

Opinion

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

We support Justus

To the Editor:
We support Kody Justus for Baker County Commissioner because in our experience with Kody, he has always been insightful and considerate to our issues. It is our feeling that Kody is a strong and responsible man who will meet the needs of the Baker County Commissioner position.

Bob and Linda Oelke
Baker City

We support Nichols

To the Editor:
My husband and I are supporting Bruce Nichols for County Commissioner. I had the pleasure of working with Bruce for three years on the City budget committee. As with all volunteers, the giving of his time, input and expertise was very much appreciated. We are confident that Bruce Nichols will be a great addition and bring a needed perspective to our County Commission. Please remember to vote, and please join us in supporting Bruce Nichols.

Ray and Gail Duman
Baker City

We're ranchers for Nichols

To the Editor:
We are ranchers in Baker County. There are so many projects form fencing, keeping machinery running properly, irrigating, growing and harvesting cops, and keeping livestock healthy. We learn by using the right tools so things go well. As problems arise we use those tools and the knowledge we have to successfully take care of the problem and even make it better than it was.

We have known Bruce Nichols for many years. We know that he has the right tools, and the knowledge to help solve all the different problems that come up in the county and make Baker County a better and a great place for all of us to live and enjoy. We will be voting for Bruce Nichols and recommend you also vote for Bruce Nichols.

Bob and Marilyn Harrison
Baker City

Nichols said he wouldn't back citizen in Hammond situation

To the Editor:
At the April 1st meeting in Halfway for Commissioner Candidate Bruce Nichols, I asked if a similar situation as what happened to the Hammond family in Harney County happened in Baker County would he consider it an "overreach" of the Federal Government.

Mr. Nichols was not sure what was meant by overreach, so I explained to him that if the government is acting beyond the boundaries of the law, would you consider that overreach. Nichols stalled and kept saying this was a court issue. I responded that courts can be swayed, which Nichols agreed was true, but further said he would have to follow the law.

I again asked would you be willing to help an individual citizen in Baker County who was having similar problems as the Hammond family had in Harney County with the BLM. Nichols responded, "Not that individual, no. Because they violated the law."

My response, "That's what I needed to know."

I would just like to tell Nichols that following illegal laws or ignoring illegal overreach is not following your sworn oath of office. My vote is for Kody Justus. Baker County does not need another bureaucrat as a commissioner.

Tom Huff
Halfway

Kick out the "old guard"

To the Editor:
It seems *The Record-Courier* is on the fight again, like the temperance ladies of old they rally the pitch forks to rail against the issues they despise. The cause then, alcohol—now it's the abolishment of anyone that speaks out against a system that seeks to kill individuality.

What scares the staff of the *Courier* so much, is it that a likeminded man like Tim Kerns won't be re-elected? Is it that Baker County might finally have a working commission that is willing to stand up for its residents as individuals, instead of laying down like a whipped dog?

It simply boils down to this, are you going to elect people that will Represent you, or are you going to elect people that are going to govern you? Kody wants to be your representative, a strong voice for the individuals of Baker County—a voice of the people who worked at the mill, and who worked in the woods.

The staff at *The Record-Courier* would stand for those that govern you, who would treat you as children, too simple minded to make your own decisions.

If I had a vote Kody Justus and John Hoopes are who I'd vote for. Men of integrity, men that know we are capable of living our lives, and making our own decision. Baker County has a clear choice in May when voting. Are you going to toe the line of the old guard's "go along to get along" policies or do you work to take back your county? Anything short of a vote for Kody Justus and John Hoopes is a vote to stick with the misery you know, and I don't think that's where the majority is.

John George
Bates

Justus supporters 'radical'

To the Editor:
When we as electors of our representatives exercise our right to vote, we freely choose to participate in a process guided by our Constitution—all of it—not just those pieces with which we agree. When our Founding Fathers divided our government's functions into its three component parts, they presciently included processes for resolving disagreements that were surely to spring up through the years as the messy job of implementing a new form of self-government began.

Voters retain the ultimate power of representing ourselves and of amending the Constitution if we deem it necessary. We as individuals may disagree as to the meaning of the language of the Constitution ... thus the founders saw fit to include the legal process for redress: the federal court system. We may personally disagree with some of the Supreme Court's decisions as well as ones from the lower courts. But we must recognize the legitimate role the legal system plays in this process.

We also recognize the only legitimate avenue for change is engagement in our process. When we see some of the outrageous acts committed by a loud, raucous and disrespectful minority, we are reminded of our commitment to act within the confines of our republic and remain hopeful that others will too. We are committed to electing thoughtful, open-minded, informed, honest and capable representatives at all levels who share our commitment to this country and its principles. That is why we encourage others to join us in voting for Bruce Nichols.

The candidate for Baker County Commissioner who is supported by the strident vocal minority is just too radical for us... and for Baker County.

David and Joyce Hunsaker
Baker City

Nichols and a Federal agenda?

To the Editor:
While living in Utah in 1996, I remember the controversy and pain we as residents experienced by the nearly two million acres of our state's geography stolen by the Clinton Administration of the Escalante land grab. This was done after Clinton assured us he wouldn't do such a thing. This cost Utah hundreds of jobs, businesses, and millions of dollars of lost taxes for cash-strapped local governments.

