

Guest Opinion

By Bruce Nichols, CPA and Republican
Candidate for County Commissioner, Position #1

Setting the Record Straight

Recent events noted in various letters to the editor as well as the Republican Candidates Forum last Tuesday, have prompted me to set the record straight.

The news articles have indicated the commissioner race has become contentious. I could not agree more.

I have always believed, if there are statements made or issues discussed that do not contain the whole truth, then the discussions and statements should not be believed. Truth that consists of half-truths, ones partially twisted or knowingly distorted and in any way, stated with the intent to deceive, no matter how you add them up, the results still equals a lie.

I have not attacked, nor will I ever attack Kody Justus's character, without just cause. I am not responsible for Kody's character or his actions. Only Kody is responsible for his character and actions. Likewise, I alone am responsible for my character and actions; no one else.

Regarding, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Clarks Creek Holdings, LLC, I was "blindsided" with a question at the forum by Jake Brown. I had no idea what he was talking about or why he would ask such a question. Later discussions with Ed Hardt about a damaged alfalfa field gave me insight that there was more to the question than I first realized.

That same week Josh Dillon, with *The Baker City Herald*, called me to discuss the CEO issue. After discussing various parts to the story I understood what was happening.

Twin Lakes Ranch, LLC was the operating company for the active mining operations. The operations for both Clarks Creek Holdings, LLC, in conjunction with Twin Lakes Ranch, LLC were shut down, all immediately when the owners realized the mine was failing badly. The mine owners instructed me to liquidate all assets and pay all known obligations as quickly as possible, subject to the approval of the owners for each and every significant transaction. This essentially meant "fire sale" prices.

I was not, nor ever was, the managing CEO during any of the active mining operations. I became the fiduciary CEO for the liquidation of both companies once the mining operation ceased.

My character and my actions speak for themselves.



Photo by Chris Persons

News of Record

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Accidents

April 15 – 515 Campbell St., Baker Truck Corral parking lot, at 11:43 p.m.: Raymond L. Summerville, 46, of Ogden, Utah, was in the sleeper berth of his commercial motor vehicle (CMV) when he felt his cab move. He looked out and saw a semi-truck, driven by Eric D. Dokes, 31, of Scottsbluff, Neb., next to his driver's side door and he watched as it sped away. Summerville followed Dokes until network operators located them at eastbound mile marker 373. The damage on both CMV's was minor. Dokes claimed he did not know he was in a crash, and his CMV had just a small amount of paint transfer on the right rear corner edge. The paint transfer was the same as Summerville's CMV. Information was exchanged.

April 16 – On Interstate 84, at 6:35 p.m., Milepost 292 eastbound: Barbara Jean Conaway, 64, of Baker City, was driving her white Buick in the slow lane when two deer ran in front of her. The vehicle struck both deer causing front end damage to the vehicle. The driver was able to bring the vehicle safely to a controlled stop on the right shoulder. Conaway arranged for a tow through her insurance.

April 17 – Highway 86, at 8:29 p.m., Milepost 54.5 westbound: A Silver Toyota Tacoma was traveling West on Hwy 86 near mile post 54.5 when a black cow ran in front of it. The driver, Bradley Cantrell, 37, of Clatskanie, Ore., was unable to avoid hitting the cow. The vehicle was occupied by Cantrell and three other people: Glenn Downey, Marie Sarah Miles, 34, and Brandon Allen Sullivan, 36. Both front air bags deployed. An unknown two of the 4 occupants were transported by ground ambulance to the ER. The area where the cow was struck is open range.

Two Local Fire Departments Suffer Thefts

Baker County Sheriff's Office Press Release

On April 21, 2016, Baker County Sheriff's Office responded to the Keating Rural Fire Department to investigate the theft of fire department equipment. The initial investigation revealed someone had entered the fire department building and stole fire fighting and life saving equipment.

