

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use wild horse meat

Notice to hundreds of people, your jobs are gone. Headline: "Processing plant closures on the rise." Little warning — two days? Tight cattle supply. Headline: "BLM forecasting million dollar tax supporting more wild horses in storage than are out in the "wild." Plans for horse slaughter plant delayed another year — losses in financing — more studies and permits required (they gave up trying).

Am I the only one who sees the obvious solutions to both of these problems?

It can't be that hard to train workers in already-built and running plants to switch to horses from cattle. It can't be that hard to find buyers for canned, frozen or freeze-dried and produced-in-the-USA pet food, fine leather, or organic plant food.

It evidently is easy to ignore the higher profits per pound sending horse meat overseas. But please, it has to be done.

It evidently is easy to ignore having no legal, easy, sensible way to proactively cull physically, mentally or purely excess animals that people expect, if not to eat, to trust their safety and lives to for work and pleasure.

Evidently it is hard to face emotion-driven arguments from unrealistic, uninformed animal-lovers.

JACKIE KALBERER
UMATILLA

Support Larry Givens

I am writing to support Larry Given's re-election as Umatilla County Commissioner. Larry has worked tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of this county, and deserves our continued support. He has also worked well with his fellow commissioners to improve communication with the public, and to reduce expenses while maintaining vital public services.

I have known Larry for many years, in his capacity as an educator, small business owner and, for the past 12 years, as our county commissioner. He has played an important leadership role at many levels, as a past Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, on the state level as a former President of the Oregon Association of Counties. He has worked effectively with all of our state elected officials and Tribal leaders to bring economic development and growth to the area. If an issue is important to Umatilla County, Larry is there.

Umatilla County is blessed with a

well-functioning county leadership team which works effectively together. Larry is an integral part of that team. Please join me in electing him to another term as your county commissioner.

JEFF WALLACE
THE DALLES

BMCC benefits region

April is National Community College Awareness Month, and as a proud member of the Blue Mountain Community College Board of Education, I would like to take a moment to remind the community of the impact BMCC has on our region.

If you've ever been treated by a nurse at Good Shepherd Medical Center, you were most likely seen by a BMCC graduate. BMCC's nursing students not only had a 100 percent pass rate this past year on their national board exams, but most earned jobs right away. That's one of the great benefits of an education at BMCC — many of the educational programs feed directly into jobs in our local communities.

BMCC also strives to make education attainable by anyone in our region. Students can earn an associate's degree online or in one of our convenient regional centers. The new Precision Irrigated Agriculture Center on OSU's Hermiston Agriculture Research and Education Center is another way BMCC is creating accessibility to training needed in our region.

BMCC and its students also contribute significantly to our local economy. For every \$1 a student invests on a BMCC education, they receive a \$3.70 return in career earnings. Our students also add back approximately \$3.7 million back into our local economy through living expenses. That's in addition to the approximately \$23 million net impact of college payroll and expenses our employees contribute annually back into our service district economy.

I hope you'll stop by a BMCC location to see what Blue can do for you.

DON RICE
HERMISTON

Collins for judge

This letter is in reference to the race for Circuit Court Judge and my support of Rob Collins for that position.

I have known Rob Collins since he started to practice law throughout Umatilla and Morrow counties since 1981. He is a product of our local public school system. His background

and experience includes all aspects of estate planning, real estate, business, personal injury, family and appeals. Rob has donated much of his personal time and energy to a number of boards and committees. I personally served with Rob on one board for several years and he always demonstrated leadership in a way that provided quality results and lead the way in strengthening lines of communications among the board members. He is an extremely hard worker, knowledgeable, fair and would serve the public very well on the Circuit Court.

Please support Rob Collins for Circuit Court Judge for Umatilla and Morrow County.

PHILLIP HOUK
PENDLETON

Miller willing to listen

I attended the candidates' forum last week. I listened to all the candidates for county commissioners and especially for the new people running for the Hermiston City Council. Two guys impressed me. Kyran Miller was one of them, running for Ward 3.

Kyran Miller told it like it is. The city should build its tax base, not raise our taxes. He was right that economic growth can build up the tax base to meet the city needs, without new taxes.

We are all taxed enough. He said he is willing to listen to the people and vote for their concerns. He even volunteered to put up a tent in his front yard to meet with voters if he is elected. He will set up an email address and a phone number so that he can stay in touch. He wants more openness to the public. He wants the city to be accountable. His 50 years of business experience could help the city council. He was so positive about Hermiston, its people and its future. It was like a breath of fresh air. Change is happening. It's time change happens in the Hermiston City Council.

He volunteers Tuesdays at the Agape House, on Friday mornings he is at the Catholic Church's soup kitchen, and on Saturdays he is at Two Rivers Correctional facility with a Bible study group. He serves our community through the Lions Club and other organizations. He is a man to know.

I believe that Kyran Miller should be elected to the Hermiston City Council. Vote for Kyran Miller. Make a change for the better.

JACK MCWHINNIE
UMATILLA

Traffic ... driving me crazy

I don't exhibit road rage — my response to driving frustrations is more like traffic-induced Tourette Syndrome.

I wasn't really aware of this until a recent trip to the coast with Carol and Cassie Greene. Cassie, who was behind the wheel during the sketchy part of the trip through the Portland metro area, didn't seem to appreciate my backseat driving.

It was more like back-seat blurting out. It's not like I spewed obscenities — just short phrases that aren't fit for print. I certainly should have budgeted more for the swear jar in the car.

Tammy Malgesini
INSIDE MY SHOES



In my defense, cars were darting in and out of traffic, passing on the right, merging inappropriately, not maintaining

a safe following distance and generally not following the laws as outlined in the Oregon Driver Manual.

I'm not saying I'm the best driver in the world. However, I don't weave in and out of traffic, I always use my turn signal when merging, I utilize the 3-second rule to provide appropriate distance and I make sure I can see pavement between my rig and the car in front of me when stopped.

More about turn signals — when used properly, they offer a clue to other drivers regarding where you intend to go. Use them! Really, it doesn't take that much effort. Oh, and after they have served their purpose — turn it off.

While I'm not as crazy as my bestie Carol "Andretti" Greene, I do admit to some questionable driving habits. With traffic re-routed due to Hermiston's festival street construction project, I experienced a bit of Olympics fever. Driving to and from work each day, I felt like a skier on a slalom course. Whipping around the cones, I would get as close to them as possible. And, I'm proud to say I never ran over a single one.

Also, pedestrians have laws, too. If I wrote an Oregon Pedestrian Manual, rules would address appropriate attire for nighttime strolls and the use of crosswalks, including a clear definition of what constitutes an unmarked crosswalk. They are NOT merely anywhere you decide to cross the street.

I totally respect that pedestrians have the right of way — just don't make me plunk quarters in the swear jar on my way home from work.

Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

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