

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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

Need real facts on garbage issues

To the Editor:

Real Garbage: City of Heppner wants to take over garbage collection. Or, is this just another hopeful money making scheme for the City? Let's look at some real facts in light of that possibility.

It's been said that two city employees could each work one-half day for two days and get the job done. Perhaps. However, this is bad for our pocket book and local economy. This computes out to having two half-time unemployed people. This saves the City money on wages and benefits but increases expenses for public assistance such as food stamps and Oregon Health Care.

In addition, government will shut down another small business and one more person will be added to the unemployment list.

Existing garbage trucks belong to Heppner Garbage Disposal, not to the City of Heppner. The City will have to purchase and maintain their own garbage truck. Oh, make that two trucks; it is good to have a spare truck when the other one needs maintenance or repairs. Basic "manual fill" garbage trucks costs upwards of \$80,000.

Just like skunks, garbage trucks stink. No amount of washing will make a garbage truck not smell like a garbage truck. Some people complain about the stink coming from their dumpsters or garbage cans. If your container stinks, it's your responsibility to un-stink it not Heppner Garage Disposal.

The City will learn too, that you cannot afford to empty the garbage truck at the end of each workday.

A quarter or half-full garbage truck still requires the same amount of time and dumping expenses as a full truck. This requires going to Finley Butte Land Fill, a 90 minute round trip, either daily or better yet, when the truck needs to be emptied. Finley Butte dumping fees are by the ton, therefore, make each round trip count. We don't want half-time unemployed people going over their hourly time limits.

City of Heppner does not own or operate Heppner Garbage Disposal. The City's responsibility is approving a franchise to a private contractor for a specific period of time, i.e. 10 years. The current franchise requires pick-up once a week, Monday thru Friday, for subscribing customers. There is no quote "garbage day."

If the Morrow County Schools, Morrow County 4-H Fair, or any other subscriber desire additional garbage pick-up service then they must contract for it and pay for it. Complaining to City Hall about your garbage service is like "wetting" your dark colored pants; you might feel better for awhile, but eventually you will get a rash and start stinking. Instead, call Heppner Garbage Disposal about concerns, or even an occasional thank-you would be in order.

Take a moment and consider some of the benefits we enjoy from our current garbage service provider compared to what the City proposal would provide.

Currently, off-curb pick-up is normal. This means that the garbage man walks up your driveway, around the corner, up some stairs and carries your garbage back to his truck, then returns your can to its location. Don't expect this from anyone else.

-You can carry your own garbage can out to the curb yourself and return it.

-Currently we pay for one 32-gallon garbage can (60 pound maximum) pick-up weekly. For some it is a 45-gallon garbage can mounted on wheels (cost more), same weight.

-Rain or shine, snow or freezing weather, your garbage man gets there. No extra charge for basic service. Yet there are no holidays, perks, sick leave, vacation time or overtime pay.

Why will your garbage rates increase in the future? Because future new franchised service requirements by the city will necessitate it.

-First by mandatory "garbage day" pick-ups. Requiring additional manpower, garbage trucks and disposal fees.

-Mandatory \$20,000 insurance bonding of the garbage pick-up provider. Insurance premium will be passed on to the customer.

-Demanding additional daily garbage pick-ups will require paying more for services. Whether it is with Heppner Garbage Disposal, City of Heppner Garbage Service, or another private contractor.

In all likelihood the City would rather provide us with the big city accommodations, using new hydraulic side loader \$100,000 garbage trucks that require (demand) that you purchase special garbage cans that are adapted to the particular style of a hydraulic side loader truck.

Currently every home or business is not required to participate in contracting with Heppner Garbage Disposal. You can haul your own garbage if you desire. What about the Heppner Garbage Disposal customers who are outside of the city limits; oops, maybe we should not go there, yet...?

Now the City says they are placing a 90-day probation on Heppner Garbage Disposal. Probation for what? Probation is a follow up procedure for governing violators for proven errors, blunders and/or misdeeds. What has

Heppner Garbage Disposal done or been convicted of to warrant being placed on probation?

No matter how this turns out, your garbage rates will increase; the question is by how much?

(s) Duane Jones Heppner

Matlack understands public service

To the Editor:

Ken Matlack was the Oregon State Police Sergeant at the Arlington office for several years while I was the Justice Court Judge there. Sgt. Matlack's approach to law enforcement made it a pleasure to work with him. He was interested in the livability of the community and believed that part of his responsibility, as a law enforcement officer, was to do what he could to improve the community. He demonstrated that he believed it was more important to deal with problems before they came to the attention of the law rather than after. He was active in community affairs both at the city level and the county level.

I also appreciated Sgt. Matlack's approach to problem solving. When he perceived a problem he contacted all the parties that were involved and talked to and listened to everyone before making decisions. He was willing to cooperate with all other law enforcement agencies, the courts and the governing bodies of both the towns and the county in Gilliam County.

