

Hood River News

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Beautiful Bounty

Enjoy the July 4 pomp and creativity

“Beautiful Bounty” is a parade theme that well-describes the event itself.

Essentially it refers to the work of the group that is this year’s grand marshal: the people who volunteer at FISH food bank. And the phrase can serve to describe what goes on starting at 10 a.m. Saturday on the Heights: the low-key, user-friendly, vibrant Hood River July 4 parade.

Our thanks to Lions and the many volunteers who spend the year organizing this event and carrying it out, more like clockwork every year, for all of us to enjoy.

Grand marshal choices over the years have been imaginative and inclusive: among them Lila May Schow, 4-year-old cancer fighter, and Ed Bartlien, and World War II “Jungleer” veteran. This year, paying tribute to the folks from FISH reflects the organizers’ sense of community and is timely as well, with the recent opening of the new food bank facility. Kollas-Cranmer Walk/Run participants will pass the new FISH facility as they approach the home stretch on Tucker Road about a mile out. Cheering on the walkers and runners as they complete the course on 12th Street just before the parade is a time-honored tradition, and the runners blend in once the parade gets started.

The parade organizers have made some notable changes in recent years: encouraging local participation, discouraging the tossing of candy and other items, and instituting the advance registration. Asking people to donate \$10 as an entry fee might have been jarring at first, but it makes sense given the Lions’ mission, and most people have no problem with the fee. It also streamlined the parade, and reduced repetition and casual participation. Providing cash awards to the top entries was another welcome addition.

There’s also an increased attempt to connect the parade and what goes on afterward at Jackson Park.

This year, the grand marshal choice ties in nicely to that: canned goods for the food bank program may be donated during the barbecue, kids’ activities and music at the park.

Preventing the indiscriminate tossing or distribution of candy and other hand-outs improves safety, cuts down on litter, and directs the focus of the parade to where it should go: kids on decorated bikes, Little Leaguers on fire trucks, church summer programs on flatbeds, the guy in a tuxedo playing the trombone, the horse-and-rider pomp, and the whimsy and beauty of clowns, carts and antique cars.

These types of entries and the ones that will surprise and delight us this year make the parade a community activity for which the community can be proud.

Not all CL wants Nestlé

First, I would like to thank all of the townspeople who came out and endured extreme heat on July 25 to attend the town hall in Cascade Locks. I saw a great many of our residents with very pertinent things to say about the Nestlé water bottling project. A point of clarification: the groups NO Nestlé in Cascade Locks/Local Water Alliance represented at the meeting are made up largely of our own citizens. Local Water Alliance is almost exclusively residents of Cascade Locks.

The format the city planned for the town hall completely ignored the accepted practices for creating a conversation. When doing my own research on facilitation, the group I was corresponding with (Six Rivers Mediation in Hood River) told me how the town hall was organized is exactly how NOT to do it. Additionally, the first facilitator they hired was a PR guy known for his methods of marginalizing critics. All of this leads me to believe the city has not been sincere in trying to find out what the people really want.

Yes, the meeting got a little rowdy. There are a lot of Cascade Locks residents who are sick and tired of being ignored and dismissed.

Wholesale acceptance of the project in Cascade Locks is not as pervasive as

the city would like everyone to think. I realize this almost every day as word gets out and more and more citizens rally around the opposition. It sounds to me like the letter writers here just want the opponents to be quiet and let the city make an irresponsible decision with no dissent. I have not observed the city to pay attention to any information other than what Nestlé has told us, therefore the citizens are only getting one side of the story.

We can do better.

Deanna Busdieker
Cascade Locks City Council

Commit to climate justice

As I was luxuriating in my shower the other morning, my mind wandered to water. Water we consume that is essential for life, that can render us weightless, that cleanses and refreshes, the music of water in the ocean surf and the cascading falls. It was during this particular shower, just a few days ago, when I turned off the water to soap up and decided to recommit myself to climate justice.

Having experienced a severe drought in San Diego during the late 80s early 90s; I remembered how diligently many responded to the county’s recommendations: replace lawn grass with xeriscape (“dry” landscaping), replace shower heads with low-flow types, install low-volume

flush kits in toilets, only flush when necessary, turn off water while brushing teeth, and while soaping up in the shower. Collect gray water for plants. A few years ago, my daughter and I returned to view our former home. Again, with a grass lawn!

