

# Opinion / Local

## — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

### I'm voting for Ash

To the Editor:  
My 15 years as a Chief of Police taught me that there are a number of attributes the head of a law enforcement agency, Chief or Sheriff, needs to possess. Of those, three stand out as most important. One, experience in as many operational areas of the department as possible. Not to “micromanage” as leader but to be able to provide guidance, support and resources in major cases. Sheriff Ash has that breadth of experience; his opponent does not. Two, true management experience to include personnel, budgeting, public relations and working at a management level with other agencies and organizations. The incumbent Sheriff has that experience. His opponent does not.

Three, current knowledge of crime conditions and service needs throughout the county. Sheriff Ash has that because he is constantly out and about around the county visiting with people to determine their needs and expectations. Mr. Hoopes, due to an injury, has not worked as a Deputy Sheriff for a year. Thus he is not current regarding conditions county wide. In my professional opinion there is but one choice in this election if the objective is to have a Sheriff who is committed to upholding the Constitution in a professional, appropriate, and community oriented way. That choice is the incumbent Sheriff, Travis Ash.

**Jerry Boyd**  
*Baker City*

### This “deplorable” is voting for Hoopes

To the Editor:  
I am proud to be one of the “deplorables” who loves this country and honors its culture and traditions. I watch with horror as my country is being taken over by socialists who use unconstitutional federal powers to accomplish their evil agenda. I believe that our only hope to retain our liberties and rights and property is to elect a sheriff who understands his absolute authority over federal law enforcement. Unfortunately, interim Sheriff Ash has already demonstrated his disregard for the rights of others by openly supporting the unlawful ambush and killing of a man not even charged with a crime.

I cannot believe that Travis Ash would act any differently should similar incidents occur in Baker County.

I am standing behind John Hoopes, as I know the strength of his character and his commitment to lawful protection of our rights. Join me in voting for John Hoopes for Sheriff!

**Dale E. Hoopes**  
*Baker City*

### Immigration argument isn't new

To the Editor:  
Every now and then I like to quote Edward Abbey, the old environmentalist of The Monkey Wrench Gang and inspiration for Earth First. In a letter to the Industrial Worker Oct. 1st 1988 he had this to say:

“As I have said and written many times, in many places, I am opposed to all further mass immigration, legal or illegal, from any source, and my reasons for this position are quite conventional. Like all earth Firsters, almost all environmentalist, most union members and (according to the polls) the majority of blacks and Hispanics, I think we should seal our borders for the following good, clear and obvious reasons:

“1. The USA is overcrowded already.  
“2. A large influx of cheap labor-docile, uneducated and desperate foreigners-will put bonafide native born (or naturalized) American working people at further disadvantage in their struggle with big business and big government;  
“3. A growing population means greater pressure on all resources, including clean

air, clean water, clean soil, open space, schools, medical facilities, wildlife, wilderness and our public lands in general;  
“4. A growing population leads inevitably to more government laws, regulations, police, centralized control, authoritarian policies, and a generalized stifling of personal freedom for all but the very rich.”

Abbey was also pro-gun. He thought an armed populace was a barrier to tyranny. Too bad the urban left is so poorly educated. Now, as if we don't have too many people, Hillary wants to build bridges instead of walls and destroy the second amendment. Good luck next generation.

**Steve Culley**  
*Baker City*

### Hoopes has the experience

To the Editor:  
I see campaign signs for Travis Ash declaring that his “experience” is what sets him apart from his opponent, Deputy John Hoopes. I disagree.

Deputy Hoopes has 16 years of law enforcement experience of his own, mostly dealing with day-to-day events of the people of our country.

It is true that Travis Ash has been sent to more educational seminars, but schooling does not mean good sense and solid values and character to handle a situation.

Just take a look at John Hoopes and imagine his great strengths in an emergency. In many situations, it is “character” that matters, not “experience.”

A competent Sheriff will delegate authority to qualified deputies, just as a competent corporate CEO surrounds himself with qualified Vice Presidents to carry out the objectives of his company.

If a Sheriff claims to be “experienced” but has not bothered to educate himself about his constitutional superiority over federal officials, he may well allow federal agents to wrongfully harm local people. To do so is a violation of his oath of office and trust given to him by the electors. John Hoopes is highly respected by local people and deeply committed to the traditional conservative values that once made this country a beacon for liberty and productivity. It is character that matters, not taking classes.

Join me to elect John Hoopes to be our Sheriff!

**Joyce Hoopes**  
*Baker City*

### Vote no on 1-74

To the Editor:  
Ballots will be out soon for the general election. To keep our system of government, which has worked for a very long time, everyone needs to vote no on Baker County Measure 1-74.

