

## Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

### Don't cripple Oregon's food production

To the Editor:

Ballot Measure 38 isn't just about clean streams and the environment. The use of the term "polluted waters" in the ballot title is most misleading. A major factor in listing over 900 Oregon waterways as polluted was water temperature, rather than actual pollutants in these streams.

If this measure passes, fencing of Oregon waterways would not be the solution to enhancing the environment and improving water quality to benefit fish, wildlife and humans. Nor would it lower water temperatures of the shallow, slow-moving streams when air temperatures soar into the 90 degree range.

At present, riparian restoration is being planned and implemented on both public and private lands. Passage of Ballot Measure 38 would disrupt these projects because funds presently budgeted for these well-planned activities would

have to be diverted for expensive and needless fencing that would cost upwards of \$5,000 per mile. Fencing both sides of a stream would double this cost to \$10,000 per mile.

This measure would add to our already over-burdened justice system because of threatened lawsuits and cause severe animosity between rural and urban residents. Because of the threat of litigation as provided by Ballot Measure 38, rural landowners would be most reluctant to allow access for public recreation such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and other forms of outdoor activity now enjoyed on private lands.

Vote no on Ballot Measure 38 and don't cripple a vast segment of Oregon's food production. Agriculture is still a major segment of Oregon's economy.

(s) Raymond French  
Morrow County Commissioner  
Heppner

### Don McElligott endorses Wenholz

To the Editor:

In some ways, I regret leaving the position of your county commissioner this coming December. There is always some business or projects to be initiated that I would like to accomplish but after 75, one is forced to realize that a younger person can pursue them with a lot more energy.

For that reason, I am endorsing John Wenholz for the position of county commissioner. John has been an independent small businessman in this county, except for a few years with Freightliner Corp., for over 20 years. I have visited with his old business associates and acquaintances from all around the county and they all say that he is an honest, fair and very civic-minded person.

From the conversations that I've had with John, I believe that he is a fiscal conservative with a deep interest in all Mor-

row County, both north and south. I also am convinced that he is his own man and will decide the issues on their merits and not be influenced by simply emotional or regional appeals.

I was surprised that Jerry Peck filed at the last possible date. Jerry is a friend and I'm happy that he is planning to return to the county. My only problem with his candidacy is that he has been living and working in Oregon City for the last four years and I feel that he may be out of touch with the current issues. At best, he only has a few weeks to inform himself, seek solutions and submit them to the voters. Although Jerry and I had worked together for a number of years, I feel that John is a better candidate at this time.

(s) Don McElligott  
Ione

### Wenholz has the qualities needed

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our support for John Wenholz as a Morrow County Commissioner. Through the years we have known John, we have observed him to be a man who gives generously of his time and materials with no thought of being reimbursed. He built a concession stand that for years served as a Little League booth for selling snacks at their games; the concession stand is currently in use at Riverside High School.

John spearheaded the volunteer group that was responsible for developing the athletic fields at Columbia Junior High, starting from scratch. The men plowed the land, graded it and developed softball, football and baseball fields, as well as track. Their labors included a back-drop at the baseball field and some work on playground

equipment at A.C. Houghton School.

The Wenholz' cotton candy machine is used by various schools and other groups, including Watermelon Festival.

Speaking of the Irrigon Watermelon Festival, John helps us immensely in using his trucks to move our vans, unload our float and in supplying flatbed trailers for our performance stage. He won't even let us pay him for his expenses.

A lot of people are unaware of these contributions to the community. That is because John doesn't do these things for recognition.

We believe John Wenholz has the qualities to become an excellent county commissioner; he will be fair to all areas of the county and we encourage you to give him your vote.

Sincerely,  
(s) Al and LaVelle Partlow  
Irrigon

### Wenholz stands up for people

To the Editor:

I have only known John Wenholz for a short time, six to eight months, even though he has been a part of our community for years. I have talked with John many times and have seen him first-hand stand up for other people in our community, not for personal gain, but just because it was the right thing to do. This makes me think John really cares about

our county and the people in it.

John will be getting my vote in November and I would like to encourage my friends and those of you that would like to see a man who will watch out and stand up for the people in Morrow County, to vote for John Wenholz, county commissioner.

Sincerely,  
(s) Rod Osgood  
Irrigon

### Wenholz lives in county

To the Editor:

Since he decided not to run for re-election four years ago, Jerry Peck has sold his house in Boardman and taken up employment in the Portland area. I guess that if he's elected county commissioner, he'll quit that

job and move back to Boardman, but I'm not sure.

John Wenholz already lives in Morrow County. I think we should elect him as our next county commissioner.

(s) Joe Tatone  
Boardman

### Base decision on facts, not scuttle

To the Editor:

When I read Jim Kinzer's letter regarding Margo Sherer running for re-election as Morrow County Treasurer, I felt I had to respond.

