

Opinion

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

Ash is Southwick's protégé, which is bad

To the Editor:

Some time ago when the previous sheriff was in office, my husband was parked in front of the Sheriff's Office to drop off some papers, and he watched a man frantically rummaging through his car nearby. The frustrated man then walked over and said he needed help with 75 cents as he was trying to pay a fee, but the Sheriff's employee had demanded the exact sum due. The reason given was that employees were not allowed to give out change!

Unbelieving, my husband asked the deputy about the situation. He was told that yes, there had been "issues" (problems) with employees handling money. So Sheriff Southwick made a policy that people had to pay required fees in the exact sum so that his employees would not be tempted to mishandle public money.

What is wrong with this picture? Is this a small matter? Is this reasonable in such a prestigious office? Instead of being committed to hiring trustworthy employees, he instead takes away their temptation at the expense of the public he is supposed to serve. And this is the sheriff who has taught his protégé, Travis Ash, everything he knows. Can we expect reasonable common sense management practices from Travis Ash? Can we expect that Ash will use better sense and higher principles?

John Hoopes is widely known to be absolutely honest and approachable, and has good leadership sense. In ordinary life John believes in the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." With such integrity and fairness nothing will persuade him into faulty compromise. He is deeply committed to lawfully serving the local people. Let's vote for John Hoopes and see what he can do to clean up the mismanagement in the Sheriff's Office!

Jeannie Anderson
Richland

Nonpartisan system was horrible for Crook County

To the Editor:

As a conservative and Chair of the Crook County Republican Party I was very disappointed when a measure to turn our County Commission to a non-partisan status was passed a few years ago. I had great concerns after studying the issue and can confirm those concerns were well-founded.

The premise was that non-affiliated and independent voters were being disenfranchised since they were not able to vote in the primary for party candidates. The proponents claimed there would be much higher turnout if it was a non-partisan elections. While it's difficult to get a grip on primary turnout in presidential election years it was clear that even with a presidential race the non-affiliated or independent voters did not respond in our now non-partisan county commission race at a greater percentage than before.

Disenfranchised? According to the turnout not so much. Disappointing when you consider there were so many other factors that influenced the primary that no definitive conclusions were to be made.

My best assessment is that the non-partisan status had only the effect of muddying the waters.

It's sure the Non-affiliated and Independent voters did not return their ballots in joyous approval of their ability to influence the primary. I can not recommend voting in favor of any measure that would change the status from partisan to non-partisan. It just doesn't measure up to the claims.

What I have seen is the tendency to do more fence sitting on the part of some candidates. "I'll just wait for someone else to lead out on this critical issue" was not voiced but it was implemented and has not helped our community. The fence was more appealing than leading. In Crook County leadership waited for citizens to lead on a new jail and we did. Was it because it was now non-partisan? Who knows, but we do know it didn't create leadership and in these trying times fence sitters are actually obstructionists. You don't need that.

I can strongly recommend voting no on Measure 1-74. It won't get you where you want or need to go.

Ken Taylor
Prineville

No on 1-74 for the second year in a row

To the Editor:

Baker County voters defeated this exact same measure last year and yet here it is again, please vote no on Measure 1-74. We need to know all we can about our candidates for office of Baker Counties Executive branch (our county commissioners). We need to know their history, positions, character, and political party. We need to know because all these things help us make a more informed decision when we vote. The founding fathers thought so too. The effort, time and deliberation by these very informed and dedicated men gave us the form of government we have now. It has worked well, certainly better than other countries with their systems. When we read Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison we should be grateful for their effort and thoughtfulness. Please vote no on Measure 1-74.

Tom Van Diepen
Baker City

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Vote no on Measure 97, 1-74

To the Editor:

Jeez, the tax and spend Democrats are at it again. They couldn't pass a Oregon State sales tax, although they have tried again and again. Each time the voters said a big resounding "no."

I guess if you can't make it through the front door use the back door.

They have come with a brilliant scheme to tax the big corporations and give the proceeds to the deserving needy of Oregon. Sounds good don't it until you figure out that the gas companies, food companies, clothing companies, the Walmart's, Targets the big taxable corporations will pass these tax's on to you and me. Higher gas prices, food prices, clothing and almost everything you spend your money on will be higher. For those of you that want to pay more at the stores and gas pumps be sure and vote "yes," as for the rest of us we will vote "no" on Measure 97.

Same for Measure 74 Nonpartisan Measure, we have run this county for years Republican and Democrat. The Democrats pushed this last year and voters voted it down. What's the matter with you guys? Ashamed to put Democrat in front of your name when you run for office? Please vote "no"... again ... for the second time.

Chuck Chase
Baker City

I'm voting for Ash

To the Editor:

The Sheriff of Baker County must be experienced in all areas of law enforcement, facilities management and administration; be of excellent moral and ethical character; and must be a leader of all and not a follower of some.

