

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.)

Oregon cannot afford Measure 34

To the Editor:
Please carefully read the opposition arguments against Measure 34 and then vote no. Oregon cannot afford to remove anymore public forest lands from responsible resource management.
(s) Margaret G Murray
Ione

Measure 38 will hurt small businesses

To the Editor:
Over the past 41 years, we have had Workman's Comp Insurance with several different insurance companies, including SAIF and Liberty Insurance, SAIF's adversary in Measure 38. In view of our personal experience, we feel qualified to speak out in defense of SAIF and explain to those who may not know why SAIF has been silent in defense of themselves.
SAIF is prohibited by law as to how they may respond to negative ads on radio and TV. SAIF cannot use work time or corporate funds to refute statements or claims against the company, while their opponent is able to spend millions of dollars to abolish them. SAIF's mouth is taped and its arms are tied while being punched by their opponent. SAIF insures more than half of all small businesses in Oregon at reasonable rates. Farmers, ranchers and small businesses statewide will suffer financially if this measure were to pass. Please join us in voting No on Measure 38.
(s) Virginia and Dick Wilkinson
Mark and Pam Wunderlich
Wilkinson Ranches LLC
Heppner

Don't close down a three-generation business

To the Editor:
We are writing in support of the Heppner Garbage Service. This is a three-generation business in

our community. Why are we trying to take over this business? Aren't we trying to promote businesses in town? If there are complaints, call the business owner. Remember, Dave is one man and if your pickup isn't prompt, there may be a reason.
We appreciate your service Dave. Keep up the good work.
(s) Dave and Rhonda Winters
Heppner

Time for change in Morrow County

To the Editor:
Over the past few weeks I have heard from both candidates for the Morrow County Sheriff. Verlin Denton defending his title against Ken Matlack. Has anyone stopped and truly looked at the Sheriff's Department since Denton took over? Let me help you reflect.
First thing you might notice is the turnover rate is astronomical. It has been everything from illegal activity committed by a deputy while on duty to a well known and respected deputy quitting out of frustration of the current management. It appears they are always hiring dispatchers and this is after Denton lost the contract with Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman counties.
Second thing, has anyone listened to Verlin Denton talking about the BENT team and taking praise on being a founder of it? The BENT team, I believe, is a highly needed enforcement group. However, talking with one deputy, not to name names on fear of retaliation, he made more narcotics arrests himself in Morrow County in one calendar year than the entire BENT team did in Morrow County. Maybe Denton needs to help redirect the efforts of the BENT team to focus a little more time in Morrow County. I know the drugs are here in the area. Just look at the paper and see the drug arrests made by the Morrow

County Deputies and anhydrous ammonia thefts throughout Morrow County.
Third thing, Denton tells about being a leader of many organizations. Besides being a deacon of his church, I didn't see many organizations that were in Morrow County or assisted directly with Morrow County.
What is Denton's goal or idea for running for sheriff again? He has enough time in to retire. He himself tells of the many different aspects of the job he has to do to keep the entire sheriff's department functioning. Has anyone considered that this election for Denton is just to get elected and retire shortly thereafter? But before retiring, appointing his next sheriff, someone he wants in there. This is an underhanded way to become sheriff. If a person is qualified now to be sheriff, then he should run respectfully and not just rely on a known figure to hand him the job.
Maybe it is time for a change in Morrow County. The sheriff could get out and "patrol." What is that undersheriff for anyway? I would think Denton would be a good enough leader to delegate some authority and have him "patrol" or share the duties and both "patrol" a little. When was the last time anyone saw Sheriff Denton or Undersheriff Sample out in the community assisting his officers since he's "shorthanded." If it wasn't for the election, I don't think we would ever see Denton.
I believe its time for a change. A change that the voters pick the sheriff, not one individual. I hope you all join me in making that change for the better and for voting in Ken Matlack as our new Morrow County Sheriff.
(s) John L. Rietmann
Ione

Help keep the hospital open

To the Editor:
Please vote to keep the hospital and clinic open. Without the excellent staff and Dr. Wenberg getting Robert on the helicopter for Kadlec Hospital, he would not be with us.
Also, we want to express our appreciation to Barbara Bloodsworth for the excellent service through the years and urge you to vote

for Bobbi Childers. She has trained under Barbara and will carry on the same.
(s) Darlene and Robert Hoskins
Heppner

Some change will help Heppner's future

To the Editor:
If you think the City of Heppner is better off now than it was 10 years ago, if you think that businesses closing their doors, businesses for sale and people relocating to other communities are good omens, then vote for Tim VanCleave. If, however you think some changes need to be made and the present tax/spend mentality is not the right approach, vote for Keith Lewis for mayor.
Like a large segment of the population, I am retired, living on a fixed income and cannot afford large rate and tax increases. If things continue on the present track, what I see in Heppner's future is an annual oyster feed, held in the new city hall building to generate funds for the maintenance of museums and city parks, a la Hardman. If the city goes into the garbage collection business, the fees will increase and be included in your water bill whether you use the service or not. I agree it would be a money maker for the city, because city government will raise the rates as much as it wants, as often as it wants. I don't think anyone should have to pay for a service they do not use. To my detractors I say, "I don't need your moving van." Not yet.
(s) Gene Sonstegard
Heppner

