

Hood River News

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ON THE AGENDA

These are the regular meeting times of governing bodies for these agencies:

Cascade Locks

Cascade Locks City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Cascade Locks Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., second Thursday of the month.

Cascade Locks Port Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 140 W. WaNaPa St., first and third Thursdays of the month.

Hood River

City of Hood River Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Hood River City Hall Council Chambers, 211 Second St., generally the first and third Mondays of the month. Place and dates subject to change.

Hood River Port Commission, 5 p.m., 100 E. Port Marina Drive, board room, first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Hood River City Council, 6 p.m., Hood River City Hall Council Chambers, 211 Second St., second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., OSU Extension Service Building, 2990 Experiment Station Road, first Thursday of the month.

Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District, 6 p.m., Aquatic Center, 1601 May St., third Wednesday of the month. Place subject to change.

Hood River County

Hood River County Board of Commissioners regular session, 6 p.m., 601 State St., first floor conference room, third Monday of the month. Time subject to change.

Library District Board meeting, 7 p.m., 502 State St., conference room, third Tuesday of the month.

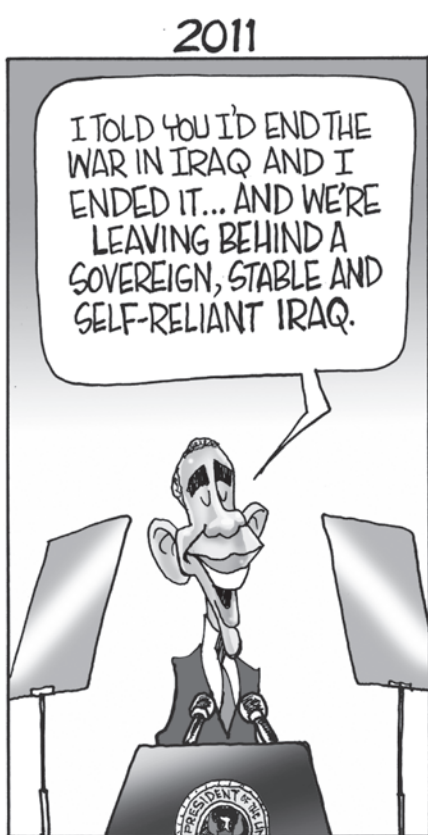
Hood River County Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., 601 State St., first floor, generally second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Hood River County Water Planning Group, 2 p.m., 601 State St., first floor conference room, generally first Wednesday of the month.

Hood River County Commission on Children and Families Board meeting, 5:15 p.m., Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital boardroom, generally first Tuesday of the month.

Hood River County School Board, 6:30 p.m., meets at schools and district facilities on a rotating schedule (visit hoodriver.k12.or.us for location), second and fourth Wednesdays of the month unless school vacations or other holidays interrupt the schedule.

Hood River County Transportation District, 9 a.m., Hood River County Transportation District Board Room, 224 Wasco Loop, second Wednesday of the month.



Our readers write

Committed to serve

In response to a recent editorial, the United Employees of Columbia Gorge Community College, AFT-Oregon Local 4754, want the Gorge community to know we are committed to furthering the quality of public higher education in our community.

We are united in our mission to guarantee that our students have the tools they require to be successful.

Our days are spent educating, assisting, mentoring, and guiding students and potential students. We are dedicated to providing students with a comprehensive and fulfilling educational experience. As invested educators, we want to ensure our students have the best learning environment possible. Thus, we will continue to raise our voices when we see injustice, unfairness or misinformation. We stand together to resolve issues affecting our college community, such as campus security and staff layoffs.

Together we're working to create an atmosphere of openness and fairness with the college community and college administration. We are eager to work with the administration to create solutions to these important issues and cultivate a better educational experience, and will continue to be open and honest at the table when discussing these topics.

We are united in this effort as instructors, custodians, administrative assistants, accounting specialists, facilities technicians, instructional assistants, computer support technicians, payroll and benefit specialists, and will continue to provide the best edu-

national experience to our students as they maneuver through the world of higher education.

To do anything less, as some members of college's board have recently suggested, is unthinkable. Please stand with us in our efforts to improve the education experience at CGCC, for your students are our priority.

Signed,

Tom Kaser and 51 faculty and classified employees
Columbia Gorge Community College
Hood River

Job well done

I would like to thank Hood River City Mayor Paul Blackburn, City Manager Steve Wheeler and the City Director of Public Works Mark Lago for taking the time to clear the recently cut down trees and tree debris from the BMX and Skateparks.

This is a heavily used park but starting to look forgotten. It is my hope that one day this park will become part of a green belt connecting the west and east sides of Hood River via the River Front Trail. I hope the mountain biking community will come together and add a few mountain bike obstacles and challenges like the ones found on Family Man in Post Canyon. The importance of this green space should not be overlooked. Thank you again, the park looks much better and is ready for summer.

Jim Klaas
Hood River

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Travel writers are forever passing the basalt in flavoring this place

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

News that Sunset magazine gave Hood River its "Best Adventure Town" award was welcome indeed, and deserved, given our "startling breadth of experiences."

That's the summary phrase in the article in the June edition of the magazine. (Hood River News story, page A3 in our May 25 edition.)

