

Dear readers: Thanks for writing

Below is the Hood River News' annual listing of the writers of letters to the editor. These letters were compiled between Jan. 2 and Dec. 28, 2019. See A4 for a synopsis of popular topics for the year.

Note: An asterisk () denotes those who co-signed letters, and a number denotes the total letters written by that person.*

- A**
- Celia Acosta
 - Alejandro Aguilera Cano
 - Cindy Allen 2
 - Jessica Allen
 - Gloria Arnold
 - Loran Ayles 2
- B**
- Arthur Babitz
 - Alan Bailey 3
 - Cheyenne Baker
 - Junie Baker
 - Belinda Ballah
 - Antonio Baptista 9
 - Carolyn Barber
 - Carrington "Ceb" Barrs*
 - Mason Bates
 - Susan Bellinson 6
 - Jessica Berty
 - Dick and Wendy Best
 - Wendy Best 2
 - Doug Beveridge
 - Roger and Linda Blashfield
 - David Bohlmann
 - Rev. John Boonstra* 5
 - John Brennan
 - Lottie Bromham*
 - Rob Brostoff 14
 - Al Brown 3
 - Tonya Brumley
 - Becky Brun
 - Eric Burnette*
 - Stephen Burdick 2
 - Erin Burnham, MD
 - Pennie Burns 2
 - Jules Burton
- C**
- Jane Camero 3
 - Kathy Mariah Carlson
 - Brian Carlstrom 5
 - Devin Carroll
 - Alonso Castillo
 - Tina Castañares 2
 - Linda Chamberlain
 - Kristi Chapman 2
 - Jay Chrisman
 - John Christensen
 - Jeremy Cervantes
 - Jatziri Chavarria
 - Deborah Chenoweth 2
 - Damon Clegg*
 - Avi Cohn 3
 - Eric Cohn 3
 - Tabitha Colie*
 - Chris Connolly
 - Ed Cooper 2
 - Peter Cornelison** 5
 - Dani Correa
 - Tim Counihan
 - Suzanne Cross 2

- Paul Crowley
 - Susan Crowley 3
 - Christopher Cruz
 - Carolyn Crystal*
 - Steve "Squirl" Curley
 - Steve Curtiss 2
- D**
- Lynda Dallman* 2
 - Peter Dallman
 - J. F. DaLuz
 - Margo Dameier 2
 - Daniel Dancer 2
 - Bob Danko
 - Justin Danner 2
 - Marti Dane*
 - Jon Davies
 - Bill Davis 16
 - Bryan Davis
 - Judy Davis
 - Richard Davis 5
 - Chris Dennett
 - James Denton
 - Carl DeWitt
 - Willie Dickerson 3
 - Ellen Donoghue*
 - Sheila Dooley
 - John Dorsey
 - Fred Duckwall
 - Ricki Duckwall 2
 - Kellie Dunn
 - Lara Dunn 4
 - Ron Dunn
 - David Dye
- E**
- Jim Eastman
 - Kenneth Ebi 8
 - Nicholas Eby
 - Brent Emmons
 - Brent Emmons
 - Lyric Emmons
 - Eva Estes
 - Lisa Evans
 - Pat Evenson-Brady
- F**
- Mike Farmer 2
 - Sam Fauth
 - Adrian Fields
 - Gary Fields 16
 - Irene Fields*
 - John Fine
 - Patty Fink
 - Fran Finney
 - Rebekah Fisher
 - Kristyn Fix
 - Beth Flake 3
 - Mary-Ethel Foley
 - Elizabeth Foster, MD
 - Mike Fox
 - Scott Franke
 - Joanne Franz
 - Daniel Fritz
 - Susan Froehlich 4
 - Ann Frodel 2
 - Susan Frost
- G**
- Susan Gabay
 - Gerald Gard
 - Kari Goben
 - Aileen Gonzalez
 - Nicole Goode
 - Gretchen Goss

