

## 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.

### Wants questions answered

To the Editor:

I would like questions answered regarding the lawsuit that Margo Sherer filed against Morrow County:

1) Exactly why did the county dismiss Margo from the position of tax collector? I am positive that our county commissioners do not make their decisions based on "scuttle." Seems to me that there has to be a substantial reason(s) for the dismissal. Could the court's decision have anything to do with several mental stress suits filed against the county by county employees working under Margo? I would really be interested in the answer to this question.

2) Why did Margo sue Morrow County Court? (Which, by the way, does affect every taxpayer citizen in the county.) The court did not reduce Margo's salary after her dismissal. Now tell me, would you complain if you were being paid to do a job that you were not even performing? Would your employer continue to pay you for work that you do not do? I do not think many employers would. Think about it, taxpayers. They are doing this

with your money.

3) How much did this lawsuit cost the taxpayers in the way of court costs, lawyer fees, time off the job to attend court hearings? That cost would be interesting to know. Taxpayer money, folks. I understand the lawsuit did not even stand up in the court system. Apparently the lawsuit did not have a leg to stand on. Should we vote for someone who is willing to waste our precious tax dollars on a farce?

All county proceedings are subject to public knowledge. Minutes of the county court meetings can be requested and any information concerning the finances of this county. I urge all interested citizens to call the courthouse, or visit, and request this information.

One last question: As taxpayers in Morrow County, do we really want a treasurer who has the potential to do more harm than good? Not me. Especially if there is another candidate that is well-qualified and has the ability to cooperate with all officials and employees of our county. My vote will definitely go to Gayle Gutierrez.

(s) Arlynda Gates  
lone

### Kevin Campbell worthy of support

To the Editor:

State Senate candidate Kevin Campbell is worthy of the support of everyone in this area. The Campbells immigrated from Ireland to this region a century ago, and Kevin has continued their commitment to ranching as well as public service. Kevin's opponent, on the other hand, just moved to the district from the Eugene area two years ago.

Kevin has broad experience, ranging from soil and water boards to school boards, from Grant County Judge to president of the Association of Oregon Counties. Kevin is in touch with this district and its people, and will be a strong voice for Morrow County in Salem.

Don't forget to go to the polls on Nov. 5 and vote for our neighbor and supporter, Kevin Campbell, for state senate.

(s) Dustin Cossitt  
Heppner

### Wenholz will help pull load

To the Editor:

I believe John Wenholz to be an excellent candidate for county commissioner. Wenholz chose to reside in Morrow County because he enjoys the lifestyle here.

Wenholz has been involved in numerous community activities and served on various school and county committees. He has been successful as an independent businessman and in a corporate position as well.

Wenholz is in a position to spend the time and energy needed to serve our county.

In response to Irv Rauch's letter on 10/23/96: it's better to start a colt while you still have a couple well-trained horses around. Please vote Wenholz for county commissioner; he has worked in a harness before and will help pull the load for Morrow County.

Sincerely,  
(s) Daniel R. Van Schoiack  
Heppner

### OEA buying seats?

To the Editor:

It's incredible how the OEA is throwing its money around this election season. With \$47,000 for Democrat Bob Pickard in the House District 55 race and \$72,000 for Democrat Kevin Campbell in the Senate District 28 race, OEA certainly appears to be buying seats.

The Senate District 28 race is particularly interesting. Campbell, with \$10,000, was behind Ferrioli's \$24,000 of contributions. Was this due to a lack of support in the district for Campbell or part of a plan

where Campbell knew a cash infusion was coming? You decide.

Also, in reaction to OEA's announcement, Campbell thanked the state's teachers for their support. Honestly, Kevin, do you think the state's teachers have a clue where the OEA dollars are going? It's no wonder the residents of Oregon want campaign reform when shenanigans like this occur.

Sincerely,  
(s) Chuck Burley  
Bend

### Create scenic recreation area

To the Editor:

I have, in the past, been critical of the Forest Service-the supervisors, administrators and district rangers-in their practice of coddling the timber industry.

It has seemed as though the USFS had forgotten that the forest is public property and individuals did have the right to use it for recreation-e.g., hunting, fishing, camping, trail riding and to just plain sit and enjoy the solitude.

Now, they have done something I really approve of. The road to Thompson Flat and Potamus Point has been improved. They have built a circle turnout with an interpretive display at the overlook into

Potamus Creek Canyon, which is 2000' below. It is a beautiful, awesome view of the canyon anytime of the year.

The area could be improved by extending the road on out to the very point overlooking the Devil's Backbone and the John Day River below, and the scenic area to the south and west.

I think it would be a great idea to make the lower Potamus Canyon complex including the lower Little Potamus and Gilbert canyons into scenic and recreation areas. If this area had been in California, Colorado or Utah, it would have been made into some sort of a protected area many years ago as a great tourist attraction.

