

Letters

Nichols Right for Baker County

To the Editor:
As a business owner and lifelong Baker County resident, I am supporting Bruce Nichols for Baker County Commissioner. I have known Bruce for over 30 years and I feel I know a lot about his character and commitment to Baker County.

Bruce has been involved in countless projects that have benefited the people of our county. I worked with Bruce before and after he volunteered to be on the golf board. He worked very hard in helping to develop the back nine at the Baker City golf course. His vision was not just about having a back nine in Baker City, but the potential tax revenues for the City and County that the housing around the new course would provide. This is the kind of vision I want our commissioner to possess. I feel Bruce would look out for the economic interest as well as our personal freedoms that are so important to the people of Baker County.

I hope you join me on Election Day in supporting someone who will represent everyone in Baker County.

Scott Warner,
Baker City

Agenda no Danger to County

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.

JoAnne and Randy Crutcher
Baker City

Fiscally Responsible

Letter to the Editor:
A key element of the many responsibilities of a county commissioner is to be fiscally prudent. We are fortunate to have Bruce Nichols running for commissioner. His background and experience will serve the people of Baker County well. There are many areas of impact within the county that the commissioners influence and we believe Bruce Nichols has the temperament, analytical ability and business credentials to do an excellent job.

Dean Defrees, Sumpter
Ron Rowan, Baker City

Don't Buy Into Rhetoric

To the Editor:
I am writing this not to support any political candidate but to let you know about one person who is running Kody Justus. A person who knowingly provides material support or resources to a terrorist IS A TERRORIST. Your guy Kody did just that. He provided material support to the terrorists who took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge by force. Did he provide guns, ammo or just lube....he won't say. I had heard that he said he supported them, he did nothing wrong because "No One Had been Convicted of Any Crimes!" That's like saying I supplied 1000 extra rounds of ammo to the active shooter at the high school and NO One Had been Convicted of Any

Crimes!

A person who Supports a Terrorist is a Terrorist!

Let me fill you in on an experience I had to go through this winter.

I have two defacto grandkids, two cute little girls in grade school in Burns. Their father is one of the full time workers at the Malheur Refuge. The family had to flee and went into hiding for around 45 days. They went from safe house to safe house. No schooling for the girls. No contact with friends except when they were changing to a new safe house, then they went dark again. They have dreams about the big bad men coming to get them. These are just children....CHILDREN. And this Kody Justus supported this group who did this to my grandkids!!

Dear good people of Baker County....What would you do if this happens to your grandkids, your family?

Ammonosexuals pull out their guns, threaten the life of men, women and children because by force they want to ram their opinions down your throats. 'Oaf-keepers' stir up the good old boys who have become dumbify. They want Our land for Their purposes of profit, power, fanatic religious sects and hate. Anybody can put anything on the internet, or right-wing media and these desperate men and women believe it.

Good people...don't buy into this rhetoric of extremism, delusional behavior and violence. Many of these groups, who like to use the word "coordination" and "pre-existing rights", are engaged in groundless conspiracy theorys, extreme antigovernment doctrines, violence, criminal activities and many, many times outright racism. Don't buy into it....Don't buy into it. Think of Your Children.

Our politicians and other leaders should be working to bring us together. We should battle the hate and anger that surrounds us.

There are other candidates on the ballot who do not represent the wack-a-do fringe. Your choice good people may never wake up to the sound of your children crying from a dream because the "bad men are coming".

Kifar Yosemite
Spokesperson for Panhandle
Friends For Public Lands

Thumbs Down to Water Fee Hike

To the Editor:

I've had many years experience as a councilor with water rates and the Baker City Water Department but I have never seen the need for an increase of the magnitude that is currently being considered. A 20 percent increase in the base rate and a 52 percent increase in the unit rate. Really? If you follow thru with that much of an increase Baker City will probably become known as the brown lawn capital of Oregon. I know I will certainly have to drastically curtail my use. My water bill based on my June to August use last year will increase by 41 percent.