- Donna Grey-Davis
 - Jess Groves
- H**
- Jennifer Hackett
 - Janet Hamada
 - Corinda Hankins, MD
 - Jennifer Hanlon Wilde 2
 - Karen Harding
 - Ronald Harriman
 - Mike Harrington 5
 - Ann Harris* 2
 - Jo Ann Harris
 - Paul Harshbarger
 - Melissa Haskin
 - Annabel Hawley
 - Jim Hayes
 - Chuck Haynie
 - Katie Haynie
 - Erick and Katie Haynie
 - Health Professionals at One Community Health
 - Amy KW Heil
 - Peyton Helm
 - Mike Hendricks
 - Jurgen Hess
 - Leonard Hickman
 - Lucy Hill
 - Patrick Hiller 2
 - Ethan Hillmick
 - Chuck Hinman
 - John Hlavek
 - Julya Hoffman
 - Kate Hoffman
 - Leanne Hogie 2
 - Sage Hoke
 - Linda Holloway
 - Jill Jolene Holmes
 - Tracie Hornung 7
 - Avery Hoyt 2
 - Jeff Hunter 3
 - David Hupp 9
 - Russ Hurlbert 3
 - Michael Hustman
- I**
- Samantha Irwin
 - Richard Iverson 3
- J**
- Mary Jette
 - Nancy Johanson Paul 8
 - Douglas Johnston
 - Mark Johnson
 - Marty Johnson
 - Susan Johnson
 - Bill Jones
 - Debbie Jones
 - Jonathan Jones
 - Nik Jones
 - Ninette Jones
 - Gabriela Jorge 2
 - Kathy Jubitz
 - Gabriel Judah
- K**
- Steve Kaplan 33
 - Tom Kaser
 - Sarah Kellems
 - Micaela Keller
 - Debbie Kelly
 - Thomas Joseph Keolker
 - Elaine Kirby
 - Nick Kirby

- Mike Kitts 3
 - Jim Klaas 2
 - Amy Klee*
 - Jen Klee*
 - Christine Knowles* 2
 - Maria Kollas 2
 - Keely Kopetz
 - Ruth Kosmalski
 - Tom Kosmalski
 - Courtney and Rob Kovacich
 - Rob Kovacich 2
 - Helen Krehbiel
 - Rod Krehbiel 5
 - Sue Kusch
- L**
- Travis Lage
 - Anson Lane
 - Susan Lannak 2
 - Jon & Debra Laraway
 - Pamela Larsen
 - Rick Larson 3
 - Alyssa Lee
 - Timothy Lee
 - Debbie Lingel
 - Jerry Luke
- M**
- Harold McBain*
 - Richard McBee
 - Kate McBride
 - Ken McCarty*
 - Joe McCulloch 2
 - Alison McDonald 3
 - Michael McElwee
 - Gary McFarlen 3
 - David McKay 2
 - Douglas McKee
 - Rose McLeod
 - Bailey McManus
 - Linda Maddox
 - Michon Mainwaring
 - Ruth Maletz
 - P.W. May
 - Cassandra Medley
 - Chris Medley
 - Nicolia Mehrling*
 - Leslie Melby
 - Lisa Merkin
 - Jessica Metta
 - John Metta 2
 - Maui Meyer
 - Dave Michalek 3
 - Adam Mims
 - Jeff Mitchell
 - Tim Mixon
 - Nancy Moller
 - Mike Monahan
 - Sandy Montag
 - Heather Moore, PETA
 - Matt Morrow
- N**
- David Nash
 - Emma Neiworth Petshow
 - Roger Neufeldt 4
 - Bonnie New 3
 - Jon Nigbor
 - Markus Norvick*
 - Nan Noteboom 2
 - Steve Nybroten 6
- O**
- Mike Oates*

