

## 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.)

### VanCleave shows enthusiasm and loyalty to Heppner

To the Editor:

Dear Fellow Citizens:

What an exciting time for Heppner. We have had the honor of being served by Mayor Bob Jepsen for many years and we now have an extraordinary candidate for mayor that has the ability to steer our community into the future.

Last year, my eldest son was coached by Tim VanCleave. As I quietly observed Tim's ability as a coach, I became aware of his ability to lead people. Now more than ever, we need leaders that will clearly define our community's needs and strive to achieve the goals associated with those needs. I believe that Tim is the best choice for bringing people together on the vital issues (no matter their background, household income, ethnicity, etc.) to work towards viable, sustainable solutions.

As you may know, one of the issues that I work on in Salem is our rural hospitals. While keeping our local hospitals open is not directly related to city government, it is refreshing to see that Tim VanCleave is aware of this critical issue and willing to work with State officials on keeping those doors open. That is clearly leadership in action.

We have been fortunate to have had the strength, dedication and leadership of Mayor Jepsen. How many times did you drive by the entrance to Heppner and see our mayor volunteering his time, energy, resources and tireless efforts on that outstanding beautification project? I am confident that Tim will show that same enthusiasm and loyalty to the citizens of Heppner. He has already done so by remaining an active member of the Heppner City Council for 10 years, including the presidency of that council. His community activities are too many to list in one letter.

I hope that you will take the time to contact Tim VanCleave and ask him his goals and visions for our community. I think you will be pleased with his answers.

Please join me in voting for Tim VanCleave for mayor this November.

(s) Greg Smith  
Heppner

### Re-elect candidate that has experience and roots in Lexington

To the Editor:

To the voters of Lexington:

Currently there are three elective offices on the city council to be filled this year and one in limbo due to a legality. I have been a member of the council for the last four plus years (having been elected to serve out an unexpired term and re-elected to the current term). I am informed, experienced and not afraid to speak out if I do not agree with an issue (I have been criticized by some for this, but I believe this is my right

and duty as a citizen.) My husband and I have been residents of the community for 28 years. We are homeowners, tax payers and have volunteered many times for activities in the community. We pay our bills on time and take pride in our home and property.

I have been a member of the Lexington Stakeholders group, which formulated and developed Lexington's strategic plan. I have represented the city on the Morrow County Economic Group and the Morrow County Needs and Issues Priority Board. I was involved in the ranking of four of Lexington's needs into a common group that is currently ranked at the top of Morrow County's Top 10 needs. As a member of the council, I have been on the Budget Committee every year and am familiar with all aspects of the budget process.

On a personal level, I am a member of the American Legion and VFW auxiliaries, Holly Rebekah Lodge, Oregon Nurses Association and have served on the board of directors of Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Facility. I joined the Methodist Church many years ago.

As to where I stand on the issues facing the town:

-I support the development of an additional water source, but I am not in favor of creating an additional loan to do so. The community already has two outstanding loans and at least one should and could be paid down before incurring additional liabilities. There are many residents on the fixed income and they simply cannot stretch their money much further. There are grants available and these should be pursued before taking out any additional loan.

-Of utmost priority, the city should operate and manage within the budget, not incur unexpected and unnecessary expense (like those that have occurred in the last two years).

-An attractive community would promote a positive attitude and impression of the town. The right-aways and alleys need to be cleaned up. The people would take more pride in their town if this would happen.

I am on the ballot, Position #2, and would appreciate your vote. Re-elect Lexington City Council Position #2.

(s) Luella Taylor  
Lexington

### Don't take local services for granted

To the Editor:

In the upcoming election we have the opportunity to help maintain the current services provided by our Morrow County Health District. It is often easy to take things for granted that we have had access to in the past. Sometimes services or businesses are not fully appreciated until they are lost or no longer available. We are currently very lucky to have the level of care available to us here.

The three-year local option levy is very

reasonable and is much less than the rates of health districts in John Day, Burns and Enterprise. (See voter fact sheet mailed to residents). This equates to a \$39 per year for a house valued at \$100,000.