You do realize of course that a large percentage of the population is retired and on a fixed income? I don't know what sort of management (or mismanagement!) created the need for that much more funding in the Department but I suspect you should first consider cutting expenditures because it is highly probable that with that much of an increase water consumption is going to drop off dramatically and therefore your income may actually go down.

It appears that the recently approved water facilities plan needs to be reviewed to be sure that only essential items are included and a slower rate of implementation considered for those things that really need to be done.

I urge you to take another look at the proposed rate structure. The citizens of Baker City are depending on you to exercise some common sense and control over activities at City Hall. Thanks for your service.

Larry Pearson, Baker City

Thank you!

To the Editor:

We would like to send out a heartfelt "Thank you" to all those that made Mucuna and Parkinson's 'East to West' research project a success.

Special thanks to the Lion's Club of Baker City, for allowing us to fund raise as a non-profit thus making this endeavor possible.

Sincere gratitude to Crossroads Art Center, Ginger Savage, Terry Drever Gee, Joyce O'Neal for assisting us in event preparations/

platform. The Bronze Dedication Committee, Jeff Nelson, Whit Deschner, Kathleen Kiefer, Reta Warner, John Wilson, Robin Maxom, Andrea and Phil Stone, Kathleen Benett, OTEC, and Marvin Wood Products.

Much thanks for coverage abroad and locally to Lisa Britton at the *Baker City Herald*, and Gina Perkins of the *Record-Courier*.

Thank you to all the contributions made by the Baker community. We truly appreciate it. My sincere thanks and gratitude,

Tanya Denne

The Benefits of a Good Mosquito Control Program

To the Editor:

With the mosquito control local option levy up for renewal in the upcoming ballot, Baker Valley Vector Control District would like to let all of the citizens within the district know about the benefits of a well-funded mosquito control program, and what the funds are used for. The levy will be for the same amount that it has always been of \$140,000 per year, so property taxes will not be increasing. This funding goes a long ways towards helping Baker Valley Vector Control fight mosquitoes and monitor the presence of West Nile Virus within the district. Here are a few examples of the many benefits this funding helps us provide for the citizens in the district:

- Setting mosquito traps throughout the district to monitor the prevalence of West Nile Virus and other vector-borne illnesses.
- Providing education to the public about mosquito prevention and information on vector-borne diseases.

- Providing the district with the ability to make treatments when necessary to decrease the chance of vector-borne diseases and nuisance mosquito populations for a better quality of life for both citizens and livestock.
- Allowing the district to test mosquitoes and birds for vector-borne illnesses.

- Providing inspections around houses for mosquito breeding sites and treating those sites for the citizens of the district.

West Nile Virus in the district has become a common occurrence in the summer months. Having these funds available is crucial to our efforts of monitoring and limiting the spread of vector-borne illnesses and keeping mosquito populations at tolerable levels so everyone can enjoy their summer. Baker Valley Vector Control takes a tremendous amount of pride in doing its part to serve and protect the citizens of the district. We thank you for your support throughout the years, and we hope everyone will take this into consideration when filling out your ballots this spring.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors
Baker Valley Vector Control District

A High Five

To the Editor:

Though I do not know you personally, I met you at my book signing in October of 2015.

Having moved recently (to the liberal west side of the state), from an (sadly disappointing) anticipated long term retirement to Baker City in 2008, I await my copy of The Record Courier each week. The recent Commissioner race has been very interesting.

Just want to give you a high five for having the courage to speak up to a "strident" (seeming) majority of that eastern part of the state. Knowing first hand that it is NOT popular, and that it is extremely RISKY, to voice an opinion that doesn't fit the (seemingly) popular mold of the population there, I congratulate you on your courage to speak loud and clear what I consider to be your "sane" position!

