

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.

Reynolds for judge

To the Editor:
We are writing to urge you to vote for Garry Reynolds for Morrow-Umatilla Circuit Judge. Having practiced law in the two-county area for nearly 20 years each, we are familiar with the experience and ability of both judicial candidates. Both are fine, experienced attorneys, but Garry Reynolds has that special integrity and ability that makes him the better candidate for this very important position.
A circuit court judge makes decisions that have serious and sometimes lifelong impacts on the parties that appear before him. The judge must understand the condition of the parties, understand the law and apply it in an impartial manner. Garry Reynolds has an even temperament and a keen understanding of the law. These qualities make him a superior candidate for circuit judge.
Robert Ridgway wrote a let-

ter which appeared as a political advertisement in the Oct. 17, 1996, edition of the East Oregonian. The letter claims that Mr. Reynolds acted improperly by soliciting contributions from local attorneys. We are local attorneys and our help was not solicited from Garry Reynolds, we volunteered. We are sure the situation is the same with many other local attorneys who have overwhelming supported Garry Reynolds as the best judge choice in a recent Oregon State Barr Poll of local attorneys.
Participating in the democratic process is both a right and obligation of a citizen. We are confident that our support of Garry Reynolds will in no way affect his objectivity or impartiality towards any case or party in which we are involved if he is elected judge. Were it otherwise, we would not be supporting him.
(s) William J. Kuhn
(s) Annetta L. Spicer

Write in Lindsay

To the Editor:
When you vote on Nov. 5, I would like to encourage you to write-in Barney Lindsay for at-large director for the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Also, I encourage you to vote for Ken Grieb, James McElligott and Vernon

Frederickson, whose names are printed on the ballot.
Directors for the SWCD are elected by all votes of the county and have the responsibility to conserve, protect and provide for the sustained use of the natural resources of the county.
(s) Chris Rauch
Lexington

John Wenzholz straightforward

To the Editor:
I have lived in Boardman for 16 years and for the last eight years I've had the pleasure of knowing John Wenzholz through my job. John has always given me his honest answer on any position, not just what he thinks I want to hear. He hasn't tried to butter me up just to get me to vote for him, or to change my opinion of the other candidates.
John also asks questions so that he gets as many opinions on different views that he is concerned about. The one thing I know is that John is honest about his views and that type

of honesty is something that we need right now. Not someone who is telling everyone "yes" no matter which side of the fence they are standing on. With John Wenzholz, he'll tell you white is white and not try to convince you that it's black.
If we also learned that John is as concerned about our communities, and if we need something, John will step up and do his best to get it. John is a straightforward, community-minded person that will be a nice change to see in a public office.
Sincerely,
(s) Bill Ellis
Boardman

38 fooling voters

To the Editor:
Ballot Measure 38 is not about clean streams and riparian improvements. It is about fooling Oregon voters to believe it is, so extremists and their lawyers can take control of thousands of acres of stream-side property. Many acres of land will be locked up; income cannot be derived from those acres and property taxes will still be assessed. Not a good way for family farms to stay in business, but of course these extremists know this.
Let us share an example with you. On a 640 acre piece of private property that has a water quality limited stream (because of water temperature) running through it, only 240 acres would be eligible for grazing after three miles of fence were constructed. A meadow is on this property and the fence would have to be a 100 feet from the edge of the meadow. Even after the use of the land is taken and the money is spent on fencing and alternative water sources, Oregon has no guarantee that the stream's temperature will never exceed

DEQ water quality standards. Land and money could be lost for nothing.
Under this measure, anyone can sue property owners who may have an animal within 100 feet of a water quality limited stream. A lawsuit could be filed against you because your kid's horse, 4-H lamb, or your neighbor's llama hopped the fence. Only the person bringing the lawsuit can recover court costs and legal fees, except in rare cases.
Farmers and ranchers now work cooperatively with other groups and agencies to improve land and water conditions. Potential lawsuits and costs of regulation will interfere with these successful efforts.
Last week, one of the chief petitioners of Measure 38 was arrested and jailed for allegedly killing 11 of his neighbor's cattle. Do we want a possible felon writing our laws for Oregon? Don't follow his lead, support cooperation, not confrontation. Vote "no" on Measure 38.
(s) Mark Rietmann
(s) Tami Rietmann
Heppner

Wenzholz has sense

To the Editor:
John Wenzholz 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 Wenzholz for Morrow County Commissioner.
Sincerely,
(s) Don Russell
Boardman