I grew up in Morrow County-watched my dad, Doc Sherer, give 40 years of service to the county-and, after 30 years of state government service, plan to return next year to live on land we own in Morrow County.

I have a vested interest in the best for Morrow County, so I called Jim and asked him why he wrote the letter. He was very open with me and said that after he visited in Ione and some friends told him about the "scuttle" going around, he just did not understand why Margo would run for re-election. Based on what Jim's friends told him, I understand why he feels the way he does.

### Clarification

To the Editor:

In last week's letter, I would like to make it clear my statement was a personal feeling and not that of my Soroptimist club. I had no intention of en-

It's just unfortunate that he wrote the letter based on "scuttle" from a small group since he has no access to the facts. Margo has served 16 years as county treasurer and should be judged on how she has done the job and her plans for the future. Her years of successful investments and future plans for the county investment policy and review committee should be compared to her opponent's experience and plans for the county. The pending legal suit that Jim referred to has nothing to do with her job as treasurer and she has continued to work successfully with the county court.

I encourage Morrow County citizens to vote for the best candidate for treasurer, Margo Sherer, based on facts, not rumors and "scuttle."

(s) Judy (Sherer) Ripka  
Dallas, OR

dorsing the candidate in my club's name as some thought I did. I just should not have signed my name as Soroptimist president.

(s) Judie Laughlin  
Heppner

### Ridgway for judge

To the Editor:

This November we will have an opportunity to select a man who has a proven record of caring and competent service for our community. Bob Ridgway will be a strong circuit court judge and will provide the same firm, consistent service for our area that he has given to our community for the past 10 years as Pendleton's municipal court judge.

Bob Ridgway has a proven record of service that indicates concern for the elements necessary for a strong community. Bob's long service on the Pendleton School Board, support of the Impact Panel Program and membership in the Morrow and Umatilla County Domestic Violence Council show an understanding of the vital needs of a community. At

the same time that Bob has worked to provide the support groups necessary for those who are willing and trying to change, he has taken a firm stance on crime and proven to be a judge who enforces the laws and follows up to make sure sentences are carried out. This firmness, coupled with the understanding that reform opportunities are the necessity of permanent solutions, makes Bob Ridgway an ideal choice for circuit court judge.

I encourage everyone to recognize the impact a judge has in their area and to then cast their vote for Bob Ridgway for circuit court judge. He is the candidate with more than campaign promises, but a long and strong record of service.

Sincerely,  
(s) Wayne Looney  
Pendleton

### Wenholz fair, honest

To the Editor:

I've had business dealings with John Wenholz. I found him very fair and honest. I think he would represent

both north and south Morrow County equally fair and honestly.

(s) Shirley Rugg  
Heppner

### Wenholz refreshing

To the Editor:

I have lived in Morrow County since 1974. I have known John Wenholz for the last 10 years. John has always been very unselfish with his time since I've known him.

The thing I like most about John is that you always know where he stands on an issue.

You may not agree with it, but at least you know what he thinks. Too many politicians try to agree with everybody and we all know that can't be done. It's refreshing to see someone like John because you don't have to guess what he really thinks about something.

(s) Steve Doherty  
Boardman

### Wenholz lives, works, pays taxes in county

To the Editor:

John Wenholz lives in Morrow County, he makes his living in Morrow County, and he pays property taxes in Morrow County. John is the only one of the candidates running for the position of Morrow County Commissioner that can make these three claims.

John has the ability to do a great job as our next commissioner. John does not want to

be a career politician, but instead wants to give something back to Morrow County. I have known John since 1982, and believe that he can bring a common sense approach to county government. Please join me in supporting John Wenholz for Morrow County Commissioner.

Sincerely,  
(s) Don Russell  
Boardman

### Measure 32 would help Morrow Co.

To the Editor:

The Roads and Lightrail Measure 32: what will it do for Heppner and Morrow County?

Measure 32 will establish a Transportation Equity Account of \$375 million payable to Oregon cities and counties for transportation projects outside the Portland region. These funds come from lottery bonds and other sources.

Local communities would set their own funding priorities. The money could be used for

such things as road and street repairs and new construction. There would also be money for local bridges and special transportation service for elderly and disabled citizens.

It also permits the state to fund \$375 million of the state's share of cost to build Tri-Met North-South light rail. Gordon Smith backs this vital measure. This measure would help Morrow County and Heppner. We urge you to vote yes.

(s) Bob & Suzanne Jepsen  
Heppner

### Wenholz will represent all

To the Editor:

Please join us in voting for John Wenholz of Irrigon for Morrow County Commissioner. We believe that he will be

a strong and fair representative for all of Morrow County.

Sincerely,  
(s) Mike and Kay Proctor  
Heppner

### End divisiveness

To the Editor:

In recent days I have heard from a number of people in the Oregon 2nd Congressional District that a movement exists to write-in Congressman Wes Cooley for Congress.