(s) Barbara Gilbert  
Heppner

### Wenholz best for county

After careful consideration of the candidates for Morrow County Commissioner, I have reached the conclusion that the best man for all of Morrow County is John Wenholz. I believe that John has the vision for the whole county and the

understanding of county-wide needs.

I am voting for John Wenholz and urge you to vote for John also.

Sincerely,  
(s) Cliff Green  
Heppner

### Support Gutierrez

To the Editor:

With the general election only a week away, we hope Morrow County voters will consider and support Gayle Gutierrez for Morrow County Treasurer.

Gayle has shown commitment, honesty and cooperation in all her endeavors. She tackles all of her endeavors with a commitment to get the job done. She has gained the respect of her co-workers and county officials because of this

commitment. It is also an interesting note that in the primary, the precinct that probably knew the three candidates the best chose Gayle by over 60 percent. That means that the other two candidates split less than 40 percent of the lone vote. We believe they know something.

Please join in voting for the new Morrow County Treasurer, Gayle Gutierrez.

(s) Ron Bowman  
Cathie Pointer  
Mark Pointer

### Everyone to defeat 38

To the Editor:

If we're truly going to defeat Measure 38 in the next few days, we need every farmer, rancher, livestock owner and anyone else who values our rural Oregonian lifestyle to call (or write) all of their friends and relatives in the urban areas today. Appeal to them not to let a bunch of radicals decide the future of farmers and ranchers and the largely agricultural economy of our state. Let them know they will be affected.

If 100 people in each county make 10 phone calls to friends and relative in Portland and the

Willamette Valley and change 10 "yes" votes to 10 "no" votes, that could swing thousands of votes. "Don't Fence Oregon" is still targeting blocks of voters with effective direct mail pieces. For every \$1 raised, that's four more direct mailings to targeted voters. Your contributions can still make a difference, so if you have not yet contributed, call one of our county coordinators at 676-5106, 676-9823 or 676-5319.

(s) Pam Wunderlich  
Morrow County "Don't Fence Oregon" Committee  
Heppner

### Measure 38 a dangerous process

To the Editor:

As a family physician who opposes Measure 38, I was surprised to find an argument in favor of that measure entitled "Family Doctors Support Measure 38..." in my Voter's Pamphlet.

When I looked up the doctors who signed that argument in my American Board of Family Practice Directory, I found that only one of the six was listed.

It is bothersome that six physicians would misrepresent themselves as speaking for family doctors, when most of them are not certified in that specialty. It is, however, in keeping with Measure 38 itself, which misrepresents itself as being for clean water, when it is in fact against ranching.

The basic premise of the measure, that cattle are necessarily bad for stream quality, is faulty. One need only look at the fall issue of Range magazine to find examples, in Oregon, of cattle being used to restore riparian areas.

Also faulty is the measure's focus on cattle and exclusion of other known sources of stream contamination. The proponents of Measure 38 discuss cattle as a source of Giardia, but leave out that this organism is commonly called "beaver fever," which suggests another source.

Portland has a sewer system that combines sewage and rain runoff and dumps the mix, untreated, into the Willamette River when overloaded. The worst case of illness from drinking surface water that I have cared for, was in someone who fell into the Willamette and got a few mouthfuls of that river's water.

Measure 38 does not address these or other sources of water pollution. It is not really for clean streams, just against

livestock.

The biggest reason to vote against Measure 38, however, has nothing to do with cows or water. All Oregonians should object to how the measure treats ranchers. Rather than promote a cooperative approach to water quality, the measure imposes a "zero tolerance" on one user group, while not requiring anything of the other user groups.

No one has asked the people of Portland to stop using their toilets, bathtubs and storm drains until their sewer system is fixed. It is no less unreasonable or disruptive to the lives of ranchers to demand that no livestock ever be allowed near a stream.

Even worse than the targeting of one group is the language of Measure 38 that encourages lawsuits against that group. The measure specifies that "Any person may commence a civil action..." and limits the ability of the court to award costs to the person being sued, even if they win the suit.

If this measure passes, the proliferation of lawsuits will not just affect the ranchers. Extra lawsuits will place additional demands on our legal system, which will affect all of us. Other measures may target other groups. Complicated issues such as water or air quality will become more difficult to solve cooperatively as lawsuits replace dialogue, and we will all suffer for that.

In sum, Measure 38 is a dangerous process, based on a faulty premise, focusing on only one aspect of a complicated issue. I urge all Oregonians to vote "no" on Measure 38.

Sincerely,  
(s) William M. Bitsas, MD  
Heppner

### Cast ballot for Wenholz

To the Editor:

I would like to encourage everyone in Morrow County to vote for John Wenholz for county commissioner. He is a long-time resident of our county and is familiar with our problems and how to address them.

