

Opinion / Local

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

Nichols likes senior citizens

To the Editor:

In the upcoming election for Baker County Commission position, we all have the opportunity to elect new and responsible leadership. Baker County strongly depends on the Natural Resources Industries – crop and livestock agriculture; mining and timber; tourism, both foreign and domestic. A respected businessman, Bruce Nichols has worked county wide with industry leaders. We believe Bruce to be that Commissioner to listen to all concerns and with quiet demeanor get the job done.

Being members of the Older Persuasion, we recognize the many concerns our growing population of mature citizens have. Baker County has one of the largest per capita percentages of senior citizens in the state. For this reason alone, we know the candidate most qualified and ready to put the County on a forward path is Bruce Nichols.

For example, Baker County provides some funding support for Community Connection, who sponsors many senior wellness programs, furnishes assistance including free legal aid, in-home respite care, heat assistance for low income households and senior citizens. Nutritious meals are served five days a week in Baker City and New Bridge, many delivered through the Meals on Wheels program. Bruce Nichols understands the importance of supporting opportunities to both our low income and senior populations. He will be a strong advocate for continued county support of these programs that keep people healthy and functioning in their own homes, and having a wide range of important socialization opportunities.

Deanna Davis and Milt Prowell
Baker City

Nichols suggested putting County into debt

To the Editor:

Why would Bruce Nichols advocate Baker County go into debt with low interest loans to purchase items for the County? (Stated in a Halfway meet and greet.) Mr. Nichols does not seem to realize County Government budgets must balance by statute.

I am seeing an accountant who just deals in numbers, but has never dealt in real management of programs, employees and their unions, and issues which affect our largest industry in Baker County, Agriculture. Nichols will not stand up for Baker County issue or its people.

Not sure he has the energy or the time to really do the job and keep up with committee assignments based on his attendance record with Baker City Budget Board (3-year term, missed one whole year of meetings!) I don't want Mr. Nichols minding my business. I am voting for Kody Justus for Baker County Commissioner.

Larry Wampler
Halfway

Humbled by Peggi Timm award

To the Editor:

I was humbled and appreciative to have been awarded the Peggi Timm Civic Leadership Award by Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative. I must thank so many people for this remarkable award including Mary Tomlinson, Richard and Kathleen Chaves, Maurizio Valerio and Andrew Bryan who were the nominators. Mary worked tirelessly on the application and I know contacted many friends and colleagues for letters of support. Thank you to all of those who wrote letters of support! I want to thank the Crossroads Board of Directors, past and present, and the amazing staff at Crossroads: Cynthia Newman and Derek Hosler for their ongoing support.

This award while giving to me represents many people who I have had the pleasure to work with over the years. From the Baker County YMCA, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Baker Little League, Baker 5J School District, Ford Family Foundation and many more.

I have to thank my family; if not for them none of this is possible. My parents Jay and Beth Grimes of Prineville, Or and my in-laws Bob and Marie Savage of Baker City. Our sons, Blain Savage now living in Broomfield, CO and Lee Robert Savage who is finishing college at Eastern, who were the reason for this life's work, to make their hometown a better place. To my husband, Kerry Savage, who I was smart enough 26 years ago to marry and to build a life here in Baker City. He is my rock!

I need to thank the Board of Directors of OTEC, Lara Petitchler-Stokes, and the entire staff of OTEC for this amazing honor and with it a \$25,000 gift to Crossroads Carnegie Art Center. But I have to thank my hero and mentor, the late Peggi Timm. She, like Leo Adler, was the spark of this community, who believed Baker City and Baker County to accomplish anything. I am profoundly humbled to have my name associated with Peggi's lasting gift to this community. She is in my thoughts daily and my love and prayers to Glenn and Peggi's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Thank you to my entire community. We look forward to sharing with you what Crossroads has planned with this tremendous gift and legacy of a remarkable lady.