On April 22, 2016, Baker County Sheriff's Office responded to the Pocahontas Rural Fire Department to investigate a break in. When deputies arrived they found someone had entered the fire department by force and stole fire fighting and life saving equipment.

The fire departments are in the process of inventorying equipment to determine all the equipment stolen and the replacement cost.

The theft of the equipment will restrict Keating Rural and Pocahontas Fire Department response to emergency calls for service, the recovery of the equipment is crucial to their effective response.

Anyone with information leading to the recovery of the equipment please call Baker County Sheriff's Office (541) 523-6415.

Letters

(continued from page 4)

Voting for Bruce

Nichols

Dear Editor and Baker County Residents,

The election for Baker County Commissioner has shed light on a few very significant issues we voters would be wise not to ignore. One of these is the breadth of the experience and recognition of issues we face. That is why I am voting for Bruce Nichols.

It is obvious that the economy is a primary issue. Or it should be. With one of the candidates, it is hard to tell given his relentless overemphasis of the almost irrelevant issue of public land ownership. Nichols understands this and spends his time focusing on what I would expect from a commission candidate – the business of actually managing our county and looking at options for growing our economy.

We need to look forward with a knowledge of what has happened in the past. We cannot afford to high-grade a few romantic snapshots of the past to promote a future based on what isn't working well anymore.

The importance of economic development to Baker County cannot be overstated. A study in Utah on the ability to grow rural western economies stated that the logging and mining industries which were for so long the life blood of counties like Baker are under increasing pressure

as resources are depleted, cheaper alternatives are developed, and imported low-cost products compete in the marketplace. Baker County's economy won't get better with all our eggs in those baskets. That is just a fact. We need a commissioner who will embrace all possibilities for economic growth, not just ones that are part of a very narrow agenda.

Recent research by an economic consulting firm shows that rural western counties with higher percentages of public lands have actually seen a steadier increase in economic growth over time than counties which have less

public lands. There are multiple reasons for this. It is time we get off the very wrong concept that by taking over federally managed public lands we are going to see some kind of economic miracle. Ain't gonna happen, folks.

Vote Bruce Nichols if you want a common sense commissioner who can think outside of the box.

Rick Meis,
Halfway

Continue Support for the Library

To the Editor:

Baker County is very fortunate to have the quality of library that we do. Not only is the local library open seven days a week, but they have five satellite branches that provide access to books for the most rural parts of the county open an additional 15 hours a week.

When my girls were little, they took part in the library reading program. It helped teach them that books could take them anywhere they wanted to go (and at their own pace). Over the years, we spent many evenings at the library getting books for the girls to read and movies to watch as a family.

Many of us take internet (and computer) access at home for granted. Statistics I have seen recently, indicate that approximately half of Baker County residents don't have internet access in their homes. The library provides access to computers and the internet for those visiting the library.

The property tax levy on the ballot is not for NEW additional taxes. It is providing continued funding for the library at the same level as in previous years. Pay it forward to the next generation just as someone else did for you. Join me in voting YES on the library levy.

Anthony Bailey, CPA,
Baker City

The *Record-Courier* welcomes your letter to the editor. Prefer 300 words or less. Letters may be sent by a single author once a month. Email with your contact information: news@theronline.com.

**Baker County
Parole & Probation
Most Wanted**



Bates, Clayton D.

DOB: 08/23/1983

Sex: Male

Race: White

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Brown

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 160

Convictions:

**Tampering with
Witness, Possession
of Meth**

The person above has criminal warrants. If you see this person, do not attempt to apprehend them yourself. If you know where this person may be, contact Parole and Probation at 541-523-8217 or your nearest police department. You may also e-mail parole@baker-county.org

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**Music Night Fundraiser on Thursday,
May 12 at the church with dessert
auction to follow. 6 p.m. gathering with
7 p.m. concert. Free will offering taken.**

Haines United Methodist Church

721 Robert Street, Haines, Oregon

Sally Wiens, Lay Minister • 541.963.6991 (home phone)

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