- Andres Ochoa
 - Carol Oji 2
 - Lucas O'Laughlin*
 - Joe O'Neill*
 - Olivia O'Shea
 - Randy Orzeck
 - Susan Orzeck
 - Jennifer Ouzounian
- P**
- Andrea Pacheco*
 - Russ Paddock
 - Vic Pavlenko
 - Shannon Perry
 - Dave Phelps
 - Laurent Picard
 - Luan Pinson
 - Sue Powers
 - Pat Price
- Q**
- Olivia Quiroz
- R**
- Megan Ramey
 - Darrell Roberts
 - Chrissy Reitz
 - Dick Reed
 - Jim Reed 3
 - Colleen Regalbuto*
 - Max Reitz*
 - Mark Reynolds 2
 - Kirby Richards*
 - Ron Rivers*
 - Darrell Roberts 3
 - Chris Robuck 2
 - Allan Rodrick
 - Carol Rodrick 3
 - Andy Roof*
 - Doug Roof 3
 - Doug and Karen Roof
 - Suzie Root
 - Donald Rose 16
 - Paige Rouse 2
 - Sandi Rousseau
 - Zed Ruhlen
 - David Russo 2
 - Peter Rutkowski
- S**
- Ed Salminen
 - Melanie Salsbury
 - Nicolas Salter
 - Gordy Sato
 - Kathy Sauer-Bishop
 - Anne Saxby
 - Jon Schlecht
 - Robert Scobee
 - Scott Scrimshaw
 - Bernard Seeger
 - George Selleck 2
 - Donna Schindler-Munro 2
 - Mark Schrankel
 - Joe Sheahan
 - Jay Sherrerd
 - Beverly Sherrill
 - Benjamin Sheppard 20
 - Michelle Sibley*
 - Heidi Shoup Nastasi
 - Tony Sims 2
 - Carolyn Smale 5
 - Mark Smith
 - Nathan Smith 2
 - Linda Snyder

- Susan Sorensen
 - Linda Sparks
 - Megan Spears
 - Natalie Speck
 - Tres Spicher
 - Michael Sprague
 - Rhonda Starling
 - Heather Staten
 - John Stevens 2
 - Rev. Vicky Stifter 2
 - Ian Stormquist
 - Eric Strid* 2
 - Michael Stroud
 - Lance S. Stryker 2
 - Bill Sturman
- T**
- Georgia Tate
 - Renee Taylor
 - Wanda Taylor
 - Dave Thies 2
 - Paul Thompson 2
 - Vern Thornburg
 - Pam Tindall
 - Melia Tolle
 - Tracey Tomashpol 4
 - Shelley Toon Lindberg*
 - Brian Towey
 - Esteban Trejo
 - Rich Truax
 - Ruth Tsu 2
 - Ruth Turner 3
- U**
- Eileen K. Utroske
- V**
- Leticia Valle
 - Dave Van Cott
 - Heidi Venture 5
 - Erick von Lubken
- W**
- Cindy Walbridge
 - Jan Wallace
 - David Warnock 18
 - Stu Watson 2
 - J. Andrew Weerts 2
 - Larry and Jeanine Wehr Jones
 - Carolyn Welty
 - Lindsay Weseman 2
 - Justin White
 - Robert White 3
 - Layla Whiteside
 - Liz Whitmore
 - Bob Williams 2
 - Alan Winans 6
 - Richard Withers* 3
 - Marilyn Wong
 - John Wood
 - Polly Wood
 - Caleb Woodruff
- XY**
- Ron Yamashita 3
 - Tom Yates
 - Gary Young * 4
- Z**
- Mark Zanmiller
 - Jeff Zipfel

Hood River News Letters Policy, in detail

In every issue of the Hood River News, the "Our Readers Write" column is a vital part of the community forum.

We welcome letters to the editor submissions on any topic (though "thank you" letters, in most cases, will run on the Community page, so feel free to write them).

The basic elements of the letters policy is this: 350 words, maximum, and attach your name and hometown (for print) and daytime phone (not for print).

Anonymous or "name withheld by request" letters are never published.

Letters are subject to editing for length and will be edited, or declined, based on content that is malicious or identifiably inaccurate.