Ginger Savage
Baker City

Justus supports the 2nd Amendment

To the Editor:

Why is it so important that Baker County gets a strong Second Amendment ordinance? Well, in America where our Bill of Rights hinges on free speech and self-defense, it's no wonder that these two issues have come under more attack by Big Brother than any of the others. These two well established rights are foundational to our very existence as a free nation. Yet democrats in Washington won't stop until they have completely disarmed us and relegated our voice to caged "speech zones". There is ample evidence to support this. The track record of Pelosi, Reid, Obama, Clinton, Schumer, and many others in the far Left is now being supported by some so called Republicans claiming to support conservative values.

Our rights to free speech and to bear arms is supported by our federal and state constitutions. By making a Baker County ordinance with teeth in it simply empowers our Sheriff to not only refuse to participate in a gun grab pushed by the feds, but it bolsters his stand to "defend"

the folks in this county against unlawful acts of traitors in congress and their relentless pursuit of a gun confiscation. Believe me, our Sheriff will need every law and ordinance at the national, state, and county level at his disposal in order to stand up for our rights.

Kody Justus has said that he'd make it a priority to pass a needed Second Amendment ordinance to protect our rights of self-defense at our local level. Bruce Nichols believes that passing this ordinance is a waste of time and has wide support from the party that wants strict gun control. I'm voting for Mr. Justus.

Richard Cochran
Baker City

Nichols will mind County business

To the Editor:

As we read the profiles presented by the candidates in the voters pamphlet, it is clear to us that Bruce Nichols has all the attributes we feel are important to be a positive addition to the Baker County Commission. Bruce has the experience and clarity of thought to address problems and facilitate positive opportunities. He is the candidate with the broadest set of skills and attributes to help identify costly mistakes or oversights before they arise.

Bruce doesn't bring an agenda with him that could be detrimental to the future of our community. He demonstrates a realistic understanding of what can and cannot be done at the county level. Finding solutions is a collaborative process. A County Commissioner's role is to solicit opinions and carefully consider the differing views of all the people that make our county the special place it is. We can find no examples of poor judgment displayed by Bruce. He has represented himself to our community with conduct that serves him well. The priorities Bruce put forth in the voters pamphlet says enough for us. "Minding the County's Business."

Given what we expect from our county government, the choice is clear. Bruce Nichols brings the requisite skills, experience, and common sense understanding to make our county a place we can all remain proud to be a part of. Please join us in voting for Bruce Nichols Baker County Commissioner.

Randy and Joanne Crutcher
Baker City

County doesn't need a strawman

To the Editor:

I went to three of the four forums for the commissioner race. I did miss the Sumpter forum where Bruce Nichols was a no-show.

At the Baker Livestock Association forum all the candidates were given an advance a list of topics to discuss. The topics were from the Owyhee Canyonlands monument, Wallowa-Whitman Travel Management Plan, Coordination vs. Cooperation, Endangered species to Transfer of Public lands to name a few. The candidates were given 15 minutes to discuss the list of topics. When it was Bruce Nichols turn he said, "I am a fish out of water talking about these things here." "I know about this much (held his hand up, forefinger about 1/4 from thumb) about these topics... But I have an opinion about them all."

When Nichols got to the Endangered Species topic, he said, "I have been told not to talk about this."

Cheryl Martin of North Powder asked Nichols, "Who has told you what you can and cannot say?" No answer from Nichols. Martin again asked, "Who is telling you what you can and cannot say... Who is dictating to you what you can or cannot say?" Again, no answer. Nichols was asked several times and he would not answer. Baker County does not need a strawman candidate or another puppet commissioner whose strings are being pulled by others. Remember Tim Kerns stating in session that he only does what his wife tells him to do?

Kody Justus has just received the endorsement from the Taxpayers Association of Oregon (kind of funny a CPA did not get this endorsement) and from the Oregon Family Council. He also has our vote for Baker County Commissioner.

Suzan Ellis Jones
Bridgeport

Thoughts on the coming election

To the Editor:

It's time to think long and hard about your future or the potential lack of one. Our country is on the brink of an economic breakdown. When this happens your job or source of income will be lost or seriously diminished. This didn't just happen, it is the result of 40 years of shortsighted, wrong-headed thinking.

The world has been bombarded by the environmental movement. It is a noble thing to be concerned for the environment around us but if a little is good, never ending move is not better.