I am glad we have someone that is successfully self-employed that has the time and the energy to take on this difficult job. We will find him to be fair, informed and to the point

when he gives his input to our county government. John has been very active in community affairs and really cares about the way Morrow County is administered.

I believe John will represent all the residents of the county with the same ability and honesty he has shown the last 20 years living in this county. Please vote for John when you cast your ballot.

(s) Gary Frederickson  
Boardman

### Campbell for state senator

To the Editor:

We write to urge your vote for Kevin Campbell, State Senator, District 28. Eastern Oregon has a tradition of electing superb state legislators. The recent loss of such state legislative leaders as Greg Walden, Ray Baum and Gordon Smith leave a big leadership gap in Salem. Kevin Campbell offers the leadership and experience to help maintain strong and effective representation in Salem for Eastern Oregon.

Kevin is known as a tireless public servant in Grant County and throughout Eastern Oregon. His experience as Grant County Judge for six years has made him aware of the problems faced by local governments and their citizens. His dedication to his community is indicated by the dozens of com-

missions on which he has served. As a third-generation eastern Oregonian, he is committed to the preservation of the Eastern Oregon lifestyle and its agriculture and forest economies.

Kevin strongly supports public education and has worked hard to bring economic development dollars to Grant County. He will do the same for District 28. He is familiar with the needs of senior citizens and ranchers. Their concerns will be priority with Kevin as state senator.

We know Kevin Campbell will make the type of strong and effective legislative leader that we in Eastern Oregon have come to expect in Salem. He is the best choice for District 28 Senator.

(s) Annetta L. Spicer  
(s) William J. Kuhn

### Sherer most qualified

To the Editor:

I would like to encourage the citizens of Morrow County to re-elect Margo Sherer as our county treasurer. Being a fellow employee of Morrow County for the past few years, I have had the occasion to work directly with Margo not only in the treasurer's office, but also on the Public Information Committee, which publishes the county newsletter. Margo is a thorough, conscientious, honest and skilled professional. She runs her office very responsibly and pays great attention to detail and accuracy, which is very important given that 18 million dollars passed through the treasurer's office last year alone.

Margo is constantly working to make Morrow County more prosperous and her dedication to the citizens, county departments and taxing districts is evidenced by her strides to offer convenient, efficient and accommodating service when conducting business with the treasurer's office. On a daily basis, accounts are updated and transactions posted as she makes every effort to have current and accurate data available immediately upon request.

### No one to blame but yourself

To the Editor:

The political process is very interesting. We often think because something is important to us, it is important to everyone. We also tend to believe everyone must know how we feel on different issues and they must agree with us or they are wrong. These are both dangerous traps to fall into.

First, let me say there are a few people working really hard in the local area for their issues. But for the most part, it appears that most people sit back and wait to see if someone else will promote their views. In this day and age, if something is

important to you or your industry, you can't wait for someone else to fight the battle. There is too much at stake. Everyone must get involved. Don't assume everyone knows about your issues. Talk to everyone you see to make sure they understand the entire issue. Many initiatives sound good on the surface, but once they learn "the rest of the story," it may be very different from what they first thought.

If your issues are defeated and you did nothing, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Sincerely,  
(s) Bill Broderick  
Hermiston

### Vote for Gutierrez

To the Editor:

I would like to address some concerns on re-electing Margo Sherer for Morrow County Treasurer. I do not think, at this point, it is a widely known fact that there was a lawsuit pending against the Morrow County Court, both as officials and individuals; also, an employee not on the court was named. The suit, I believe, was filed on behalf of Ms. Sherer by her attorney. This action was taken after the county court decided to separate the tax collector and the treasurer's office. My understanding is that at one time it was two offices. I believe that if one checked the records, it would show that there was no cut in pay, nor any in benefits. The only action taken was to split the two offices.

Why this lawsuit was filed is hard to determine. I personally cannot help but feel that it

directly affects not only the two offices involved in the separation, but, indirectly, the whole courthouse. It has created hard feelings and a lot of dissension between the employees working there. It also affects all people who are taxpayers in Morrow County. I unsuccessfully tried to find out the actual cost to the taxpayers in our county. Although as a property owner I don't want to pay more in taxes, I am more concerned with the effect this could potentially have on our county.

I personally do not see how one can bring suit against your colleagues and co-workers, and be a competent and efficient leader.

I, for one, feel that the people of Morrow County need to take a long, hard look at this situation and vote accordingly. Gayle Gutierrez works for me.

(s) Marie Boor  
lone

### Vote for Sherer

To the Editor:

For a treasurer, we need someone with knowledge and, above all, experience in making

investments for our county. We'd better re-elect Margo Sherer.

(s) Jane Rawlins  
Heppner