

Editorial

Letters

An UN-endorsement for County Commissioner

By Gina Perkins

There's a fine line between respect and fear. Respect for someone results in trust, but fear and distrust go hand in hand.

Citizens who choose to vote for a particular candidate are placing their trust in the judgement and quality of the decision making ability of the individual running for public office.

A Commissioner's primary responsibility is the oversight and management of the county's day-to-day business. Their judgement and decisions affect all citizens of Baker County.

In addition to the budget, 911 Dispatch, Emergency and Fire Management, Public Health, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Abused and Neglected Children (CASA), New Directions, Juvenile Department, Economic Development, Planning, Roads, Parks, Natural Resources, etc., are either under the Commissioners' purview or are close working partners.

A candidate's experience, education, involvement and ability to build positive relationships in the community are important ingredients. But at the end of the day (or at the end of the countless meetings Commissioners have with Department heads, agencies, and constituents), the decisions they make and judgement they exercise, is what matters most.

The best, and perhaps only way to help determine the kind of judgement a person might exercise is to examine their past decisions. I'm deeply concerned about several decisions, some recent and some spanning the course of Kody Justus's adult life, that he has made.

Whether Justus chose to deliver coffee, donuts, or comic books to the armed occupiers of the Malheur County Wildlife Refuge is one thing. I question more his decision to take his 9 year old little girl there. Gunfire could have broken out at any time at that compound.



Kody Justus / Photo by Gina Perkins

Self-described patriot groups and individuals, most of whom were heavily armed, were jockeying for power. Law enforcement could have made the decision to raid the compound at any time. Either way, there was a real chance deadly gunfire could have broken out in an instant. We all regret the loss of LaVoy Finicum's life, but he was an adult man who made a series of adult decisions which resulted in very permanent consequences.

Can you imagine the devastation we would all feel if the life of an innocent child had been lost?

I can assure you there is no way

necessary to safely buckle up a child). Considering the aforementioned drunk and reckless driving charges, the child endangerment matter presents even more of an issue for me.

Earlier decisions made by Justus are even more disturbing. In 1994, Justus was convicted of Assault IV for domestic abuse against his first wife who is also the mother of his two oldest daughters, now adults. Out of respect for the victim and their daughters, I am not going to include the harrowing and gut wrenching details contained within the court documents or from the first person accounts. It suffices to say, the experience the woman endured is not something any loving parent would want their daughter to endure. I will also add that according to the court records, the domestic violence occurred on more than one occasion.

Unfortunately, the anger management classes ordered by the judge, suspension of the 180 day jail sentence, the year of probation, \$1,000 fine and court costs didn't prevent future abuse. The restraining order against Justus issued by

Justice Court Convictions
December 15, 1994

Kody L. Justus, 180 days in jail suspended, attend anger control classes, 12 months probation, \$1,000 fine, \$123 costs, Assault IV.

from the Record-Courier files

this Mama Grizzly would ever in a million years have considered, let alone allowed, my child or grandchild to be placed in that extremely volatile and life threatening situation. Nor would anyone whom I respect or trust.

One does not have to look far to see a series of decisions this candidate has made (all matters of public record available for anyone to review) which demonstrate not only a lack of judgement but a lack of consideration for the likely impact they could have on another person's life. Justus has completed diversions for drunken driving, reckless driving, and has been cited for child endangerment (because apparently he thought it wasn't

Judge Mile Pope five years later is evidence of this.

After becoming aware of the domestic abuse and assault conviction against Justus, I asked myself how that squared with the emotional statement Kody made in the Baker County Wildfire video about being entrusted by God to care for cattle and how hard it was to lose them in a wildfire. Frankly, it doesn't.

I also thought about my very favorite scene in the movie, *Lonesome Dove*. You know, the one where Captain Call sees the Army man viciously attacking his son, Newt. After standing up to his son's abuser, and seeing that his son is no longer in danger, Captain Call, a man of very few words says to the horrified bystanders, "I hate rude behavior in a man. I won't tolerate it."

I hate rude behavior in a man.

I won't tolerate it!

Woodrow F. Call
Texas Ranger

I believe very much in second chances. I shared the same Easter Morning experience at a sunrise service with Mr. Justus. However, I also believe trust is earned and there are lapses in this candidate's judgement which preclude him from earning my trust and my vote.

