



# Hood River News



Kaleidoscope

## Hood River Mariachi

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## HRVHS senior prepares for FFA State Convention



Photo by Emily Fitzgerald

HRVHS senior Celilo Brun delivering her speech at a County Board of Commissioners meeting. She is looking for opportunities to practice her speech before the state convention later this month. **Related photos, page A8.**

By EMILY FITZGERALD  
News staff writer

When Celilo Brun first joined her local 4-H club in fourth grade, she didn't think it would have a big impact on her future.

That 4-H club led to her joining FFA in eighth grade. Since then, Brun has been showing animals and competing in various FFA Career Development Events (CDE) designed to help students develop skills that will help them in agricultural careers.

Now a senior at Hood River Valley High School, Brun is preparing for the FFA state convention, where she will compete in the Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event (LDE) and run for FFA state officer.

Brun plans to attend Eastern Wyoming College to study agricultural business, agricultural sciences or agricultural communications, and compete with the school's Livestock

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Photo by Kirby Neumann-REA

HOOD RIVER Middle School custodian Andy Guzman disinfects desks and other surfaces on Monday.

## Three Coronavirus cases confirmed in Oregon

### None reported in Hood River County

Three presumptive positive cases of novel coronavirus, COVID-19, have been confirmed in Oregon: Two in Washington County, and one in Umatilla County.

No cases have been reported in Hood River County. The Hood

River County Health Department has the following statement up on their website: "Hood River County Health Department in cooperation with State and Federal officials are closely monitoring the novel coronavirus outbreak," with links to a Center for Disease Control webpage and the John Hopkins University Coronavirus Tracker.

The first presumptive positive case in Oregon, an adult resident of Wash-

ington County, experienced symptoms of COVID-19 beginning Feb. 19, according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and was tested for the virus on Feb. 28. The case was not a person under monitoring or a person under investigation, said OHA in an official release. Because the person had neither a history of travel to a country where the virus was circulat-

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### MAY 19 PRIMARY

## Helfrich to run against Williams again for Dist. 52; DA will retire

By KIRBY NEUMANN-REA  
News editor

The May 19 Primary Election for Hood River County will see a former state legislator try again for his former seat, while District Attorney John Sewell's name won't be on the ballot for the first time in nearly three decades.



Jeff Helfrich  
Files for former seat

The county's longest-serving elected official announced Monday he's stepping down.

Former State Rep. Jeff Helfrich (R-Hood River) last week filed for State Representative to represent House District 52.

Helfrich held the office from December 2017 to January 2019, losing the seat to Anna Williams, who filed for re-election last fall.

March 10 is the final day to file for elected office. In addition to DA and Dist. 52, Hood River County Sheriff Matt English is up for re-election and is so far unopposed, and three positions are open on Hood River County Board of Commission.

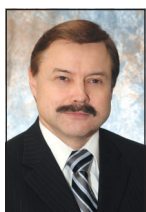
Board chair Mike Oates filed for re-election, as did Dist. 4 Commissioner Les Perkins, with no challengers filed at press time.

Dist. 2 Commissioner Rich McBride announced he won't seek re-election. Paul Henke and Arthur Babitz of Hood River have filed for that post.

### John Sewell will retire

Sewell delivered a statement to Hood River News' office Monday, announcing he will retire after serving for 28 years as DA for the county. He is the longest-serving elected official in the county.

"I will not be seeking re-election," Sewell stated. "I will be retiring at the end of my current term in January of 2021; the fact that I will retire then does not mean that I will stop working for the citizens of this coun-



John Sewell  
DA to retire

ty now."

One other person has filed to run for District Attorney: Three-year Hood River resident Sean Kallery, who is currently a deputy DA with Marion County.

"I firmly believe that an extremely important task for me now is to do all I can to ensure the smooth transition of my office at the end of this term," Sewell said. "As a first step in that process I encouraged Sean Kallery to run."

"I support Sean Kallery completely and I urge voters of this county to make him their next District Attorney," Sewell said.

### Dist. 52 race

Dist. 52 covers Hood River County and portions of Clackamas and Multnomah Counties.

Williams said in an email, "It is an honor to serve House District 52 and all our communities on and around the mountain. I'm thrilled to run for reelection

to keep working on the priorities of families in our district. Just like I did in 2018, I'll run a people-powered, grassroots campaign, focused on the issues. In my first term, I've been a very effective advocate for our community, from investing in public schools, protecting our clean air and water, and making sure every family has access to paid family and medical leave.

"I love our rural way of life, and I have appreciated the opportunity to be one of the few rural voices at the table in the Democratic caucus. I believe that, working together, we have the power to improve services in rural areas and focus on our state's and our district's biggest challenges.

"I will not be seeking re-election," Sewell stated. "I will be retiring at the end of my current term in January of 2021; the fact that I will retire then does not mean that I will stop working for the citizens of this coun-

"My policy priorities for next session include continuing to invest in education, especially when it comes to high-quality early childhood education, community college funding, and affordable childcare across the state. I will also push for affordable housing in rural and unincorporated communities, preventing child abuse, providing access to affordable healthcare and prescription drugs, and continuing my efforts to fund search and rescue operations on and around the mountain.

