

# Opinion

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Don't put limits on potential state appointment

Editorial from **The (Bend) Bulletin**:

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson may well be in a fight for his life. He made public his diagnosis with brain cancer in early June, though he has not said what sort of cancer he has nor the treatment he's receiving for it, nor has he indicated he plans to step down.

Were he to do so, Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, would be required to appoint a successor who, like Richardson, is a Republican.

But she also says she'd only choose someone who would not later run for the office.

That's no way to go about selecting a replacement. Brown should choose the best Republican for the job, with no limits on that person's political future.

Oregonians deserve a secretary of state who will run the office well, nothing more and nothing less. The governor should not use her power to appoint as a lever to determine who can run for the office.



## Letters to the editor

• The Baker City Herald will not knowingly print false or misleading claims. However, we cannot verify the accuracy of all statements in letters to the editor.

• Letters are limited to 350 words; longer letters will be edited for length.

• The writer must sign the letter and include an address and phone number (for verification only).

• Letters will be edited for

brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons.

**Mail:** To the Editor, Baker City Herald, P.O. Box 807, Baker City, OR 97814

**Email:** news@bakercityherald.com

## Your views

### Yes on school bond to benefit students, the community

I am adding my support to Measure 1-88. Over the past 30 years I have had the honor of working as an occupational therapist in school districts throughout Northeast Oregon. I have served in a multitude of buildings, classrooms and facilities in our part of the state. I have a passion for providing students with a safe and secure education that challenges them to reach their highest potential.

During the time that I've served Baker 5J I've worked in closets, converted shower rooms and storage areas. My colleagues and I have evaluated students in confined spaces with intermittent loud buzzers while attempting to assess each child's best efforts. In spite of administrators' creative use of space, we have exhausted options to find additional work areas.

I have worked in districts that have passed bonds and built new schools so I have seen firsthand how updated buildings can impact students and teachers. The learning environment has an incredible effect on both staff and learners. These districts have seen improvements in student behavior with more options for learning and reduced barriers to success.

Teachers and school staff work incredibly hard. With buildings that are safe and

secure, with clean and organized spaces, we all win. The success of these students is our success and impacts each and every one of us. I look in the faces of students and teachers every day and I believe that they deserve to work and learn where they are safe and their learning is supported. An average investment of \$197 per year is an investment in our kids and in our community. Please join me and vote Yes on Measure 1-88 on November 6.

**Toni Nickell**  
Baker City

### Passing Baker School bond would meet the needs of kids, families

I would like to thank you for your informative editorial on Measure 1-88, Sept. 21, on the value of investing in our children's education. It was a well communicated perspective on Baker School District's current needs that not only focused on the present, but the future.

As a new member of your community, and a former educator, it is heartwarming to hear about what makes a community resilient. Often, it can be difficult but necessary to make the right decisions to serve everyone, especially the youngest, who most often have no voice. Not to mention the teachers who provide some of the greatest service for our children and their families. They all deserve

a safe, secure, adequate and stimulating environment in which to learn and work. Passing Measure 1-88 would be a collective response to the needs of those we hold dear: children, families and teachers. The individual financial cost serves as a reminder of what is required of every resident to keep Baker City vibrant and healthy.

We may not all be in a position to teach, but as a community we can provide the best conditions in which our children can learn.

**Joan Tracy**  
Baker City

### Voters should care about candidates' views, not labels

If signs for a Democrat and a Republican appear in the same yard, does it mean the Democrat is really a conservative, or does it mean that the Republican is really a liberal? It means neither!

The writer of a letter about political yard signs (Sept. 24 Baker City Herald) jumped to an incorrect conclusion about why Bruce Nichols and Jamie McLeod-Skinner signs sometimes appear in the same yard.

Conservative, liberal, Democrat, socialist, and Republican are labels that box people into categories, encourage stereotyping, and reinforce "us versus them" thinking. Partisan mentality keeps us at odds with one another when we really need to be working together

for the greater good.

What I look for in a candidate is honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability, willingness to listen and learn, and evidence-based decision-making. I have taken the initiative to sit down and speak with Mr. Nichols and Ms. McLeod-Skinner and know them both to live and work the values and qualities that I believe are important.

Nichols and McLeod-Skinner are very different ideologically. What they have in common is that they are both the best candidate in their respective race. That is why I have both of their signs in my yard.

**Cynthia Roberts**  
Baker City

### Why is county race about conservatives and liberals?

Could you please explain what "conservative choice" means in the context of a county commissioner? Why is a commissioner conservative, liberal or anything else? This is not national politics, or is it?

I had filed a complaint with county elections and the Harvey committee prior to the primary where Harvey was calling himself the "conservative Republican," this for a nonpartisan position. Luckily he changed for the general.

**Tom Nash**  
Halfway

# McCartney's magic: Still on the stage at age 76

Paul McCartney is 76 years old and he just embarked on a world concert tour in which he will perform for hundreds of thousands of adoring fans.

This sounds like a story that might involve multiple fractures, burst eardrums and possibly a coronary event of moderate severity.