I have had the privilege of working for law enforcement for 30 years (10 with Baker City PD and 20 with the Oregon State Police). In my position I was able to observe the work of both candidates interacting with other officers and agencies, occasionally I saw their actions with the public and also saw the results of some of their day to day work.

Both candidates have "experience" in many areas, but Travis Ash is the one who exceeds in all aspects needed to serve the citizens of Baker County as Sheriff; not only on a local level, but also representing Baker County at many out of the county functions. Please vote for Travis Ash for Sheriff.

Marilyn Bloom
Baker City

Ash is the best choice

To the Editor:

Vote Travis Ash for Sheriff! Travis Ash is the best and only choice for sheriff. I have known Travis and his fine family for several years. Travis is a devoted husband and father. The devotion that Travis has for his family carries over to his work. Travis works hard to meet the demands of running a department with limited resources. Because of these limitations he covers shifts on his own days off, responds in the middle of the night and on holidays, and fills in for his deputies when they have personal needs or family requirements of their own. I know many of his deputies personally and see how they respect his devotion and commitment not only to the public, but to them and their families as well.

I have had several opportunities to attend public events where both sheriff candidates had opportunities to address the public or answer questions. Travis has attended all of them, spoke to the people (when permitted), and answered any question asked of him. His opponent, however, has either failed to appear or has represented himself poorly, never answering questions or addressing specific changes he has mentioned he would make for the office.

Making comments on his Facebook page about change isn't the same as facing the public to identify these issues, whatever they are. I cannot support a candidate for any public office, especially one as important as Sheriff, who cannot or will not address the public in person.

So please join me in supporting and voting for the only qualified candidate for sheriff of Baker County, Sheriff Travis Ash.

Donna Fiddler
Baker City

Miners and outdoorsmen support Hoopes

To the Editor:

John Hoopes is overwhelmingly supported as a candidate for Sheriff by local miners and outdoorsmen and women. He has actively studied the Constitutions he has sworn to obey, defend, and support and he knows that the proper role of government is to protect the rights of the people. He understands the limited authority of the

agencies of the federal government and has sworn to hold their authority to the original limits.

John Hoopes is committed to protecting the rights of the people, while his opponent Travis Ash is committed to allowing federal agencies to come into Baker County and take authority over the Sheriff. This is wrong!

Elect John Hoopes and stand behind him in the difficult times ahead. If you vote for Travis Ash, fully expect him to step aside in favor of the federal mafia when it wants to kill local people for merely challenging their jurisdiction, as they did in Harney County. There are photos on the internet showing Travis Ash proudly standing shoulder to shoulder in support of the federal thugs who deliberately assassinated a peaceful man who was charged with no crime.

John Hoopes is a man of great strength and character. You will never regret voting him as your Sheriff.

Frank McLeary
Richland

Will Ash be loyal to local residents?

To the Editor:

Please join me in voting for John Hoopes for Baker County Sheriff. John Hoopes has the mindset and the savvy that we need here in Baker County.

I am told that the current Sheriff, Travis Ash, is bringing in retired Oregon State Police to take top administrative positions. What is Mr. Ash thinking? These people are already getting a healthy retirement check from the State of Oregon. They are not going to feel the same loyalty toward, or have the same incentive to do what is right for the people of Baker County. When issues come up, Baker County residents safety and well-being should always take priority over State overreach.

John Hoopes knows that the Sheriff's job is to protect and serve the people of Baker County. I know a John Hoopes-led Sheriff's Office is the one that will work for us. He is loyal and accountable to the people of Baker County.

Lyn Akers
Baker City

No on 1-74 and Measure 97

To the Editor:

Proponent Organizations for State measure 97 who have endorsed a "yes" vote are the League of Women Voters, Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP), OEA, SEIU, etc. If Measure 97 is passed, Oregon will lose over 38,000 private sector jobs in Oregon, while increasing the size of State Government. Most corporations will be leaving the state. Phil Knight, owner of Nike has donated big bucks to the No on Measure 97 efforts because it will hurt Nike.

These above-mentioned nonpartisan organizations are the same organizations that encourage local elected offices to become nonpartisan. They have shown with M97 that the "guise" of nonpartisan is just another name for liberal. Watch their TV ads and how they try to cloak their radical beliefs behind the nonpartisan term! Sound familiar?

Here in Baker County, our County Commissioner seats are partisan and it has worked for the majority of voters (who really want to vote) in Baker County for many, many years. Nothing is broken in County Government. Keep transparency in Baker County Government.

Neither of these measures is good for Baker County or for Oregon.

Join me, my family and friends in voting no on Baker County Measure 1-74 and State Measure 97.

Kasey Wright
Halfway



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Published weekly every Friday.
Subscription rates per year are \$29.95 all areas,
e-mail delivery. \$39.95 print issue, home delivery,
Baker City city limits only. \$49.95 print issue,
mail delivery, outside Baker City city limits only.
Payment in advance.

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