My roots in that valley go back to 1862, and I'm proud of those roots. I would love to sit and chat with those good and brave people today regarding all the "strident" positions regarding the land that they so gratefully received from, yes, the federal government.

Sincerely,
Linda Wunder Wall
Albany, Ore.

Inappropriate

To the Editor:

A recent summary of a Baker County Commissioner's meeting (Record-Courier, Thursday April 14, 2016) revealed that Bill Harvey had asked commissioners for

\$1000 dollars to join the American Stewards of Liberty. Harvey stated that Fred Kelly Grant, the founder of ASL, "believes this organization could be a huge asset for the county."

For those who don't know, Fred Kelly Grant is a Boise attorney currently representing LaVoy Finicum's wife. He is also the director of Trademark America and the Stand and Fight Club. The services of the American Stewards of Liberty are sought by Bill Harvey to assist with "legal services" for the "ever-present issues issues driven by the BLM, U.S Forest Service and other federal agencies."

At the County Commissioner's meeting on April 20, 2016 I pointed out that Custer County, ID had paid \$23,000 and Garfield County, CO \$26,000 to this organization whose main purpose seems to be the support of Nevada ranchers and lawsuits against the federal government. I and another individual protested against the use of county taxpayer money to pay for this. Bill Harvey replied that no taxpayer money would be used: private individuals had come forward to pay for membership in the American Stewards of Liberty.

It is beyond consideration that our county commission chairman would suggest that individuals fund a special-interest group to influence Baker County Politics. Though not reported in the Baker City Herald, I asked Kody Justus at the AAUW candidates' forum if he agreed with Harvey's stance on joining the American Stewards of Liberty, and he stated, of course, that he does.

I feel that the American Stewards of Liberty organization has no place in Baker County politics.

Mary Miller, Baker City

Belva (Maxwell) Ticknor wrote the following:

I have been going through Mom's stuff and found this poem probably written before 1917. The reason I think that is because James O. Maxwell bought out the other farmers who had the store and he died in 1917. According to her note, which was given to her by a Maxwell cousin, the cousin said it had been in the Record-Courier and Mom figured it was probably in the paper about 1910 or so.

It was Written by C.N. Chambers and there is a Cyrus Newton Chambers in the Haines Cemetery, so assuming it was him. He died in 1928.

Thought it was a cute poem you might want to use sometime. I am sending it just as I found it written.

Belva Maxwell Ticknor

Another boost for Haines

You may go to Walla Walla,
You may go to Portland Heights
You may go to Pocatello
For to see the pretty sights
But you'll not tarry long there
You will take one of the trains
And you'll never stop a coming
Till you get right back to Haines.
You may go to California
Where the yellow oranges grow.
But I'd rather live up higher
Where we have a little snow;
You may go way down to Florida
Where they raise the different canes
But I'd rather live near Baker
In a little town called Haines.
I like to see the mountains
When they're covered o'er with snow
We can irrigate the valley
And watch the barley grow.
We raise just lots of wheat here
And lots of other grains
And when the harvest's over
It is all hauled into Haines,
The people they are all alive
They are boosters that I know
The way they are building up the town
I tell you is not so slow.
They are going to build a grist mill
To grind up all the grains;
Then the farmer puts all his ready cash
Right in the bank of Haines.
There is Mr. Stock and O'Bryant
They sell the Buick car
They glide along so easily
Not even a little jar:
They will travel over roughest roads
Through mud and snow and rains,
And they never fail to turn around
And get right back to Haines.
The farmers have build a store
It's all built out of rock,
It covers quite a piece of ground
Almost one-fourth of block;
They buy the farmers hay there
They buy the farmers grains
They say they pay the highest price
Of any one in Haines.
We have a splendid climate here
A better can't be found
We have the biggest little town
Of any place around;
And if a friend of yours comes West
Across the sandy plains
Please tell them like you tell the rest,
"Just keep your eye on Haines."
- C.N. Chambers

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