Helfrich had this to say upon his filing:

"It's been tough sitting back and watching Kate Brown and Anna Williams take our state in the wrong direction," said Helfrich.

"The supermajority in Salem is not listening to hardworking Oregon families. Instead, they are prioritizing higher taxes and reckless spending. I'm running to stand up to Kate Brown and the big spenders in Salem and give the citizens of HD52 a voice in Salem."

Prior to serving in the Legislature, Helfrich was a law enforcement officer for 25 years. He retired as a Portland Police Sergeant in 2017 and then worked as a Deputy Sheriff for Multnomah County. Helfrich was a Cascade Locks City Councilor from 2011-2015.

"For my whole career, I've worked to protect and give back to my community as a veteran and a law enforcement officer," said Helfrich. "The Legislature and our community need a legislator who will listen and solve problems effectively."

As a freshman legislator, Helfrich passed both of the bills he introduced in the 2018 legislative session. House Bill (HB) 4152/Eagle Creek Fire Recovery: That brought resources to the community to better prepare for wildfires and HB 4044 creating a identifying effective educator recruitment, retention, mentoring and professional development strategies in Oregon.

## Hood River County Reads kicks off March 7

### Book distribution in Parkdale and CL on March 10

Visit the Hood River Library District throughout March and April to participate in the annual Hood River Reads program sponsored by the Friends of the Hood River Library.

Pick up a copy of the 2020 Hood River Reads selection, "The Highest Tide" by Jim Lynch, starting on Saturday, March 7 at 2 p.m. The annual kickoff will feature book distribution, art, a reading by Dick Withers and refreshments.

Patrons of the Cascade Locks and Parkdale Libraries can pick up books starting on March 10 at 3 p.m.

The library will host programs including a book club, a discussion on climate in the Gorge, a community tree planting and an art activity for families, among others. This year's program will culminate in a writing workshop and public presentation by Lynch.

Schedule is as follows:

■ Saturday, March 7, 2-3:30 p.m.; kick off the Hood River Library Reading Room. Book distribution, art, reading by Dick Withers, videos, refreshments.

■ Tuesday, March 10, 3-7 p.m.; kick off at the Parkdale and Cascade Locks library branches. Book distribution.

■ Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m.; Hood River Library Makerspace. For all ages: "Hood River's Giant Squid."

■ Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.; Hood River Library Meeting Room. "Powered by Science: from Rachel Carson to Greta Thunberg." Movie and discussion with Dr. Antonio Baptista.

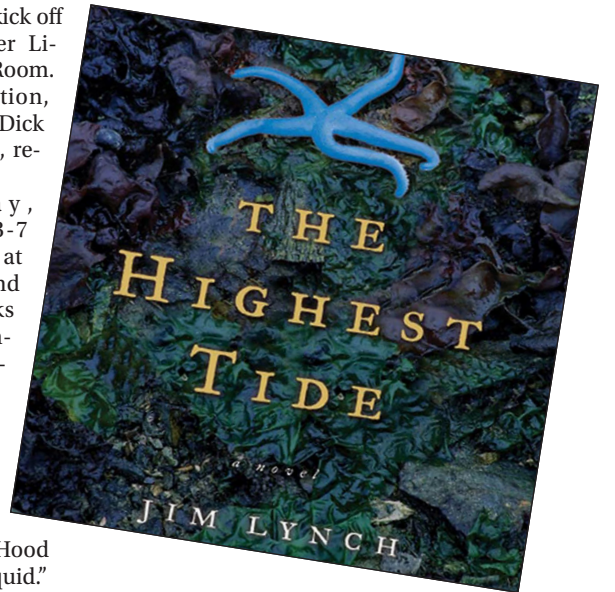
■ Thursday, April 2, 6:30-8 p.m.; Hood River Library Meeting Room. Hood River Library Book Club: "The Highest Tide."

■ Wednesday, April 4, 2 p.m.; Hood River Library Reading Room. "Warming of the Gorge and the Impact on Mountains, Mammals, and Humans," with Bill Weiler and Darryl Lloyd.

■ Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to noon; Barrett Park. For all ages: "Earth Month Tree Planting" with Bill Weiler. Bring shovel and gloves. For parking, see the library's website, hoodriverlibrary.org.

■ Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Hood River Library Meeting Room. Writing Workshop with author Jim Lynch. **Reservations start March 7.** Email info@hoodriverlibrary.org, call 541-386-2535 or visit the library to register.

■ Sunday, April 19, 2 p.m.; Hood River Library Reading Room. Public presentation by author Jim Lynch.



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"(Mariachi) honors a culture that is not as prominent in our community as it should be." — Brent Emmons, on Hood River Mariachi, B1

### BRIEFS

#### Cohousing open house

Adams Creek Cohousing hosts an information open house on March 7 from 3-4 p.m. at 1419 Sherman Ave. Kids welcome. RSVP to Friends@AdamsCreekCohousing.com.

#### HRSWCD board meets

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation hosts its next district board meeting on March 5 from 4-6 p.m. at OSU Extension. All are welcome. More at hoodriverwcd.org/meetings.

#### Survivors of Suicide

A new support group, Survivors of Suicide Loss, meets the second Tuesday of the month from at Columbia Gorge Community College, Hood River campus. See B4, Gatherings, for details.

