

OPINION

Our Weekend Edition Chronicle, News step up partnership

READERS OF THE HOOD River News and The Dalles Chronicle alike will have received this combined edition of their twice-weekly community newspaper with surprise. The Dalles and Hood River? Together? What is going on?

Why? We are working to survive as community newspapers during these troubled times.

Newspapers are a bellwether of the general economy — when the local economy suffers, newspapers quickly feel their pain. The same is true regionally and the nationally as well. The potential of a combined publication has been around for years, and we've long shared selected content between the Chronicle and the News, a reflection of the communities' shared concern for

issues and events all around the Mid-Columbia.

Now, this joint publication will draw on the strength of both papers and offer a unique service to residents of the Gorge.

The logistics were considered, and cooperation increased between staffs. Many of our special sections were combined.

And it was working. And along came COVID-19 and an instant recession. The bellwether went off, loudly.

Two weeks ago, as staff considered the possibility of quarantine and working from home, combining our weekend editions was one of the many ideas floated to cut costs in these challenging times. Last Thursday, even as local alerts and governmental directives

regarding COVID-19 flooded both newsrooms, a flood of advertisers were canceling their ads in upcoming editions, including this one.

By the time we went to press Monday with the midweek edition, we were in crisis.

On Tuesday, decisions were made that resulted in today's combined issue — hopefully the first of many.

It is, and isn't, your familiar newspaper.

Chronicle readers will see some of the biggest changes, foremost among them being the end of the comics page. From a business perspective, comics were doubly expensive: The monthly bill was significant, and an entire page was dedicated to them. Comics made sense when the Chronicle was a

daily, and they were popular among many readers. But they had been on the chopping block for years, and we regret the fall of the axe.

History Mystery will continue, but will run in the weekly edition — those editions will not be combined, but will continue to publish in our local communities.

For Hood River News readers, one of the biggest changes is that Kaleidoscope is on hiatus, for now. The long-read photo feature always found on B1 is something we will continue, though compressed and in varying locations. Happenings (What's Happening in the Chronicle) will resume as events resume, as will the Entertainment Update that both papers have shared for the last few years.

The readers of both papers will

see additional changes as well.

The weekend Opinion page of both papers will be combined, and editorial cartoon choices have been reduced, as have purchased guest columns. Many of the guides and directories we offer will be combined as well.

As the reader might imagine, creating a new publication in three days is something of a challenge — we will be revising today's result as we strive to survive, and serve, in our communities.

There are many unknowns in the days ahead and we hope we can continue.

— MARK GIBSON, EDITOR, THE DALLES CHRONICLE

— KIRBY NEUMANN-REA, EDITOR, HOOD RIVER NEWS

YOUR VOICE

'Do unto others'

Here is who we are, who I am — me, and every other human person we have ever known or heard of.

Studies (at the University of Virginia) show that when we, for example, cheat at a dice game or do something we would admit is wrong, even something "minor," it "hardens our hearts." That is, it makes us feel less sympathetic to other people — it serves to isolate us. We feel guilty, I guess, and socially withdraw, at least in this way; we've seen how dogs act similarly.

As this happens and influences how we feel and act towards others, they sense it, pick up on it and feel less kindness, less empathetic, toward us. So, I'm trying to imagine how much this effect might be stronger if I do something not so minor, like empty the shelf of hand sanitizer when the store does finally get some in.

There are other examples that others out there might call to our attention. Not one of the seven sins, "Hoarding," not by name, but ...

I'm trying hard to remember that what I do to others has a lasting effect on me. Boy, it sure is hard to live right. I need your help; we need each other's. The Lord's Prayer has us say, "Lead me not into temptation." I think it's because once tempted, when we drop our guard and just react, our goose is cooked.

Better to walk into the store with a plan that if the shelf is full, for instance, we will take some limited number.

Trying to stay on guard.

Bob Williams
Hood River

'Sorry, Chuck'

I voted for you based on your good reputation in our Hood River Valley as a positively contributing member of our region. Now I feel disappointed that you squandered that good reputation by choosing dereliction of your elected duty to our citizens. Choosing party politics over elected responsibilities has disqualified you to hold the office representing your constituents.