The Health District serves residents in many ways such as ambulance services and EMTs, Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice, Irrigon Medical Clinic, Boardman Health Care Center Subsidy, Pioneer Memorial Clinic and Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Recruiting and retaining health care providers has always been a significant challenge in the past and we are currently very fortunate to have dedicated, caring and excellent providers working for the Morrow County Health District.

In rural communities, these providers go above and beyond the call to provide the level and quality of health care services that we are used to. We have often heard visitors remark to us how impressed they were with the local medical services. The Health District Board has made many cuts in the past and needs our support on this levy to be able to continue to serve us. Our communities need access to health care for our citizens and for the ability to attract residents to live here. Please don't take these services for granted. The next person to need our facilities may be yourself or your loved ones. Please vote yes on the Morrow County Health District levy to assure that these vital services are continued.

(s) John and Ann Murray  
Heppner

### VanCleave has optimistic view

To the Editor:

As a member of the Heppner City Council, I work closely with fellow council member Tim VanCleave. He has an attitude of making Heppner a better place to live for everyone. He listens and tries to make the best decision on the facts, not his own personal feelings.

Tim is currently the president of the council, member of the police commission and has been on the council for 10 years. Tim sees the economic development as the biggest challenge to Heppner. In addition, Tim is dedicated to the city's implementation of the new water system and insuring the future of the sewer and street maintenance. Tim has an optimistic view about Heppner's future.

Please join me in voting for Tim VanCleave for Mayor of the City of Heppner.

(s) Cindi Doherty  
Heppner

### Garbage service has some problems, but good overall

To the Editor:

Keep businesses alive in Heppner. So the city can take them over? Maybe Dave Green needs to keep a better schedule, etc., but he's a one-person operation doing his best to make a living in Heppner.

Anyone can leave a message on Dave's answering machine. He or his wife have always returned our calls.

(s) Buck and Judy Handbury  
Heppner

### Errors in Lambier's letter need addressing

To the Editor:

Deputy Jeff Lambier's "Letter to the Editor" in the Oct. 13 issue of the Heppner Gazette needs a bit of clarification.

For starters, he commented on attending a public forum hosted by Ken Matlack who is running for the office of Sheriff in Morrow County. Two corrections here- the meeting was never intended to be a "Public Debate," but rather an informal meeting for friends and supporters of Ken Matlack for Sheriff to get to know him better and hear him discuss his views on the office. Secondly, Samie and Billy Griffin hosted and financed the meeting of their own volition. As far as I know, they did not ask anyone to help pay for rental of the building. It was meant to be like the Coffee Klatches that people hold in their homes to support a particular candidate and have friends in to become better acquainted. In fact, Samie wanted to hold the meeting in her home, but was afraid she would not have enough space. Had she known the evening would evolve into a heated debate, she could have advertised it as a Public Forum meeting for two candidates and used the Senior Center free of charge. The Senior Center avoids political favoritism, but did offer their building for the Candidates Fair, where any candidate running for office was free to speak and take questions.

I want to interject another thought here: I have attended numerous political "Coffee" in people's homes throughout the years and although some of the candidates were noted millionaires, still there was no hesitation on the part of the hosts to offer an opportunity to contribute to the campaign. I was late to the meeting hosted by Samie and Billy Griffin and did not hear any comments made toward contributing to Ken's campaign, so I cannot comment on that; however, I would not find that unusual.

I did attend the Candidates Fair and heard several candidates speak; I did not detect any rancor in any of their voices- they all behaved professionally, simply stating their views without any mudslinging at their opponents and then took questions. This would have been the appropriate time and place for anyone who wished to go on the attack against Ken Matlack to have appeared and spoken.

Deputy Lambier reiterated he was speaking for all of the Morrow County deputies; I sincerely hope he was not speaking for all of them when he made his slur against Irrigon High School. When Matlack said he hoped to have a School Resource Officer who would rotate among all the schools, Lambier instantly asked Matlack who he thought would pay for that. Matlack responded he hoped the school district would fund the position. Lambier then commented that the school district would not have money to fund the position and went on to say, "Ever since Irrigon got that High School, every other school in the district has had to cut back." I guess it wasn't so much the words, but the tone he used, that saddened us.