McLaughlin supports Gordon Smith

To the Editor:
As a conservative Democrat and former Pendleton mayor, I am supporting and will vote for Gordon Smith. Gordon has always been involved in community affairs and one way I came to know him well was when he served on the city budget committee.
While he was Oregon Senate President, he worked with Governor Kitzhaber and other democrats and many times brought the two parties together to work on many problems in a non-partisan manner.
I often work with many senior citizens with their Medicare problems and agree with Gordon's support of and intention to protect Medicare and the Oregon Health Plan. Varenne, my wife, and I also agree with Gordon's view of public education.
We are lucky to live in Eastern Oregon where crime and violence are still not as prevalent as in metropolitan areas; however, Gordon has a 10-point anti-crime action plan,

and, as Senate President, knows the other problems and concerns of Oregonians throughout the state.
Senator Mark Hatfield has endorsed and is actively supporting Gordon Smith, and I believe Gordon will be a senator in the mold of Senator Hatfield.
We are fortunate to have a man from Eastern Oregon who is a responsible, honest and caring individual, who honors family, runs a successful business, providing employment to hundreds, and is willing to stand up and serve his state.
We often complain that good people are not running for elected office. We have an opportunity to vote for someone who has stated his position, his beliefs, has experience and is willing to serve.
We need an especially strong turnout of voters outside the metropolitan area, and I solicit your vote on behalf of Gordon Smith.
(s) Joe C. McLaughlin
Pendleton

Peck most qualified

To the Editor:
First I would like to say that I support Jerry Peck for commissioner. He is the most qualified person for the job, having been a commissioner for eight years, past member of the school board and mayor of Boardman. He knows the job and will be fair for all parts of the county.
But I am puzzled by some of

the negative comments from past supporters that now support John Wenzholz. Do we really need this type of campaigning and negative attitude? No. We need a person like Jerry that can help bring north and south together.
A vote for Jerry is a vote for the future of Morrow County.
(s) Chris Rauch
Lexington

Support Wenzholz

To the Editor:
Since we are long-time residents and supporters of Morrow County, we feel the need to voice our opinion on the selection of our county commissioners.
It has been our desire to see the leadership unite and focus on a balance of prosperity for the entire county.

John Wenzholz will be the candidate to consider what issues concern the county as a whole, reason out a balanced conclusion and stand firm on his reasoning.
Support John Wenzholz for Morrow County Commissioner.
(s) Dan and Jeannie Creamer
Irrigon

Wenzholz only real candidate

To the Editor:
John Wenzholz is the only real candidate for Morrow County Commissioner. John has lived and owned his own business in Morrow County since moving to Morrow County 23 years ago. He has always been willing to help others in any way

he could. When something needs to be done, he gets it done. John has a very open mind and will always listen to all sides of an issue.
Vote for John Wenzholz. You will not be sorry.
Sincerely,
(s) Bud Wilson
Lexington

Gutierrez reasons clear

To the Editor:
When we go to the polls this November, we will cast our votes for Morrow County Treasurer for Gayle Gutierrez. Our reasons are clear.
1) Gayle does have the experience for the office. She has been involved with county government in the Public Works Dept., the Tax Collector's office, the Assessor's office and the Accounting office. She has seen how and why our tax dollars are spent.
2) Gayle has been involved with employee public relations

as an officer in the Workers' Union. She has the integrity to work alongside other officials and employees to assure a smoothly-run county government.
3) Gayle has the commitment to our county government, its citizens and its business associates to fulfill the office of Morrow County Treasurer in a productive manner.
Join us in voting for Gayle Gutierrez for Morrow County Treasurer.
(s) Tom Gates
(s) Arlynda Gates
Ione

Yes on term limits

To the Editor:
Rotation of office was a cornerstone of our framers' intention for government. At the time, it was not necessary to include a provision in the Constitution for term limits because each party refused to renominate incumbents because of their belief in rotation. They thought-and rightfully so-that the longer one spent in office, the less responsive one would be to the people. This understanding led Jefferson to write, "The second feature I dislike, (in regards to the Constitution) and greatly dislike, is the abandonment in every instance of the necessity of rotation in office, and most particularly in the case of the President."
Our founding fathers simply

could not imagine a government full of career politicians. Unfortunately, their worst fears have come true. Congress is full of professional politicians intent on lining their pockets at taxpayer expense. Government money is viewed as free money for them to distribute at whim.
We need politicians who will return to live under the regulations and taxes which they enact. The only way to do this is through term limits. Voting "yes" on Measure 48 for term limits on Congress is a step towards an ethical and responsible Congress. Vote "yes" on Measure 48 and return the government to the people.
Sincerely,
(s) Charlie Donoti
Cottage Grove