Most 76-year-olds don't go to rock shows, much less star in them.

But McCartney, of course, is hardly an average 76-year-old.

He is the epitome of the character commonly referred to as a living legend.

McCartney just happens to be an especially energetic version, whose spryness belies his age.

His legendary status was assured more than half a century ago as a member of the Beatles — by an absurdly wide margin the most famous band in pop music history.

But that alone wasn't enough to make McCartney the all but mythical person he has long been.

His only surviving bandmate, Ringo Starr, is well-known, too, but Ringo's fame belongs to an altogether different category.

(Although I don't mean to slight Ringo — he still gives concerts, too, and at 78 he's even older than McCartney.)

McCartney wasn't merely a Beatle, is the thing. He also made up, along with John Lennon, the most celebrated songwriting duo in the annals of pop.

McCartney is among a handful of



**JAYSON JACOBY**

the most influential bass players ever, and his reputation as an instrumental virtuoso has only been burnished as the years have passed and historians have revealed that he also played some of the more scintillating guitar parts in the Beatles' canon.

(Including perhaps the greatest of them all, the solo on "Taxman".)

McCartney's recording career since the Beatles disbanded in 1970 has also been more consistent, and voluminous, than any of the three other erstwhile Beatles.

(This isn't due solely to McCartney being unusually prolific, though he certainly is that, but also that he has been afforded a much longer life than Lennon and Harrison. Lennon was murdered by a deranged "fan" in 1980. Harrison, whose talents, especially as a songwriter, were prodigious and suffered only because of the inevitable comparison with Lennon/McCartney, died in 2001. Ringo, though he made a few fine records in the early 1970s, was a masterful drummer but he has nothing like the musical gifts the other three possessed.)

Perhaps the most commonly asked question of music fans, at least since, say, 1965, is whether

you're a Paul or a John fan.

Which is to say, who was your favorite Beatle?

I don't mean to suggest that there aren't plenty of people who claim to prefer George or Ringo and who are sincere rather than intentionally contrary.

But even among that bunch the choice must be made, the allegiance clearly expressed between the two unquestioned geniuses in the band.

I've always favored Paul.

I'll concede this is due in part to matters having nothing to do with the duo's respective achievements as musicians, both within the Beatles and without.

Lennon was in many respects not a nice fellow, a trait amply documented in historical sources.

He was a poor husband to his first wife, Cynthia, and far from a model father for his older son, Julian.

And although I can appreciate the sentiment in the lyrics of "Imagine," his best-known song as a solo artist, I've never been able to completely suppress my hypocrisy detector when I listen to a man who lived on an estate and who got around in Rolls Royces sing about "no possessions."

Paul, by contrast, seems to have been utterly devoted to his first wife, Linda, until she died of breast cancer in 1998.

But even when I ignore their personal lives and restrict the comparison to John's and Paul's musical

creations, I find that I get more consistent pleasure from the latter.

It is, though, an exceedingly close contest — the equivalent to a football game decided by a field goal.

Each man created a considerable number of the songs that will always remain on personal playlist. (Although Beatles songs, except those by George or Ringo, were credited to Lennon/Cartney, from 1966 until the band's breakup in 1970, almost all of those songs were written by either John or Paul, with contributions from the other partner ranging from modest to non-existent.)

It is course the ultimate exercise in subjectivity to compare the qualities of what are, notwithstanding the lyrics, a series of sounds produced by a variety of instruments and, in many cases with the Beatles, by manual or electronic manipulations of metallic tape.

We are accustomed, certainly, to such comparisons, to the notion that some music is inherently "better," but I'll concede this is not truly a measurable matter.

I have a slight preference for Paul's work mainly because I think his gift for melody exceeds John's. Songs such as "For No One" on 1966's "Revolver" LP, "Mother Nature's Son" from the White Album in 1968 and "Golden Slumbers" from "Abbey Road" the next year, to name just three of many, massage my ears as a swallow of cool water soothes my throat on a hot after-

noon.

The overly simplified story of the Beatles portrays John as the "edgier" musician and writer, the one who produces more challenging material while Paul goes in for accessible fluff that satisfies the undiscerning, and undemanding, masses.

This claim isn't without foundation, to be sure.

Lennon was more prone to experimentation, both in terms of sounds — "Tomorrow Never Knows" from "Revolver," — and lyrics, as with "I Am The Walrus" from "Magical Mystery Tour."

But anyone inclined to lump Paul in with lounge singers or overly emoting crooners need only listen to, say, "Helter Skelter" from the White Album to understand how inane such comparisons are.

But enough with competition. This is music, not football.

We are all fortunate to have access to so much music from the Beatles as a group and from the members' solo careers.

And I find it astounding that today, more than half a century after the quartet dimmed down from their airliner at New York and revolutionized America culture, one of those four is still strapping on that iconic Hofner violin bass, striding into the spotlight and sharing a talent that has enriched so many lives over the decades.

Jayson Jacoby is editor of the Baker City Herald.