Sunset gives a brief but glowing report, with a map, on "Hood River," extolling Full Sail Brewery, Big Winds, Pacific Crest Trail, White Salmon River, and Timberline.

Of course, just two of these attractions are located in the City of Hood River, and the verbiage for Big Winds — "gear awaits at a locally-owned shop that rents out equipment..." — makes it sound like it is the only one in town, when in fact you can choose from several such shops providing sales, rentals, lessons, or all three, for whatever windsport you want to do.

Mentioning Full Sail alone is a disservice to the excellent, and growing, beer community of Hood River and the Gorge; the Breweries in the Gorge organization formed last year and covers both sides of the river.

Meanwhile, places in the next county, or ones located outside the state, are lumped as being part of Hood River. The regionality of these things is understood, but the five bases for the "Best Adventure Town" award truly stretch the geography.

Or they ignore it: the biggest

omission is that of any mention of Cascade Locks in the description of Pacific Crest Trail. It is the only place the PCT traverses an incorporated city, yet not even the map lists Cascade Locks.

Granted, anyone planning to hike PCT, partially or through, is going to do research beyond Sunset, but, in the context of using PCT, to ignore the Cascade Locks community and its food, accommodations and other visitor amenities is writing in a vacuum.

Further, Sunset says the PCT "cuts west of Hood River." Yes, 20 miles west. It's like writing an article on the delights of The Dalles and saying Hood River's Sandbar is a recreational place just west of town.

I think Sunset truly likes Hood River and the Gorge, considering it's done five or more similar articles in recent years. For that we should be appreciative; it is an informative magazine with a long history. But Sunset operates a little like a party host who introduces a guest by the wrong name. Thanks, but ... awkward.

In April, the magazine played up Hood River as a destination, saying it is "surrounded by pear, apple and peach orchards" and "a 35-mile stretch of road dotted with fruit stands and lavender farms;" nothing substantially wrong there, though there are in fact just two lavender farms and few peach orchards, and no mention of the cherries aplenty.

Then there is the Gorge travel write-up nugget that gets passed down from article to article like sourdough: the "basalt cliffs" mention. It seems that every article ever written in a national publication mentions

the "basalt cliffs" in some way. A reference to the basalt cliffs towering "4,000 feet above the Columbia" has unfortunately appeared in more than one publication. (Perhaps 1,000 feet in one or two places, maybe ...)

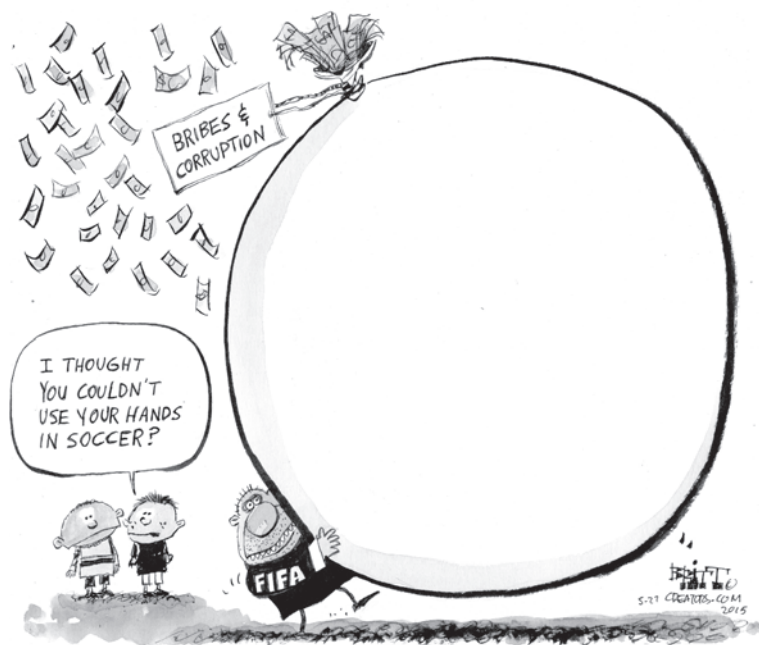
In the case of the April article, Hood River is "surrounded" by basalt cliffs, which is technically true, but directly around Hood River are — do we stop often enough to appreciate this? — forested slopes, probably growing out of the basalt. I don't know, I am neither forester nor geologist.

It just seems like writers are sitting in New York or San Francisco, thinking of how to flesh out this piece on the Gorge and playing Please Pass the Basalt.

But when borrowing factoids overshadows the work of actually visiting a place, the article suffers and so does the picture of the place. Sketchy fare such as Sunset produces does not reflect as well as anyone would hope upon either the magazine or Hood River.

I admit, there is the other side of it. Sunset's WAS a glowing report: no warts, that is. Years ago I wrote a freelance piece on a bed and breakfast in Northern Michigan and saw plenty of things that would have put the place in a bad light, but left them out. It was a great establishment, but I might have mentioned the windowsills lined with dead flies. If Sunset found dead flies in Hood River, they didn't mention them.

But between what is made less of or made more of, you get the feeling in reading these travel pieces that whoever writes them did not actually visit the place.



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Founded in 1905

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