It seems to me that Republicans should end their divisiveness and follow the lead of the Republican party hierarchy and vote for candidates of the par-

ty's choice even though Congressman Cooley always supported and voted for the interests of Eastern and Southern Oregonians.

Please give serious consideration to the wisdom of our party's guidance.

Sincerely,  
(s) Bernie Wertgen  
Hood River

### Vote Republican

To the Editor:

With the massive amount of news to digest it is easy to be confused about how to vote. This is a time when your vote will influence the direction our country takes.

President Bill Clinton-appointed judges reflect leftist and elitist agenda. Bob Dole appointments will reflect individual freedom and rule by the people.

The right to own and use property, limit government, and maintain accountability through elections are reasons to vote Republican.

Expanded government favors income distribution, higher taxes and expanded entitle-

ments which reduce individual responsibility. Government special interest programs are separating Americans and encouraging anti-American multiculturalism.

Limited government requires tax cuts which result in more take-home pay, more individual responsibility and reduces transfer of money from private sector to public sector.

How best to achieve these better goals: elect Republican candidates for office.

Vote yes on ballot measures 27, 29, 32, and 34. No, on all the others.

Sincerely,  
(s) Don Peterson  
Ione

### Rauch endorses Jerry Peck

To the Editor:

Morrow County voters are fortunate this year again, by having an excellent slate of candidates for county commissioner. I would like to put in a plug for the independent, Jerry Peck, who has been both a wage earner and a small businessman in the county.

I served five years with him on the county school board and know he was always as concerned about the student from Hardman or Butter Creek as he was about the student who lived inside a city.

He has had experience as a councilman and mayor of Boardman and knows and understands city problems.

For the six years I was on the county commission with him I was impressed by his thoroughness. Jerry carried past court minutes home to study

them. Whenever he had to attend a meeting in Salem, Portland, Roseburg or wherever, and there were many, Jerry prepared extensively, by acquainting himself with the issues and the people that were supposed to be present. He would know who they were and where they were from.

An especial asset is his background with Association of Oregon Counties, having served on the board and is a past president.

He is acquainted with the workings of Salem and has served on several other quasi-governmental organizations such as GEODC, Oregon Consortium, CECEP and others.

A vote for Jerry is like choosing a harness-broke horse over a colt.

(s) Irv Rauch  
Lexington

### Ridgway has patience, work ethic

To the Editor:

As a former elementary administrator with the Pendleton School District, is was my privilege to serve on various committees with Bob Ridgway. Bob was one of the first lay persons to recognize the need for upgrading our antiquated junior high facilities. He was among the first to take action and his dedication resulted in the building of the modern facility recently renamed Sun-

ridge Middle School.

Bob's years of service on the school board were characterized by a willingness to listen, patience in dealing with volatile issues and a work ethic which always found him well-prepared. These skills, along with his background in law, qualify him as an ideal candidate for the position of circuit court judge. I encourage you to join me in voting for Bob Ridgway.

(s) Val Bates  
Pendleton

### Sherer is a professional

To the Editor:

I encourage the voters of Morrow County to re-elect Margo Sherer as Morrow County Treasurer.

Margo manages 30 county funds, 60 trust and agency funds and is responsible for a four to seven million dollar investment portfolio, all under Oregon statutes.

She works with the Morrow County Transportation for the elderly and the disabled and applies for the state grant money that operates the program. She is professional, efficient and honest. She has 16 years experience, education and training in this job.

(s) Jan Stroeber  
Heppner

### Campbell knows rural problems

To the Editor:

I have been a lifelong Republican, but I feel I know a good Democrat when I see one. I have known Kevin Campbell for many years, including years ago when he operated the little Kimberly store, plus working with him as Grant County Judge.

I feel that Kevin knows the problems we have in rural Eastern Oregon and will make good decisions with small business problems in mind. As a member of a prominent far-

ming family in Gilliam, Wheeler and Grant counties, Kevin knows or will get the information needed to make a decision for the good and betterment of our farming communities. His family are all farmers, and good ones at that, and Kevin will use their knowledge and expertise.

I hope that my fellow Republicans will join me in supporting a good conservative native Eastern Oregonian, Kevin Campbell, for state senator.

(s) H.C. "Herb" Wright  
owner, Wright's Chevrolet  
Fossil

### Vote Smith and Smith

To the Editor:

In my opinion, the voters of the Second Congressional District and the State of Oregon have an opportunity to have the finest representation that I have seen in the 30 years that I have lived in Oregon. How?

We need to vote for "Smith and Smith;" Gordon Smith for the Senate and Bob Smith for Representative of District Two. Please give this some thought as you go to vote.

(s) Don Davidson  
La Grande