks for kindness

Thank you to the kind man who gave an eight-year-old boy an extra dollar at Rosauers last weekend to buy ice cream for his grandpa's birthday cake. It was the second or third time he's ventured to the store on his own, and he hasn't learned yet how everything works. Thank you for being the sort of person who notices and helps. I wanted you to know that you also helped me (his mom) to let him go a little more, and know that he'll be okay out there.

Leah Hedberg
Hood River



McCarthy for Parks and Rec

I strongly support Michael McCarthy for the Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District Board. Mike is one of the most experienced and thoughtful people I know. He has lived and farmed in Parkdale for over thirty years and has served our community for decades on a wide variety of elected and volunteer boards, including Hood River County Fair 4H and FFA Livestock Auction, Middle Fork Irrigation District, Crystal Springs Water District, chairman of Hood River Grower Shipper Association Marketing Committee, and Hood River Valley Residents Committee.

Along with a wealth of experience, Mike also has clear goals for the Parks District. While operation and maintenance of the pool should continue to be the primary function of the Parks District, he also believes in working cooperatively with other public entities in the county on a long-term plan for the efficient management of area parks and the development of new athletic fields for our youth sports. Mike has stressed the importance of transparency and financial responsibility in all his public work. If elected, he will bring the same values of accountability to his role on the HRVPRD board.

Please join me in voting for Michael McCarthy for Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District.

Ron Cohen
Mt Hood-Parkdale

It's gorse, of course

That yellow wanton weed
Extract it I say
But Scottish broom in bloom, invading blight,
Brighter than the moon at night,
Distracts us from our course,
Extract it I say
Keep it at bay
Resist that yellow tide
Let native plants abide
Extract it I say
And with it, all deception and deceit.

Chris Emerson
Hood River

Return college to health

My name is Lee Fairchild and I am running for the CGCC Board of Education because, like most of you, I believe that there are very serious problems at the college that can be repaired by a more proactive board. I believe that the CGCC budget over the last few years is unsustainable, and also believe that the current cuts proposed to improve the budget balance are too heavily weighted toward reducing what the college is there for — teaching classes and helping students get a quality education.

My experience will give me the perspective needed to solve the difficult problems the board faces. My background includes earning a PhD in Geology and teaching at the university level. I understand how the academic system works. I have also worked for corporations large and small during my career and for

the last 15 years have run my own geologic consulting business. I know how to approach budgetary problems from both an academic view point and a practical business view point.

Finally, my wife and I have contributed substantially to the CGCC foundation for many years, so we have a personal financial incentive to ensure that the college remains a viable and thriving institution for years to come.

I hope that you will elect me to the board so that I can represent you in the process of returning the CGCC to good health.

Lee Fairchild
Mt Hood-Parkdale

College support

With CGCC being in such dire financial straits, it is extremely important that we have an attentive board of directors.

Sadly, this is not the case now. Four members from Wasco County are asleep at the wheel, and two of three members from Hood River County may be awake, but they don't know which direction to turn. (The exception is Stu Watson, who actually does his homework and comes to meetings prepared. Re-elect Stu Watson.)

In addition to re-electing Mr. Watson, I urge voters to vote for Lee Fairchild and Guy Fenner, both of whom are intellectually engaged. We need board members who are more than a rubber stamp. Watson, Fairchild and Fenner will oversee college business with careful eyes, and that is what we need.

Tim Schell
Portland

CGCC Board openings

There are three open Hood River positions on the May ballot for community college board members in the Columbia Gorge Community College district. After serving for 15 years, I'll be stepping down to possibly apply for part-time teaching positions at the college when they arise.

Obviously I can't be an employee if I'm also a board member.

CGCC, like nearly all community colleges in the country, belongs to the national Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) organization. ACCT provides state and local CC organizations help and resources in college policy formation, board training and governance, and other programs and services. At the core of these is the ACCT Code of Ethics and Best Practices, which CC boards use as a foundation at their local institutions.

Central to standards is that the board represents the community interests and investment in their local college. The board is responsible for hiring a college president to implement college policies approved by the board. As such, the board is expected to cooperate with and support the president, who is their only staff connection to the college. The board determines the overall policies and does not get involved with internal day-to-day operations. Obviously, through the president, the board also represents management in labor negotiations.

The board is expected to focus on the success of the entire college as a

whole and not just a few individuals or personal interests, just as the community would expect.

Although a board member might disagree with other members over an issue, once a board decision is made then all members are to support that decision and speak with one voice. Public dissent not only cripples the board, but also devalues the college to students, employees, and the community. Open communications and transparency, within the law, is paramount.

Of the candidates running for the open Hood River positions, I personally know that Charlotte Arnold (incumbent), Becky Kopecky, and Christina Suarez all pledge to abide by the ACCT Code of Ethics and Good Practice standards, and I support their election to the CGCC board.

Dave Fenwick
Hood River

For Brostoff

We'd like to encourage you to vote for our friend Rob Brostoff for District 1 position on our school board, representing West Side and Cascade Locks elementary schools. Rob has represented the people of Cascade Locks on the school board for three years. He's also mentored our elementary students in chess and works with the SMART program, reading to our students. In addition, he's a current member of our Port budget committee and has been on the budget committee for the city, served as councilman and planning commissioner. He also served on the emergency services committee, rebuilding our fire and ambulance services. When he's not working for us here, he's working on minimum wage and affordable housing issues in the greater Portland area as a member of Portland's City Club, where he's on the research board. Please help maintain the quality of Hood River schools and bring equity and opportunity for all Hood River students.

Joe and Nancy Renault
Cascade Locks

Need coverage

It would be a great service to the electorate of H.R. County if this mass media (H.R. News) would treat these District elections similar to the City Council and County Commissioner's elections, affording us with the candidate's qualifications and goals for their desired position of public service, rather than the electorate depending on biased letters to this column.

Alan Winans
Hood River

Support Arnold

Charlotte Arnold has proved her commitment for lifelong learning by working tirelessly as a board member at CGCC for the past four years. Charlotte will help lead the college in facing the challenges as the state grapples with funding education in Oregon. Charlotte is passionate about assuring that the college remains a viable educational intuition in the face of these difficult times. Please help her continue her effort. Re-elect her to Position 4 on the CGCC Board for another four years!

Joanne Pollack
Hood River



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