Backing up Clinton was Baker County's very own David Hunsaker, the guy who recently called Kody Justus' supporters radical and disrespectful for merely supporting states' rights and our local economy. Hunsaker was the BLM's manager of the Escalante land theft operation back in 1996. Kane and Garfield County Commissioners pointed out that Hunsaker himself used the excuse of a "drought" to rob the ranchers of their grazing rights, stating that it was only temporary, but then revoked them permanently. Hunsaker has a long history of fighting those counties, the ranchers, and cattle associations.

I have nothing personal against Bruce Nichols, but it scares me that folks with ties to big government and progressive liberal agendas appear to be throwing every bit of political and social weight they can muster behind him. Why? In talking to Bruce, he seems to want nothing more than status quo. He presents zero ambition in standing up against federal agendas. He said he wants to "soften" the approach being taken by our commissioners to keep our forest roads open!

Justus has a history as a rancher here. He has been certified with Oregon's Dept. of Public and Safety Standards Training, has worked in the corrections industry, and has a clean and honest record since making positive changes in his early life. This election isn't just about the candidates ... it's about you and me and our way of life in Baker County. Don't let Hunsaker make you feel radical by categorizing you as a "strident vocal minority." You are the majority. You are Baker County. Vote for Justus.

Jake Brown
Halfway

Shocked by Nichols' performance at forum

To the Editor:
Last night I attended the Baker County Republican forum for the County Commissioner candidates.

I found the inconsistencies of statements made by Bruce Nichols absolutely amazing. Any questions about blocking government overreach, Nichols just rolled over - he would not stand up for Baker County or Baker County citizens on any issue.

The inconsistencies of his answers to other issues are also a concern. When asked about his involvement in a Baker County ranch issue regarding range land and alfalfa fields being destroyed by two companies Nichols was CEO of, Nichols responded he was not CEO nor in a decision making role. Yet, Baker County recorded Special Warranty Deeds (B10150075 & B10150076) clearly show Mr. Nichol's signature on these deeds for these companies with the title of "CEO" in April of 2010.

Nichols also skirted around the issue

of and would not commit to his position on the consolidation of law enforcement in Baker County, which is contrary to his recorded event in Halfway on April first and other statements he has made.

Nichols' final comment to candidate Kody Justus was rude and arrogant. Is this really the temperament we need as a Commissioner? I don't think so. Please join me in voting for Kody Justus for Baker County Commissioner.

Suzie Dyke
Baker City

Justus is my choice

To the Editor:
As I have looked at the different people running for County Commissioner, I have narrowed down my choice to the person who appears to best suit our needs, here in Baker County.

We do not need a transplant from other regions to tell us how to handle our local problems. We need someone who has lived and earned his living here and understands the needs of the people of the entire county, not just the townfolk. Someone who graduated from BHS and served in the military to defend the rights of us all to be able to actually voice our opinions without fear of governmental retribution. That someone is Kody Justus.

If you check his Facebook page you will find the quote "I used to Pray for somebody to speak out, to stand up to defend our Liberties, then I realized I am somebody." This is the kind of person I want to stand up to the folks who wish to destroy our way of life in Eastern Oregon.

I am quite upset over the slanderous opinions voiced in one newspaper. For that person just remember what the Bible says "This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone..."

On that note I suggest you look at the man he has become and cast your vote for Kody Justus, a man for us all.

Peggie Longwell
Baker City

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— CONTACT US —

The Baker County Press

PO Box 567
Baker City, Ore. 97814

Open Monday-Thursday for calls
9 AM - 4 PM
Open 24/7 for emails

Phone: 541.519.0572

TheBakerCountyPress.com

Kerry McQuisten, Publisher
Editor@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Wendee Morrissey, Advertising and Sales
Wendee@TheBakerCountyPress.com

David Conn, Advertising and Sales
David@TheBakerCountyPress.com

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YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Barack Obama

202.456.1414

202.456.2461 fax

Whitehouse.gov/contact

US Sen. Jeff Merkley

503.326.3386

503.326.2900 fax

Merkley.Senate.gov

US Sen. Ron Wyden

541.962.7691

Wyden.Senate.gov

US Rep. Greg Walden

541.624.2400

541.624.2402 fax

Walden.House.gov

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

503.378.3111

Governor.Oregon.gov

State Rep. Cliff Bentz

503.986.1460

State Sen. Ted Ferrioli

541.490.6528

Baker County Commissioners Bill Harvey; Mark Bennett; Tim Kerns

541.523.8200

541.523.8201

— EDITORIAL —

Support the library levy

We don't often advocate spending money these days, but when it comes to public safety, infrastructure and the like, we believe our tax dollars are meant to support such vital things. We feel the same regarding our local library.

The levy renewal going on the ballot doesn't raise taxes per se—it

simply continues the status quo for another five years, providing the local public library with a sizable chunk of its revenue.

The smarter, better read and better educated our population, the more our community benefits. In that regard, our library is a bargain. With the main library here in Baker City and smaller branches across the entire county, we have a healthy, well-managed system in place—one we'd hate to see lost or reduced.

Book geeks everywhere, unite! Please join us in voting to renew the library levy.

—The Baker County Press Editorial Board