Our sacred democratic process means you should vote on issues, regardless of the outcome. You were elected to do that. I do not understand how you can live with your decision to walk out of your job, to the detriment of We Citizens and our democratic process. That same process would eventually correct, and mistakes made, as it has always proven to do.

Thank you for your service, when you actually performed it. You have lost my confidence and vote.

Russ Noe
Mount Hood

Half-truths

After following the daily briefings from the White House, I appreciate the direct, clear information from Dr. Anthony Fauci. He uses the latest data and facts that are known to him at the time of the briefing. I even appreciate Vice President

Pence for his calm reassuring description of what is trying to be done. What I cannot accept is Trump, who does not seem to take the data and known facts seriously, then goes off the teleprompter and gives his highly skewed interpretation of the real scientific data and facts. It scares me that in times of crisis, people look to the president for guidance and truths. We shouldn't be subjected to this president's interpretation of the facts. There should be a way to filter out Trump during the daily briefings so we won't be misinformed by his half-truths.

Ron Yamashita
Hood River

Care for each other

COVID-19 has been unleashed into our world and it will never be the same. As the virus plays out, it will affect our health and the health and life of people we love. But long after it has passed over, our social and economic systems themselves will be on life support, and most of us will need help beyond our own means alone.

But we are not powerless. We can shape new systems that work better because they are more fair, more inclusive, more welcoming of differences. We can insist that the adaptations our government makes to the structures in our society work for everyone, not just an elite few. Imagine structures that serve people, distributing the benefits of society more equitably vs. bailouts to corporate entities that entrench our inequality and make our world more dangerous. Imagine systems that make us all safer, by making sure that no one is left behind. This time, in which we all feel our vulnerability, can be an opportunity for awakening to the world we dream of. Pay attention now to the heroic goodness that is the essence of humanity.

It's in all of us, you know — the joy of caring so deeply for each other. What greater wealth could there be than to know that our fellow community members, our fellow Americans, our fellow humans — who are so deeply good, so dignified, despite our many failings — that each of our brothers and sisters are safe and well. May it be so.

Mark Thomas
Hood River

Thomsen is right

Inventing a phony "Emergency" to avoid letting the citizens of Oregon vote on an onerous tax scheme is the kind of Democracy Ms. Gehrig seems to find so appealing. I applaud Sen. Thomsen and his fellow senators' decision to fight this illegal tax using the only (democratic) option that remained. There is a reason our state constitution has a requirement for a quorum. If the democratic process is as important as she claims, then allow us the opportunity to vote.

Vince Ackerman
Hood River

EDITOR'S NOTE: This writer refers to Anne Gehrig's March 18 letter "Harmful inaction" regarding Sen. Chuck Thomsen joining the GOP walkout over the proposed cap and trade legislation. The writer refers to the climate emergency cited by Democrat proponents of the bill.

Poor leadership

The administration (President Trump) was informed by the intel community back in January that a pandemic could be coming and chose to not respond. As a result, there were no preparations made, no masks, no beds, no preparations of any kind. The Senate intel committee was informed and again, it was kept hidden from the American people — so much for government transparency. Two senators, Richard Burr and Kelly Loeffler, used this secret meeting to their advantage to sell millions of dollars' worth of stock, having gained insider knowledge that the rest of us had no access to. Markets have crashed and will probably continue to do so as the administration refuses to deal with the issues, both economic and the pandemic.

Ben Carson, who is secretary of Housing and Urban Development, is a medical doctor; he didn't see this coming? Why hasn't HUD done anything to get the homeless off the streets? They are the most vulnerable of populations as many have preexisting conditions, are exposed to the elements and don't have the money to access healthcare. So, Dr. Carson, what have you been doing all this time? Surely Dr. Carson would know that we need test kits, masks, gloves, and other medical equipment, where was he during the ensuing month and a half, the time difference from when the administration found out and the public was finally informed. As a nation, we need competent leadership during a crisis, and this isn't it.