I'm Supporting
Bruce Nichols

To the Editor:

I am a volunteer with Best Friends, and I am writing in support of Bruce Nichols. Our organization actively works to find adoptive homes for animals that have been abandoned or must be given up by previous owners. We are a last resort prior to euthanasia. Our operating monies come from "adoption fees" on placed animals, memberships in Best Friends and funding from Baker City and Baker County.

Although the \$2000 from Baker County is not a large sum in terms of the entire County budget, to us it is hugely significant in our work. It pays for the boarding fee at the Baker Animal Clinic, where animals are safely, and securely, kept for up to a maximum of five (5) days until a new home can be found for them.

Bruce understands that there is a need for the County to continue to support the important work of Best Friends in placing abandoned animals in loving homes.

I have known Bruce Nichols most of his life, and consider him the best candidate for County Commissioner. Bruce is personable, likable, and very honest. Additionally, he cares a lot about the well being of his community.

His strong financial background will be an asset in keeping the County well managed and in a good financial position.

Carmen Ott
Baker City

Nichols a Good
Addition

To the Editor:

Bruce Nichols should be considered by all the voting public as a great choice for a County Commissioner. I have worked with Bruce for the last decade as Secretary for the Haines Cemetery District.

Bruce is the Accountant for the Haines Cemetery District. When Bruce became the accountant the District was in dire straights financially. Now the District is financially secure thanks to Bruce. Bruce

Lynn Shumway
Baker City

is very helpful with explanations to the budget committee when budget time comes around.

I believe Bruce would be a good addition to the commissioners as a strong financial background is essential for a strong financial Baker County.

Carol Proebstel
Secretary of the Haines Cemetery District

Nichols Right Man
for the Job

To the Editor:

It was a pleasure to learn recently that our long time friend and ranch accountant Bruce Nichols, has filed to run for the county commission position that Tim Kerns now holds.

I would like to thank Tim for his years of service. I know it wasn't for fame or fortune, but his commitment to the betterment of Baker County. Thanks, Tim. Great job.

As with Tim, I know Bruce has the desire to serve for the betterment of our county. Bruce and his family have deep roots in Baker County. One of Bruce's ancestors was an original homesteader on Burnt River in the Bridgeport area.

Over the years, Bruce has had many ag producer clients such as ourselves. Because of that experience he knows very well that agriculture is the backbone of Baker County's economy and how important it is to do what can be done at the county level to support the county's ag industry. The majority of ag income goes back into the local economy in the form of wages, the purchase of goods and services, and property taxes. Bruce's experience in the budgeting process will be a real asset to the county.

Bruce has also shown his interest in the community by serving on a number of local boards. I know Bruce to be a man of honesty and integrity. I believe he is the best man for the job. I encourage my fellow Republicans not only to vote for Bruce Nichols on May 17, but to encourage others to do the same.

Lynn Shumway
Baker City

Man Arrested for Domestic Violence

On April 1, 2016, Baker County Sheriff's Office arrested Rory Dambach at 1546 Cherry Street Baker City, OR, after an investigation into a domestic disturbance involving an adult female, the domestic occurred on March 29, 2016 at 2215 9th Street in Baker City.

During the assault the female reported she had been physically assaulted and choked. The assault occurred in the presence of minor children. Rory Dambach was lodged in the Baker County Sheriff's Office Jail and charged with Assault IV, strangulation and menacing.

Citizen Arraigned on Grand Jury Secret Indictment

On April 5, 2016, Antoine Mulder born November 30, 1949 of 2306 Church Street, Baker City, Oregon, was arraigned on a Grand Jury Secret Indictment alleging one count of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a Class B Felony.

The alleged victim in the case is a 10 year old girl known to Mulder. Circuit Court Judge Greg Baxter set bail at \$50,000. An entry of plea date was set for April 26, 2016.

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14th Annual Alaskan Halibut Fundraiser
April 23, 2016
Powder Valley Gymnasium
4 sessions: 1:00 to 2:00 P.M., 2:00 to 4:00 P.M., 4:00 to 6:00 P.M., 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
\$20 per plate
(Please make checks to PV Girls' VB/BB Teams)
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
Includes: Alaskan Halibut, baked potato, coleslaw, french bread, dessert, and drink
Hotdog tickets are also available for \$5. This includes hotdog, chips, cookie, and drink.
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For more information, please contact:
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Coach Marji Lind 208-880-5855
Coach Suzi Dixon 541-898-2244 ext 8887(school)
Betsy Nedrow 541-898-2862 (home)
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