Everyone who wants to vote can vote now...but to hear the “yes” crowd, you would think someone is physically stopping them from voting in every election.

The Nonpartisan system is the road map to a one-party system. History all over the world shows this – look at Mexico or Cuba and see how well a one party system has worked for them. Here in Oregon, look at Josephine County and other counties which are currently Nonpartisan. None are happy with this system and want to return to the system Baker County has today.

One of the arguments we hear today is so everyone can vote in the primary election. Well they can if they are registered to vote...so why change the partisanship of Baker County Commissioners? Maybe it's the folks who have tried to run for office and lost? Maybe they think hiding their true identity will fool the voters into voting for them in Baker County.

Join me in defeating this crazy idea for the second year in a row. Vote no on Baker Measure 1-74. Let's keep transparency in local government.

**Carole Dyke**  
*Baker City*

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## — EDITORIAL —

# Representative Republics and our party system

A comment posted anonymously in the public domain was sent to us from a Disqus board recently. The full comment is this in regard to the upcoming race for Baker County Sheriff:

“Why are the Baker Co Republicans supporting Hoopes with financial contributions? Shouldn't that be for all Baker Co republications to decide, not just a few committee members. I understand the Committee head is a staunch Hoopes supporter and she is free to support whoever she likes. But she is not free to spend all republicans \$ for her personal choices. I am a republican and I did not even get noticed re this choice. Once again transparency and accountability seem to be limited in Baker.”

We admit—it's frustrating after so many articles on the subject found in so many different media sources to hear once again that the basic structure of how our political system works is so misunderstood.

So let's start with this—America is a representative republic, not a pure democracy. This means at every level, voters vote in people to represent them. Imagine how expensive, time-consuming and unwieldy it would be to have an election for every decision made at every level of government each day. It isn't even feasible, this idea. Our Founding Fathers, brilliant guys, knew this.

Here in Baker County, all registered Republicans were given a choice on their ballots to vote for the very most grassroots level of elected official—the Precinct Committee Person or PCP.

The PCPs represent the voters from their

party inside their precincts. The Baker County Republican Central Committee's PCPs are in place as volunteers to support Republican candidates. The Democratic Central Committee is in place to support their Democratic candidates. That's how it all works. That's how it's supposed to work!

So to answer the anonymous person's first question about why this committee is supporting Hoopes. Well, that financial support is because John Hoopes is the only Republican candidate running for Sheriff. Travis Ash is registered by his personal choice as a Non-Affiliated Voter or NAV. If either Hoopes or Ash had been registered a Democrat, we're pretty sure that party would have helped them financially. That type of support is at the foundation of why both central committees exist: To help elect candidates on behalf of the registered Republicans or Democrats who entrusted these PCPs to represent them, their like-minded constituents.

To address the comment about spending all Republican money for the Chair's personal choices ... we'd can't for the life of us figure out what that means.

Each year the PCPs in the Baker County Republican Party spend hundreds if not thousands of volunteer hours raising money to support Republican candidates in general. This coffer includes private donations from the PCPs themselves, raffle events, proceeds from banquets and the like.

During meetings that fall in election cycles, the entire group of PCPs, again, elected to represent their precincts, votes on how to distribute the money they've raised.

No money is being forcibly taken from random Republicans around the County and distributed against their will. Any individual outside either the Democrat or Republican Central Committee is quite free—it's America after all—to directly donate his or her own money to whichever candidate they please from any party.

—The Baker County Press Editorial Board

## National Fire Prevention contest announced for 4th-6th graders

The Baker County Interagency Fire Prevention Team, consisting of Federal-State and local fire agencies, would like to encourage Baker County families to recognize National Fire Prevention Week: October 9 – 15, 2016.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 structures.

This year's primary National Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years,” represents an effort to educate the public about basic

but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

In addition to visiting homes and installing smoke alarms, fire agencies are working with schools and 4th, 5th and 6th grade students to develop Fire Prevention Message Posters promoting National Fire Prevention Week.

This year, students can develop a Fire Prevention message poster on one of (3) topics: Smoke Alarms, Kitchen Fire Prevention, or Holiday Home Fire Prevention. The goal of the poster contest is to have students develop a Fire Prevention Message poster and spend some family time discussing home fire prevention and safety.

“The Baker County Interagency Fire Prevention Team is anticipating

some great fire prevention message posters promoting National Fire Prevention Week. We're also hoping families will make some time to discuss fire prevention and take action to improve home fire safety,” said Gary Timm, Baker County Emergency Management/Fire Division Manager.

The Team will review poster entries and announced one winner from each grade during National Fire Prevention Week: October 9 – 15, 2016.

For additional information about National Fire Prevention Week, or fire prevention steps for the home – contact your local fire agency, or visit – nfpa.org.

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