Hood River News reminds writers that shorter is better. Concise letters are not only better-read, they are more likely to be published because limited space is available.

Almost any point can be made in 350 words or fewer, so

this is set as an upper level for length.

We hear expressly at times, and "through the wire" other times, that the newspaper "chose" not to run a particular letter because it said one thing or another.

Here, at the start of 2020, is a good time to reiterate that this is simply never the case. We do not "pick and choose."

It is true that we decline to run the occasional letter — but

only because it does not meet any of the standards or requirements spelled out above: No signature or our inability to verify authorship, presence of malicious or erroneous material, or surpassing length.

Also, we strive to fact-check letters and apply an "editor's note" as needed. It is impossible to "catch everything," but if a statement or citation is known to us to be incorrect, incomplete, or out of context, we attempt to correct or add details as the situation dictates.

Just about any point of view is welcome, and no distinctions, yea or nay, are made based on the opinion itself — just how the writer expresses it. Nothing is eliminated based on topic or point of view, although the News reserves the right to select from similar letters on a given topic for space reasons; this dynamic will no doubt become a cogent reality in the coming Primary and General Election periods of the year 2020.

Yet, we also make an effort to provide extra space in those

times we have plenty of letters; in case of space restrictions, we choose a representative sampling from both sides of a given concern.

Further, we keep a careful list of who writes, and about what, for the annual Our Readers Write list. We bring it again to our readers, on this page, as a way of looking back on the opinion year 2019.

Cross-river and cross-aisle federal business development grants directed at Eagle Creek fire damage recovery

A bipartisan press release from federal legislators from Oregon and Washington:

Oregon's Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), and Representative Greg Walden (R-OR-5), recently announced that the 2020 spending bill passed by Congress will include \$2 million in new funding for rural business development grants, with priority given to National Scenic Areas that have been devastated by wildfires, such as the Columbia River Gorge.

This funding is intended to be used by entities such as the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District to create revolving loan funds to help support local Gorge businesses as they recover and grow following the Eagle Creek Fire.

"I've been fighting for a long time to help the Gorge get the economic development assistance that was supposed to come with the scenic area, and it's more important than ever after the Eagle Creek Fire," said Merkley, who serves on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, which directs federal spending. "Wildfire can be devastating for any small

business, but it's particularly devastating in areas like the Gorge, where the economy is interconnected with outdoor recreation. This assistance will make sure the small businesses that are the heart and soul of our local Gorge economies can come back stronger than ever."

"These resources are a must for the full recovery of the Gorge's businesses from the devastation of the Eagle Creek wildfire," Wyden said. "Many of these job-creating businesses play key roles in the Gorge's world-renowned recreation economy and I am gratified that our work to help them continue to grow has succeeded."

"The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is one of our most treasured natural areas in the Pacific Northwest, and I'm glad to see Congress allocate these funds to support economic development in the region and aid its continued recovery following the tragic Eagle Creek Fire," Murray said. "I'm thankful to my colleagues in Oregon for their work on this issue and their partnership throughout the years to bolster communities along both sides of the Columbia River Gorge,

and I won't stop pushing for stronger federal investments to continue moving these critical efforts forward."

"I was glad to work with Sen. Merkley and our colleagues across the river in Washington to fight for this remaining funding owed to our communities under the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act," Walden said. "As the area continues to recover from the effects of the Eagle Creek Fire, these funds are all the more important and I look forward to President Trump signing this legislation into law."

"I appreciate the hard work of our Senators, Representatives, and the advocacy from many of our community partners who understand the critical function this expanded access to capital plays in the ability for the Gorge economy to continue to thrive and prosper," said Amanda Hoey, executive director of the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District.

The 2020 spending bill has passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and has been signed into law by the president.



United States Forest Service photo

BIPARTISAN efforts yielded \$2 million in development grants that will be turned into a revolving loan fund for businesses affected by the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire in the west Gorge.