Money can't buy vote

To the Editor:
The Oregon Education Association/People for Improvement of Education's (OEA/PIE) "in your face" attitude toward the new campaign finance laws is unacceptable. They are putting hundreds of thousands of dollars into independent expenditures in order to "buy" the Oregon legislature. It is a sad day in Oregon politics when OEA/PIE is able to spend more money on a race than the candidates themselves.
I protest. Join me in the

protest-invest in stamps and envelopes. Put the independent expenditure direct mail pieces in envelopes marked "my vote is not for sale" and send them back to OEA/PIE at the address on the mailer. Second, send a letter of complaint to the Secretary of State, Elections Division asking that this "loophole" in Ballot Measure 9 be investigated and closed.
Talk about special interests buying politicians...
Sincerely,
(s) Camille Hukari
Hood River

Wenzholz chose Morrow County

To the Editor:
I have known John Wenzholz since 1973. During this time, I have found John to be a very resourceful person.
John lives in Morrow County because that is where he wants to live, not because it is where he makes his living. Since I have known John, he has been self-employed as a hay broker and as a truck salesman. John could probably have done better financially if he

located his businesses in a larger metropolitan area, or at least closer to his customers, but he chose to locate in Irrigon, because, like many of us, he wanted to raise his family in Morrow County.
John deserves a chance to be our next Morrow County Commissioner. Please join me in supporting John Wenzholz for commissioner.
(s) Vernon L. Russell
Boardman

Campbell has respect, experience

To the Editor:
The need for rural Eastern Oregon to have active qualified, skilled representation in the legislature is critical.
Many people run for the legislature. Term limits will deny the successful candidate the time to serve an apprenticeship and really learn the job. Having experience in governance at the local and state level is an asset. It gives the successful candidate a head start on our behalf in Salem. Knowing who to talk to and how the process works can mean the difference between representing a region well and

leaving the problems still on the table at the end of a term.
Kevin Campbell is the candidate that meets the criteria. He has the experience and has demonstrated his ability to work advantageously with state and federal agencies.
Kevin Campbell will hit the ground running. He is the candidate for our communities that already has name recognition and respect in Salem.
I encourage your support for Kevin Campbell.
Sincerely,
(s) Laura M. Pryor
Gilliam County Judge
Condon

Agriculture not to blame

To the Editor:
I feel compelled to write you in this election year, as I see a great deal of unfairness and unjust criticism being waged at one section of our Oregon community, agriculture.
Measure 38 supporters would argue that cows are the only blame for poor salmon runs. But cows didn't build all the dams along the Columbia River. And cows didn't affect silt runoff from the high mountains into spawning beds. Cows didn't cause the devastating floods we saw earlier this year, wreaking havoc on streams and banks. And cows are not the cause of Portland's sewer systems overflowing in-

to the Willamette River during high water.
But what Measure 38 will accomplish is to drive a wedge in-between agriculture and supporters of the measure, so that confrontation rather than cooperation results. The governor's office did not support listing coho salmon as endangered; they feel a "voluntary" approach can be more effective than the heavy hand of federal regulation," as Paula Burgess, governor's assistant for natural resources, states. I agree; cooperation rather than confrontation will accomplish more.
Please vote no on 38.
(s) John Herkner
Bend

Wenzholz has integrity

To the Editor:
John is a long-time resident of the county and has a proven economic track record as a small business owner. He has been very active in community and school activities and has

a well deserved reputation for being very fair-minded with outstanding integrity.
Please join us in voting for John Wenzholz for county commissioner.
(s) Larry and Betty Mills
Heppner

Oppose 34

To the Editor:
The Predator Defense Institute (PDI) recently released a comprehensive investigative report on the cougar controversy in Oregon. Here are its major findings:
More than 93 percent of all cougar "incidents" recorded by the Oregon Department of fish and Wildlife (ODFW) from January 1994 to May 1996 were unconfirmed. The majority of the reports were based on nothing more than phone calls to district offices of the ODFW.
Of the 832 cougar incident reports provided by the ODFW, 644 were recorded as sightings and 188 as damage complaints, but only 3.25 percent of the sightings and only 10.10 percent of the damage complaints were confirmed. These percentages represent only 21 confirmed sightings and 19 confirmed damage problems statewide in well over

two years.
There has never been a documented attack by a cougar on a person in Oregon history.
The PDI report invalidates the trophy hunter's claim that cougar incidents are rampant. It also demonstrates that a trophy hunting season does nothing to reduce the remote risk of an encounter between people and cougars.
Existing law allows private landowners and state and federal damage control agents to eliminate individual nuisance cougars. It simply bars trophy hunters from harassing and killing cougars in the wilderness with the aid of packs of radio-collared hounds. Voters should oppose Measure 34 and prevent cruel and unsportsmanlike means of cougar hunting.
(s) Brooks Fahy
Executive Director, PDI
Eugene