There is so much excitement in our community over having our high school restored, we wish everyone could share with us in our elation (and I believe the majority of Morrow County residents are happy for us). Interestingly, at the Morrow County School Board meeting held at A.C. Houghton School on Oct. 11, the School Board did discuss the possibility of a School Resource Officer at great length, so it would appear that Matlack was not at all out of line in suggesting the position.

In closing, I want to say I appreciate the fact that our deputies sometimes put themselves in harm's way when answering calls. To show our appreciation in a tangible way, we let the deputies operate their dunk tank at this year's watermelon festival, with all the profit going to their organization. We are not against the Morrow County deputies, but I felt the errors in Jeff Lambier's letter needed to be addressed.

(s) LaVelle Partlow  
Irrigon

### Irrigon pastor speaks out for Matlack

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to some statements in your Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004 issue placed by Deputy Jeff Lambier.

I am the local Irrigon pastor that Deputy Lambier referred to in his comments about Mr. Matlack asking me, to ask people, to give money to support his campaign.

First of all, before we make statements of any kind, we should be sure of our facts.

Fact: At no time did or has Ken Matlack ever asked me to ask anyone to give to his campaign. Under state law candidates running for office are allowed to take contributions up to a certain dollar amount, which is tax deductible. And I did invite any of those who would like to do that, to feel free to support their candidate.

Next: I was not the first person to speak that night nor was I the first to ask people to give to Ken's campaign.

Those would be the facts about my part in the meeting that night, but I will also take this time to say a few more things.

I personally know a number of our deputies in Morrow County and I can honestly say that I hold them in very high regard when it comes to their commitment to service and duty, their professionalism. I have been involved in outreaches to our community with them and have found them to be top notch professionals who deserve our respect and appreciation for all they do.

I know that elections can and often become very personal and at times emotional. I would like to ask all of you to think about what you would like to see happen in our sheriff's department and then vote for the man you think would do the job you would like done.

(s) Pastor Rick Yardley  
Irrigon

### Measure 36 protects marriage

To the Editor:

The basic purpose of Measure 36 is not to oppose "gay marriage." The basic purpose is to protect marriage itself. Opening

marriage to persons of the same sex happens to be the immediate threat to marriage.

Every argument for same sex "marriage" is flawed. Marriage between persons of the same gender is not a basic human or civil right. All rights come with at least some restrictions- some rights and their benefits are not open to universal access. Fathers cannot marry their daughters. Adults cannot marry children. Placing rational, natural restrictions on marriage is not unconstitutional discrimination.

Sexual "orientation" is not the same kind of difference as race. That is why African American leaders agree that "gay marriage" is not a civil rights issue.

Restricting marriage to only one man and one woman is not intolerance or "homophobia." Civilization has rejected same-sex unions for thousands of years. Civilized society has learned that true sexual fulfillment is experienced only in monogamous, heterosexual marriage. The modern "gay marriage" movement is only a few decades old. Its spurious arguments and shallow slogans fly in the face of the experience and wisdom of the ages.

Society has not always been true to marriage. Many people have made a mess of it. But that is not the fault of marriage. On the contrary, the fact that the violation of "traditional" marriage has resulted in so much harm is a clear demonstration of its validity.

Marriage is not a human invention or development. God created marriage. We cannot do whatever we want with it because it does not belong to us; it belongs to God; it is His property.

No, God is not "still speaking" about marriage. God definitely and permanently defined marriage as a life-long unity between one man and one woman. Jesus reaffirmed that definition. What God ordained still stands. Every historical deviation from that edict was due to ignorance or disobedience and resulted in serious problems. Every violation of the natural, biblical boundaries protecting marriage still results in harm and pain.

Since same-sex "marriage" came to Scandinavia, serious social problems have increased there and marriage itself is disappearing. If marriage becomes just anything, it will become nothing.

The very survival of marriage itself is at stake. So, let's join the people in other states who have acted decisively to protect marriage. Vote Yes on Measure 36.

Dr. J.W. Jepsen, Pastor  
Life in Christ Center  
The Dalles

### Consider the need and vote yes for levy

To the Editor:

I would like to ask all my friends and relatives to think about when you may need the hospital. You never know when there will be an emergency. Please consider this and vote to support the hospital and the health district by voting yes for the Morrow County Health District levy.

(s) Edda Mae Lovgren  
Heppner