This is now more than drought. Call it what you will: carbon pollution, climate disruption, climate change, global warming. No longer is this a far off future event. We know what this is and we know what’s causing it: excessive consumption of fossil fuels. We know what’s making it so hard to stop: large corporations who have become emboldened with mega-power through wealth created by extracting said fuels. We know that we need a different economic system and that we need to stop taking excessive resources from Earth and mass producing so much unnecessary stuff. We know that our earth can’t sustain another doubling of population. It’s easy to feel powerless. But, as resources dwindle, the population grows, the climate changes faster than predicted, entire species die out at alarming rates – we need to ask ourselves: Don’t we have a moral obligation to do what we can on behalf of the children and future generations? Don’t all beings deserve a healthy environment that is life sustaining? Or, do we continue to buy gadgets, burn fossil fuels and look the other way?

Keri Bradberry
Hood River

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BEWARE OF GREEKS BEARING DEBT

ANOTHER VOICE

Don’t bottle up long-term health and vitality of Cascade Locks

By **PETER FROTHINGHAM**

To: *Cascade Locks Mayor and City Councilors*

I urge you to reconsider Cascade Locks’ plan to enter into a contract with a private corporation to provide hundreds of millions of gallons of water annually to be bottled and sold.

I attended the public hearing last Thursday and learned from city manager Gordon Zimmerman, among other things, that the recharge area for Oxbow Springs and the wells for Cascade Locks is quite small. This year the rainfall to resupply that area was down some 14 percent, not an insignificant decrease. That watershed has never been asked to deliver hundreds of millions of gallons of water year after year. No environmental impact study has yet been done on this proposal. It seems to me extremely likely that this level of draw will quickly lower the water table on which Cascade Locks depends for its well water. At the least, I think the City Council should thoroughly investigate the likely consequence of this demand on the watershed.

If the proposal moves forward and a contract is drawn and the plant built, it is said that there will be 200 trucks a day moving in and out of Cascade Locks. In a 24 hour day that means that there will be a truck going through the city every 7.2 minutes. Though Mr. Zimmerman said that the Council and he are doing

everything they can to get those trucks off of Forest Lane and WaNaPa, unless a new interchange, is built there is absolutely no other way for them to access I-84 as they will need to do.

He spoke of \$10 million to be spent to improve Forest Lane and WaNaPa to, at least, improve things with current truck traffic. It does not seem to me that the city council has thoughtfully considered the impact on city businesses and tourist activity of additional trucks passing every 7 minutes. For instance, it seems to me that the very popular ice cream store on WaNaPa will suffer a significant and possibly fatal change in its business due to the difficulty (and danger) of people parking, seeking to cross the street, or simply standing at the store amidst the noise and diesel fumes of the passing trucks. Access to and from Marine Park probably will be compromised, either leading to traffic accidents or reduced use. Many cars make left turns into the Char Burger and Best Western, not to mention the hundreds of cars making left turns to cross the Bridge of the Gods. How are those turns to be made safely in the face of trucks passing every 7 minutes?

Furthermore, when vehicles are unable to make those left turns quickly and safely, traffic, including the trucks, will back up until WaNaPa is grid locked. Has the Council considered how this will impact the community and the city’s relation-

ship with the private corporation?

Someone said at the public hearing that this proposal has been under consideration since 1988. I’m unsure of the accuracy of that statement, but it apparently has been discussed for as much as two decades. As reported by Mr. Zimmerman, the desperate situation in Cascade Locks with regard to jobs has changed in recent years with one new company planning to provide up to 40 new jobs. The completion of more of the old Columbia highway is bringing bicyclists and other tourists to Cascade Locks. It’s my understanding that many in the city, though eager for additional jobs, want them to be locally owned businesses and sustainable jobs. It seems that there is already a trend in place to provide the jobs that Cascade Locks has desperately needed and that some imaginative and creative leadership to provide more places for people to gather and to meet other needs of both citizens and those visiting will strengthen that trend.

In light of all of the above, I believe that the city council should reconsider whether this proposal is still the best way to address the long-term well-being and vitality of the citizens of the City of Cascade Locks.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns and point of view.

Peter Frothingham lives in Hood River.



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