

The Residual Power of Ammon Bundy *continued from page 11*

representatives open their doors to us, and the sheriffs and bureaucrats. In Orofino, we went to the county courthouse. They were as cordial and helpful as anybody could possibly be," he said.

Peter Walker, author of *Sagebrush Collaboration: How Harney County Defeated the Takeover of the Malheur Refuge*, thinks counties across the West closely watched the 2016 occupation and won't stand for anything like it. "People in (Clearwater County) pretty quickly — and these are very conservative people — said, 'You don't know what you're talking about, this isn't your community, go away,'" he said.

Still, Bundy has power he didn't have before the 2016 occupation, Walker told me, particularly among people already inclined to anti-government sentiment. And David Neiwert, author of *Alt-America: The Rise of the Radical Right in the Age of Trump* and an expert on right-wing extremism, agrees. "I think that the entire Patriot movement is constantly looking for situations like this where they can create these standoffs," he said. "It's mostly a matter of being a situation where they feel like they can make a public justification for it... and

also it has to be one where they can actually succeed."

In Orofino, a woman behind a cash register at a gas station said everyone in town heard Bundy was on his way. But "there was no trouble with the gentleman at all," she said. He was there, and then he was gone. He looked into the

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Nickerson case and concluded they were "just a bunch of bums sitting up there."

And so, as the *Los Angeles Times* reported, "Ammon Bundy's rush to save an Idaho ranch ends without a standoff." That Ammon Bundy did not lead people to take up arms against the government again is now a newsworthy event. But what didn't make headlines was the hypocrisy that informed his decision: How Bundy, in the past, has led two standoffs under the guise of a lie about the government, and yet chose not to indulge a new lie in the Nickerson

case. And that says a lot about the source of his power. It comes from fear — a fear that he and the militia could strike anywhere, anytime. If the conditions are just right, if the lie is compelling enough and enough people want to believe it, maybe he'll lead gun-toting people to take over your town, too.

But the Nickerson case wasn't right. So there the family was: camping on the rocky shoulder of a steep mountain road. No snow was on the ground yet, but the November breeze cut like razors. Bare hands found their way into sweatshirt pockets, and the first em-

bers of a campfire snapped. "(Bundy) spent just minutes with us. He spent all his time in town making deals? I don't know," Donna Nickerson said. "We are the victims here, but he tried to change that."

The Nickersons continue to add new videos to their website. In one, the family, wearing jet-black fake beards and thick black eyebrows, sings a song about Chase Bank. "We'll fight all the way for our home," they sing. "Yes, we'll fight all the way for our home."

At the end of January, the Nickersons were still out there on the side of the road.

This article was originally published in High Country News on February 21, 2020. Leah Sottile is a correspondent at High Country News. She writes from Portland, Oregon.

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Vernonia Rural Fire Prot. Dist., Columbia, State of Oregon,
(Agency name) (County)


to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, will be held at 555 E Bridge St, Vernonia OR 97064.
(Location)

The meeting will take place on April 14, at 6 a.m. p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget.

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.


A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 14, 2020 at 555 E. Bridge St, Vernonia OR 97
(Date) (Location)

between the hours of 9 a.m. p.m. and 4 a.m. p.m.



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Church Directory

<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Sunday Schedule: Sacrament Meeting: 10:00 am Sunday School & Primary: 11:20 am Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women: 12:10 pm Roger Cook, Branch President 1350 E. Knott Street 503-429-7151</p> <p>Grace Family Fellowship Sunday School: 9:00 am Worship Service: 10:30 am Thursday Prayer: 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Greg "Mac" McCallum, Pastor 957 State Avenue 503-429-6790</p> <p>Nehalem Valley Bible Church Sunday School: 9:45 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Tues. Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 am Wednesday Service: 7:00 pm Sat. Men's Prayer Meeting: 6:30 am Gary Taylor, Pastor 500 North Street 503-429-5378</p> <p>Open Door Gathering Place Service: Sunday 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Grant Williams, Pastor 375 North Street 503-702-3553 Bible Study: Sunday 9:00 am at Mariolino's</p> <p>St. Mary's Catholic Church Sunday Mass: 12:00 pm Fr. Josh Clifton, Administrator 960 Missouri Avenue 503-429-8841</p> <p>Vernonia Christian Church Sunday School: 9:45 am Worship Service in Youth & Family Center: 10:00 am</p>
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www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org
Sam Hough, Pastor
410 North Street
503-429-6522

Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church
Sabbath (Saturday) Services
Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11:00 am
www.VernoniaSDAC.org
Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Avenue and Nehalem Street
503-429-8301