Sgt. Matlack was an asset to the Oregon State Police, the town of Arlington and Gilliam County. He understood what it meant to be a public servant. (s) S. "Chris" Nix Retired Justice of the Peace Condon

VanCleave is the right man for the job

To the Editor:

We are writing in support of Tim VanCleave for mayor of Heppner.

Tim is a proven leader in our community and has had years of experience in working with people with differing views. He is a man of good character and judgment and is willing to listen to all sides of the issues. He is very serious about listening to everyone's concerns and bringing consensus to the challenges that face our town.

Tim has given much of his time to make our community a better place to live. He has served for many years as a volunteer and community leader. Here are just a few of his areas of service: completed the Rural Development Initiative training course in community leadership; served on city council for 10 years, currently as president of the council; member of the Chamber of Commerce; chair of the Police Commission; Morrow County Sheriff's Department Chaplaincy program; Hospice; Welcome Wagon; Junior High girls and boys basketball coach; and the Columbia Bain Electric Co-Op Helping Hearts program.

Please join us in voting for Tim VanCleave. Tim is the right man for the job of mayor.

(s) Mayor Bob and Suzanne Jepsen Heppner

Irrigon residents dispute Lambier's letter

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to Jeff Lambier's letter in the Heppner Gazette dated Oct. 13. I wanted to express my appreciation for your time of service to our communities, myself and my husband were among the many who prayed for you and Office Snyder. But I would like to set you straight on a couple of things.

The meeting on Sept. 9 at A.C. Houghton, myself and husband planned, financed and paid for the building, not Mr. Matlack. Four different ladies made cookies. My husband and myself put the announcements in the papers, made flyers and put

them up. This was not a debate about Mr. Denton (we have been friends with Andrea and Verlin for many years and will continue to be). Our meeting was an informational meeting to allow people to meet Ken and ask questions. Not to try to make a big issue like you did. Mr. Matlack did graciously answer all your questions. When you stood to talk you said you spoke for the whole Deputies Association.

I have a question for you; you said with the opening of the Irrigon High School, everyone has had to cut back. What does that have to do with the informational meeting and the election for county sheriff? As for asking the audience to support the campaign, by being on a phone committee, putting up yard signs, going door to door and for financial support, that was our idea, not Mr. Matlack's.

The meeting did not start with a local pastor. Jeff, you threw a few stones, so I guess I could throw one. I hope you're factual skills as a deputy are better than your facts in your letter to the editor. As you said, this was not a race for governor, so let's watch the mud slinging.

(s) Billy and Samie Griffin Irrigon

Burns is professional

To the Editor:

My choice for Morrow County Justice of the Peace is Betty Burns. For the past six years, I have served with Betty on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Morrow County and then the United Way of Umatilla and Morrow Counties.

I have known her to be both professional and efficient in whatever she does. Betty has the knowledge and ability to achieve her goals. She is very well organized and has excellent business and computer skills.

I am marking my ballot for Betty Burns for Morrow County Justice of the Peace.

(s) Nancy McKay Ione

Heppner Booster Club would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations to the 2004 Steak Feed and Auction. Without their support, this annual event would not have been such a success!

Allstott Construction L.L.C
Alpine Meadows Golf Course
Angie Hanson
Artisan Village
Bank of Eastern Oregon
Barbara Bloodworth
Bev Howe
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Bobbi Childers
BPOE Elks 358
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Molly Day
Morrow County Grain Growers
Murray's Drug
Neff
Oregon Zoo
Ostler Orthodontics
Panda Inn Chinese Restaurant
Papa Murphy's
Patriot Auto Glass
Pendleton Bottling - Pepsi
Peterson's Jewelers
Pizza Hut
Portland Trail Blazers
Red Robin
Rhonda Helfrecht
Riddell & Mark Elmlade
Rolling Hills Hunting Preserve
Rusty & Cyde Estes
Seitz Aviation
Shirley George
Spout Springs Resort
Styling Arena
Tim Hedman
USA Subs
Virginia Grant
Wade & Marianne Smith
Wal-Mart
Wheatland Insurance
Widmer Brothers Brewing Company
Wilcox Furniture
Wild Horse Resort & Casino
Willow Creek Bakery & Diner
Willow Creek Country Club
Wright Chevrolet
Wyna Woodford

Many others also contributed to the success of the Steak Feed and Auction:

Heppner Junior/Senior High School Students, Faculty, and Staff
Auction Committee • Dinner Committee • Decorating Committee

Ken Grieb, Auctioneer • And everyone who assisted during the night of the dinner and auction

Their hard work and dedication made it all possible!

Thank you, everyone!

Heppner Booster Club

BURNS

FOR

MORROW COUNTY

JUSTICE of the PEACE

"Life Experience"

"Business Experience"

"People Person"

"Professional"

"Efficient"

Mark your ballot for:

 **Betty A. Burns**

CHANGE IS GOOD!

PAID AND AUTHORIZED BY BETTY A. BURNS