

ROOTS & Branches

'A time capsule that makes this community special'

By MAIJA YASUI

I knew from the break in his voice that the news was not good even before Kirby delivered the headline; the Hood River News was no more.

This was not a surprise. The signs of its demise were incontrovertible. Over the last two generations, readers had become proficient techies, demanding information in soundbites, within seconds of

when the story was breaking. They accessed their news on their watch, phone, or computer. Like the Wicked Witch of the West, the newspaper began shrinking, less subscribers, fewer pages, diminished staff. And in an instant, it was gone. I have been writing for the local newspaper since 1992. First as a guest writer, then as the Odell correspondent and for the last 20 years as a columnist under the byline Roots and Branches. I was given the opportunity to write, not as a traditional reporter, but with the freedom to share my personal perspective as a Hood River native. What

a gift! I shared the history of our family, our neighborhood, our community. I was blessed with the power of the press to move people, emotionally, spiritually, factually. I am most indebted to Kirby for being encouraged to mobilize the community around social justice issues, reinforcing the values of the people who came before us and those who will come after. I mourn the loss of the focus on our youth. The academic, scientific, athletic, artistic and performing accolades that covered page after page of our local newspaper. It has been one of the most significant components of our youth's

success. As grandparents, we post pictures and boast of our children's virtues and accomplishments on Facebook or Instagram. But when the sports-writer, reporter or columnist writes an article, the boasting becomes newsworthy. The Hood River News covered the robotics teams, the pitcher's perfect game, the FFA Champion steer, speech and debate. These youth inspire us by with their talent and service. They push us to do more, give more, care more. Our spirits soar when they fill the food or blood bank, take on hard issues like immigration, racism, gun and climate control.

I mourn the loss of the historical significance that the local news provides. It is a time capsule of what makes this community such a special place to visit, live and raise our families. It provides a record of what issues we are addressing at any given time, and documents the change. It provides a forum through Letters to the Editor to address social justice and political issues, or day to day concerns. Finally, I mourn the loss of enthusiasm I have always heard in Kirby's voice when I submit a column for publication. That break in his voice tore a hole in my heart.

CASCADE Observations

Keep close in stories

By PEGGY DILLS KELTER

Nearly 20 years ago, my dear friend Mary Schlick, known throughout the Hood River Valley and beyond for her skills as a fibers artist, teacher and writer, asked me if I would like to share in the duties of writing a regular column for the Hood River News. For years, Mary had written weekly columns for this paper; her delightful pieces covered everything from stories of the Warm Springs Reservation to her quest in search of the best cinnamon roll in the country. Initially, my monthly column centered on books and my job at Waucoma Bookstore, but soon, "Words Worth Reading" morphed into "Cascade Observations." My editor, Kirby Neumann-Rea, allowed and encouraged me to write about

anything that struck me as interesting or important. His only requirements — 800 to 1,000 words, to be published every second Tuesday of the month. "Write about what you know" has been my subject matter. I've shared with readers the momentous — my breast

cancer journey; dinner with Julia Child; and the mundane — cleaning the basement. In October 2001, I wrote "When the world stops making sense, start canning tomatoes. Or pick plums. Dehydrate pears. Pull up some beets. Rejoice in the cooperative effort of farmer and earth to bring us, year after year, the bounty of harvest ... The weekend after Sept. 11 I plucked pounds of gorgeous tomatoes from my husband's vines, and used the alchemy of cooking to turn them into delicious tomato sauce ... Making the sauce seemed like an affirmation of life. Storing food

away for the future implies that a future will exist." Kirby called me yesterday to share the heart wrenching news about the demise of the Hood River News. I had already been weeping buckets of tears about the pandemic. More tears fell after receiving his message. I called Kirby back to ask if I could write something for this final issue. As always, he was encouraging. Mary Schlick passed away on March 17 of this year; she was 94 years old. She was an extraordinary storyteller who not only wrote for many publications, but also

published a memoir, for which she received many accolades. In March 2000, I wrote my first column about storytelling, and over time I've frequently returned to the subject of stories and the importance of sharing them with each other. And now I grieve. There won't be any more stories

coming from Mary, or from the Hood River News. Thanks to all who have enjoyed my stories and responded to them with cards in the mail, telephone messages and chats in the grocery store. Today, we may have to stand 6-feet away from each other, but sharing stories can keep us close.

HOOD RIVER NEWS (ISSN 07465823) is published twice weekly, every Wednesday and Saturday. Subscription rates: \$45 per year prepaid (\$39 for senior citizens, 65 and over) in Hood River County and western Wasco County, Oregon; and Klickitat and Skamania counties, Washington. Elsewhere, \$71 prepaid per year. Known office of publication, 419 State Ave., Hood River, OR 97031-2031. Periodicals postage paid at Hood River, Oregon. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOOD RIVER NEWS, P.O. Box 390, Hood River, OR 97031-0103.

Gourmet takeout available during crisis

Crab cakes, grilled goat cheese and roasted garlic, buffalo prawns, organic green salad, Caesar salad.

ENTREES:
ricotta and mushroom ravioli, pork scallopini with lemon butter, blackened sirloin, filet mignon, scampi, spaghetti and meatballs, & seared ahi tuna.

Ask about desserts & specials!
Available Tues-Sun 5-7pm
Designated safe pickup area - no human contact.

Stonehedge Gardens
3405 WINE COUNTRY AVENUE HOOD RIVER 541-386-3940

MARGIE'S POT SHOP is open

We are asking customers to use social distancing in the store and in the parking lot. We only have 3 people in the store at a time, one at each counter.

We also have curbside delivery and we can bring your purchase to the car. You can call the store 509-493-0441 to make an order, or you can see what we have by going to Leafly.com or margiespot.com.

Bring cash, or we have an ATM in Binge-mart and in Margie's. There is a 2.50 charge from our machine for the ATM.

Find us on: Margie Lemberger
405 E. Steuben St, Bingen, WA
509-493-0441 margiespot.com

Our products have intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of these products. For use by adults 21 and older. Keep out of reach of children. Always enjoy responsibly.

SUDOKU

This week's Sudoku is presented by:

Your Business Name

1	2		3	4			
	5		2	3			
			6	7		8	
			3	8	9		1
	9		5	1		3	
2		1	6	7			
3		4		5			
		7		9		8	
		9	3			2	6

Fill in all 81 squares on the puzzle with numbers 1 to 9. You can use each number 1-9 only once in each nine square section, in each horizontal line of nine squares, and in each vertical column of nine squares. The puzzle is completed when you correctly fill every square.

TOYOTA

We're here for you.

Get a 90-Day Deferred First Payment on every new Toyota vehicle, now through May 4.

ToyotaCare **BuyAToyota.com** See Your Local Toyota Dealer **TOYOTA Financial Services**

Prototypes shown with options. Extra-cost color shown. *ToyotaCare Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25,000 miles, whichever comes first. Offer valid on all new/Toyota Certified Used and untitled Toyota vehicles including dealer demonstrators with 20,000 miles or less financed through Toyota Financial Services (TFS). Used non-Certified Toyota vehicles are not eligible. Payments deferred for 90 days from date of purchase. Offer available on contracts up to 72 months and is available only through TFS to qualified buyers. Interest accrues at time of inception. Restrictions apply. For approved Tier 1+ through Tier 3 credit customers on special (subvented) deals. Must be approved for financing through TFS on any new Toyota or Toyota Certified Used vehicle. Does not include applicable sales tax, license or title fees. Negotiable document fee up to \$150 may be added to the capitalized cost. No security deposit required. Offer excludes leases. Offers may vary by region. See participating dealer for details. Offer ends 05/04/2020.