The slogan "save the Earth" has swept the Earth but few know or think of the other half of the equation: "no life can exist unless we use the Earth and harvest its produce and resources." Thus the industries that harvest our food, timber and minerals are the foundation of our economy. You know that no business, industry or job can continue without these resources. Also know that all new wealth comes from the ground. There is no other source.

Every time we enact a new regulation that restricts access and use of the land and set aside another area to just look at or protect some bird, bug, fish or animal, we stop productive use and take another bite out of our economy.

We have overextended our regulations and land with draws to the point our country can no longer support itself. Those economic restrictions are bringing on our economic troubles and perhaps the end of America as we know it. Our area is in the unique position to blunt some of these troubles if we act and think right. The mineral resources of our area are sufficient to provide jobs and will allow many miners to support their families and many local merchants. If we are to survive this crisis we must change the actions and thinking of our government to allow the workers of our country to produce the necessities of life. So use your vote carefully.

Ken Anderson
Baker City

— SPECIAL COLUMN —



Submitted Photo

Jimmy Ingram is a local farmer and father of two who enjoys people watching within our wonderful community and beyond.

So I was thinking . . .

Battle of the sexes: Home edition

By Jimmy Ingram
Special to The Baker County Press

The battle of the sexes—it's raged on for years now. It's a wonder after all these years we have not only managed to co-exist, but sustain relationships with one another.

However, nothing puts our patience with one another to the test more than what goes on in various rooms throughout the home.

The bathroom: To a man, the bathroom is a very simple room. A utilitarian space for storing only necessary items: toilet paper, soap, razor. To women, it appears to be a scientific laboratory outfitted with state of the art beautification tools our male brains can't comprehend.

Drawers are systematically filled with moisturizers, lip glosses, 45 different types of hair ties, files, buffers, creams, lotions, various electric hair devices, etc. However, despite the discrepancy in bathroom real estate between the sexes, it's normally the male who is accused of the two major violations of this room: leaving an empty roll of toilet paper and leaving the seat up.

It's not that we don't care, we just figure that since the woman of the house has declared 90% of the drawer and counter space, she bears 90% of the logistical responsibilities of the room. Ohh, who am I kidding. We're sorry for leaving the toilet seat up. We won't let it happen again.

Winner: women.

The kitchen: A generation ago this was widely considered the woman's domain. Not any more. More and more modern men are doing their best to contribute in the kitchen.

Primitive as our male cooking skills may be, we can get the job done if we really want to. But we really don't want to. You cook far better meals than we do. Your meals end with the phrase "that was delicious" and our meals start with the phrase "maybe we should order a pizza."

You aren't necessarily required to seize control of this room but for the good of the family you do.

Winner: women

Living room: For women, the living room is supposed to be an inviting room designed for visual relaxation and sophisticated entertainment for guests of the home. To a man this room is a front row seat at a sporting event.

We need only a modest 70" TV, a comfortable recliner, plenty of secure storage space for the food and drink for our four most obnoxious friends, and the remote control to be no farther than two feet from us at all times.

To women it's a ballroom, to men it's a rec room. Fortunately, living rooms are able to be transformed from one theme to another in short order. Just be careful not to double book a baby shower and the Super Bowl.

Winner: tie.

The bedroom. This room should always be controlled by women. If it were up to men we'd have an unruly heap of camouflage bed sheets, a gun safe, a nerf basketball hoop, and laundry stacked to the ceiling. Fortunately our ideas for this room are often overruled, and for good reason. Women make this room look nice and keep it clean which us men should appreciate.

Winner: women (thank goodness)

The garage: This is the male stomping grounds. All the things that put hair on our chests can be found here: power tools, chainsaws, outdoor gear, lubricants for every known mechanical device, various beer making supplies, and tacky signs we wouldn't be allowed to have anywhere else.

Very few broken items enter the garage that don't come out fixed. So let's compromise shall we: you look past the 1994 Coors Light bikini model poster and we'll promise to fix the garage disposal in a timely manner.

Winner: men.

Home is place of comfort. A place where we can get away from the rest of the world. Just be sure not to let he territorial battles of the home get too serious. There's room for everyone.