VanCleave has most extensive background
To the Editor:
The City of Heppner is fortunate that we have two excellent candidates for the position of Mayor in our small town. Keith Lewis and Tim VanCleave are both men of proven ability and either one would provide us with the quality of leadership necessary for our town's future growth and development.
However, in making a choice between the two, we feel that Tim VanCleave has the most extensive background and experience working as City Councilman, his many years of dedication to civic interests, working with kids and roles of leadership in our community. Tim VanCleave gets our votes.
(s) Archie and Jeanette Padberg
Heppner

Measure 37 will help protect farmers and others

To the Editor:
I am writing to urge your readers to vote Yes on Measure 37. Measure 37 will help protect farmers, property owners and homeowners from loss of value caused by government regulation.
If governments want to take or limit the value of your property, they should pay for it.
If you are like most Oregonians, your home and property are your largest investment. What will you do when the government passes a law or regulation that lowers the value of your property; will you be happy about the loss of your investment? If not, join me in voting Yes for Measure 37.
(s) Tim Holtz
Ione

Garbage issues could be resolved with customer service

To the Editor:
We are writing in regard to an article we read in the Heppner Gazette last week. It was a surprise to read that the city is planning to take over the garbage collection. We've been reading that the city would like to attract more businesses. Doesn't seem to make much sense to put one out of business. Their reasons: doesn't answer telephone, garbage not picked up, many complaints and my favorite, garbage truck dirty. These issues could be resolved with a little customer service.
We have lived here seven years and have no complaints about the service or the cleanliness of the garbage truck. We are concerned about the high city taxes. We have lived in a few states and several cities and find this to be the most expensive place we have ever lived. We do appreciate the clean air, clear skies and being able to see the stars at night (of course there are no city lights) and the pride the "powers that be" take in this beautiful little town. We are glad to be here. We do wonder if the city taxes could be managed better. We don't want to see a young businessman with a family put out of business so the city can bring in more money to put to ill use. The high city taxes make it hard for retired people to live here.
(s) Marlin and Ruth Donohoe
Heppner


MCHD levy, AirLife, Cougars
To the Editor:
Yes, these three topics are tied together. Oct. 9 started as a routine day, but events would soon change that. The day started at the VanSchoiack ranch in the 5 a.m. sighting of four cougars in the rim rock above a deer hunter's camp by the ranch house. Just a few hours later, my brother, Bill, headed his horses up a steep trail. Near the house his saddle horse was acting up, not wanting to go up the hill. Bill thinks the horse reared over, possibly hitting his face with its head. Also, receiving a lower back injury. Hunters later reported cougar tracks on that same trail.
Bill received ER care at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, making use of many services including lab and CT, revealing a severe laceration to his nose and multiple severe fractures eventually requiring five plates for the facial and related bone fractures as well as his jaw being wired closed for several weeks. At PMH, he was put in a drug-induced paralysis by Dr. Wenberg and intubated in preparation for air transport to Portland by AirLife fixed-wing. I was able to go with him and rode in our "rickety" ambulance to the Lexington Airport.
Now I've mentioned all three of my topics, so I will expound on them.
Health District Levy- The hospital is down to minimum staff and services already. There is just one nurse and one aide in the building weekends and after hours. The clinics need to keep running. The ambulances need replaced (I shudder to think what Heppner's ambulance feels like on a road other than the Lexington Hwy.) I'm glad my brother wasn't awake to feel it. The areas in South Morrow County don't need any further reduction in medical services and the North End needs upkeep as well. Heppner has been at the maximum tax for years and our taxes pay for services that are needed at the North End including schools, police, etc. Not so long ago, the South End's taxes and support meant a lot to the North End when they were just dots on the map. Unfortunately, new comers may not recall this history, that without the South End, there wouldn't be the development established in the north. Hey, we're still in this together.
Join AirLife- Just \$45 a year and they accept what your insurance pays. My brother wasn't a member, but we are so thankful that a trip to Portland was less than one hour including the ambulance to Lexington. The flight crew was wonderful.
Cougars- There's too many and the deer population is suffering. As we sat in Emmanuel's ICU waiting room for 48 hours recounting our story, no one in that urban hospital disputed our feeling and it seems lots of folks have their own cougar story. Just think, the playground screams of city and country kids sounds a lot like prey to cougars.
(s) Patricia Maben
Heppner

Measure 35 unneeded, rural doctors already get help

To the Editor:
Supporters of Measure 35 claim it is needed to help rural doctors. But I just found out that the Oregon Legislature passed a law last year providing funds to pay up to 80 percent of their malpractice insurance. This is an Oregon solution developed by a Republican legislature and signed into law by a Democratic governor.
Why do we need to amend the Constitution and pass Measure 35 if rural doctors are already getting help? Let's give our Oregon solution a chance to work. Vote no on Measure 35.
(s) Glen and Mishawn Bertram
Ontario

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