Rob Brostoff
Cascade Locks

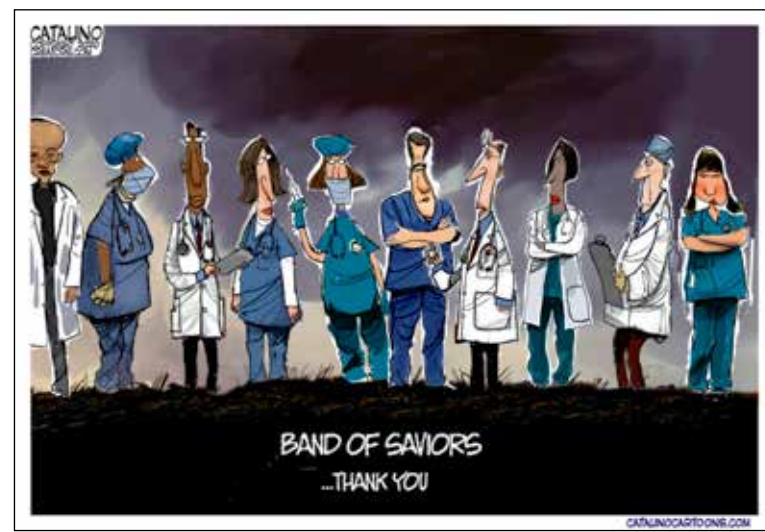
Canceled

On behalf of the Hood River Valley Leos club, I would like to inform the community that our monthly Bottles & Cans event, taking place on April 4, is canceled. This is due to the current situation surrounding COVID-19 and related closures/cancellations. However, we would greatly appreciate if you save your returnable bottles and cans and bring them to our next event on May 2 (barring further closures). May's Bottles & Cans will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and all proceeds will benefit the HRVHS Speech and Debate Team.

Jacob Kaplan
Hood River

Can't fool physics

Our country's delayed response to this crisis is another lesson on the limits of wishful thinking. We saw it coming and we wasted time denying the science of how it develops. Those countries who acted early are benefiting, but our Republicans and



federal executive branch simply denied the problem. What's unfolding now is a predictable, exponentially increasing progression of damage, requiring increasingly aggressive mitigation and adaptation. We're in damage-control mode, which will be far more costly in lives and money than if we hadn't been in denial.

Negotiating with laws of physics is clearly a waste of precious time and resources. You can fool people and politicians, but you can't fool physics.

Having lived the school of hard knocks in various corporate crises, I learned that every hour spent denying a problem is an hour you'll later wish you had. Hypothesis: The Universal Law of Messes states that the earlier you control or avoid any potential or evolving mess, the better the outcome and the less it will cost.

Oh yeah. I'm talking about the climate crisis. The COVID-19 crisis has the same lessons, viewable in fast-forward.

Eric Strid
White Salmon

Presidents

Harry Truman — The Buck stops here.

Donald Trump — It's not my fault.

'Nuff said.

Martin Bower
Hood River

Uninformed advice

As a former public health physician, I was not pleased to see the coronavirus "advice" given by A. Fields in his recent letter to the editor here. Mr. Fields likely does have some area of expertise from which he could advise the public. Public health (PH) is clearly not it.

May I respectfully urge all of us to leave advising about coronavirus to our designated PH experts — the OHA (Oregon Health Authority), the county PH department, and the CDC. CV-19 is indeed a serious infectious disease, now of pandemic proportions, that will challenge and possibly overwhelm our medical capabilities.

Many readers of this paper will recognize "advice" from non-experts like Mr. Fields for what it is — uninformed and worthy of no further attention. But others may not,

and may be led to put themselves and the rest of the community at greater risk by careless behaviors. No one wants the outcome from that.

Bonnie New
Hood River

Two crises

It is wonderful to see people coming together to get through the COVID-19 crisis. People are at their best when faced with a crisis that affects the whole community. We can't forget that we are in the midst of two crises. More epidemics are one of the expected results of the climate crisis. There are many others.

We can, and must, deal with both crises at the same time. Our economy has ground to a halt and will need to be rebuilt. If we bail out the fossil fuel companies and provide subsidies to the cruise ship industry and airlines, we will have used our financial resources (which aren't unlimited) to put ourselves in a worse position with the climate crisis. Instead we should be converting cruise ships to hospitals and subsidizing renewable energy to build an economy that will get us through the climate crisis. Subsidies must go to the people that need them to survive and new jobs created to build a new infrastructure.

The internet is a great tool for communicating with neighbors, friends and families while we are isolated or quarantined. We need to re-organize it so that we can talk to each other without being spied upon by companies to sell us things we don't need and politicians trying to convince us that lies are true.

Every crisis creates opportunities. Let's use this one to pull together and create the sustainable country we want to live in.

Roger Gadoway
White Salmon

'Flushed funding'

The office of Gov. Kate Brown reported that the recent walkout by Chuck Thomsen and other Republican legislators left \$3 million in funding for Hood River County on the table, abandoned. A small part of that was back-filled by Gov. Brown's executive order,

See **LETTERS**, page 5

<h3>The Dalles Hood River News • Chronicle</h3> <p>The Dalles Chronicle (ISSN 0747-3443) Published twice weekly every Wednesday and Saturday. Known office of publication: 811 E. 2nd St, The Dalles, OR 97058. Periodical postage is paid at The Dalles, Oregon. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE DALLES CHRONICLE, P.O. Box 1910, The Dalles, OR 97058 Printed at Eagle Web Press, Salem, OR.</p>		<h3>The Dalles CONTACT US</h3> <p>The Dalles 541-296-2141 F 541-298-1365 THE DALLES CHRONICLE.COM TDCHRON@THE DALLES CHRONICLE.COM</p> <p>Hood River 541-386-1234 HOODRIVERNEWS.COM HRNEWS@HOODRIVERNEWS.COM</p> <p>HOOD RIVER NEWS, INC. JOE PETCHOW, PRESIDENT</p> <p>Advertising GorgeSalesTeam@EagleNewspapers.com</p>		<h3>The Dalles The WEEKEND EDITION</h3> <p>Business Days.....Monday-Friday Chelsea Marr.....Publisher cmarr@hoodrivernews.com Mark Gibson.....The Dalles Editor mgibson@thedalleschronicle.com Kirby Neumann-Rea.....Hood River Editor hrnews@hoodrivernews.com Kelly Gallagher.....Classified Director kgallagher@eaglenewspapers.com Tanya Lindsey.....Circulation Manager tlindsey@thedalleschronicle.com Jody Thompson.....Advertising Manager jthompson@hoodrivernews.com Eagle Media Lab.....Design production@eaglemediablab.com</p>		<h3>The Dalles DEADLINES</h3> <p>Midweek News - Noon Fri. Weekend News - Noon Wed. Events for calendar, releases, letters, etc. Send email to tdchron@thedalleschronicle.com or hrnews@hoodrivernews.com</p> <p>Advertising - Midweek gorgesalesteam@eaglenewspapers.com</p> <p>Inserts.....10 Business Days Advance Display Ads.....9 a.m. Friday Classified Line Ads.....9 a.m. Monday Legals.....5 p.m. Friday Obituaries.....Noon, Monday</p> <p>Advertising - Weekend Inserts.....10 Business Days Advance Display Ads.....9 a.m. Wednesday Classified Line Ads.....9 a.m. Wednesday Legals.....5 p.m. Thursday Obituaries.....Noon, Thursday</p>	
<p>NOTICE: All original artwork, advertising copy, illustrations and photos prepared by The Dalles Chronicle and Hood River News are the property of The Dalles Chronicle and Hood River News and may not be reproduced for any other use without written prior approval. All material may be edited. Advertiser assumes full liability for advertising and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the publisher from all claims, suits and related costs arising by reason of any advertisement. Publisher reserves the right to edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time.</p>		<h3>The Dalles SUBSCRIPTION RATES</h3> <p>The Dalles 1 Year Print, Digital, E-Edition\$55 1 Year Outside Area, Print, Digital, E-edition.....\$63</p> <p>Hood River 1 Year Print.....\$45 1 Year Outside Area.....\$71</p>					