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PG-13  
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**SPY R**  
Comedy. A desk-bound CIA analyst volunteers to go undercover to infiltrate the world of a deadly arms dealer.  
FRI - THURS (4:10) 7:10 9:45

**ENTOURAGE R**  
Movie star Vincent Chase and his boys are back in business on a risky project that will serve as Vince's directorial debut.  
FRI - THURS 7:20 9:50

**SAN ANDREAS PG-13**  
After a massive earthquake in California, a rescue pilot makes a dangerous journey across the state to rescue his daughter.  
FRI - THURS (4:20)

( ) = Bargain Matinee

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**KERNS**

continued from page 1

Adam Kerns, his wife Ori, and little Thomas were present at the assembly and drew rounds of applause. Many grateful tears were shed during the presentation.

Fire Chief John proudly said, "All of our agencies work together everyday like this." Head Teacher Nanette Lehmen reminded students that police, firemen, and EMTs are here to help them.

Sheriff Ash said that if Kiley, Wesley, and Caleb had not responded in the responsible, timely way they did, the outcome may likely have been much different.

Thomas Kerns has made a full recovery and is a darling, active, happy little boy.



Thomas Kerns and his mother, Ori

(Below) From left: Gary Timm Fire Division Manager for Baker County Emergency Management, Tom Everson Assisant Baker City Fire Chief, Baker City Fire Chief Mark John, EMT Sarah Blair, Deputy Eric Colton, and Sheriff Travis Ash.



Welcome



**Harrison Hayward Greene**

was born May 25, 2015, to Trisha & Timothy Greene. He weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces. He was 21 inches long. Grandparents are Pat & Dianna Greene, Chad & Becca Colton, and Todd Riley.

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**Public Lands Resolution 15-01 is Heated Discussion Topic at June 5 Meeting**

By Emily Braswell

Bill Harvey's First Friday with the Commissioner meeting June 5 had several more in attendance than usual. Harvey sat next to his newly appointed Natural Resource Advisory Committee Chairman, Doni Clair Bruland, during the meeting. Bruland was appointed by Harvey earlier to replace Jan Kerns who served as NRAC Chairman for the past several years.

The possible listing of sage grouse and possible delisting of the wolf in eastern Oregon, as well as the county's Natural Resource Committee have all been recent topics of interest. However, the topic dominating Friday's conversation was the Public Lands Transfer Resolution 15-01 which had been read by Chuck Chase of the Baker County Republicans at the May 20 Commission meeting during the Citizen Input portion of the agenda. Questions had arisen as to why the important topic with interest and strong opinions on both sides, was not included as part of the May 20 agenda.

On May 12, 2015, at 3:34 p.m., Suzan Ellis Jones, Chairman of the Baker County Republican Central Committee, wrote the following on the Forest Access For All page: "The Baker County Republican Party passed a resolution (15-01) to promote the transfer of public lands back to local control. Our next step is to take to the Baker County Commissioners and hope they will pass a similar resolution." The resolution states it was passed by the full Republican Central Committee. No definition of "full committee" was provided. Not everyone present at the

meeting was in agreement with the concept of such a transfer, including Arvid Andersen a forester and member of the Baker County Republican Central Committee who asked, "How could the county possibly take care of the Federal Lands? There's all the staffing, the money, and even Cliff Bentz, our Representative, said it couldn't possibly be done."

Dave Hunsaker, retired from the BLM having worked for 41 years throughout seven western states in natural resource management, was another citizen who expressed deep concern. Prior to his retirement as the Associate State Director for the BLM in Colorado, he spent several years as the director for the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center here in Baker City. He is a very active within Baker County; he is a Lions Club member and holds board positions with the Baker Heritage Museum and Baker City Bandstand Committee.

Hunsaker spoke from his professional standpoint regarding the turning over of public lands to state and local governments. His concern lies with the way the turnover is being presented to the public and he feels that local ownership of public lands would be financially and logistically ill-fated.

"Instead of taking back the public lands, we should work within the laws that are passed by Congress, which is a national representative body on national public lands. It [public land] is the greatest treasure that we have in this country, and the moment it goes into private ownership, no trespassing signs go up," Hunsaker said.

Hunsaker also stated, "Instead of voting no or voting yes, I would just hope that the Commission wouldn't vote if a Resolution came forward on this, and really explore other options for us to get some things done here."

As he continued to address points brought up in the meeting, he summarized his thoughts by asking the people to use the tools already in reach, to get past the petty details, and to start working with one another and with the public land management agencies to address the logical issues through cooperation and coordination.

Gary Dielman continued to question the rationale of the Republican resolution and inquired as to the intent of the Commissioners.

Chairman Harvey replied, "The resolution was taken in advisement; we didn't know it was coming."

But as Harvey pointed across the table from where he sat, he stated to the audience that Chase was the person who had presented the document during the May 20 meeting.

Harvey then said, "They did email us a copy earlier in the week and because we didn't have a chance as Commissioners to sit and discuss anything, we didn't discuss it. The Commissioners will approach it as just information."

Dielman turned to Chase with a question regarding a segment in the resolution which gives the counties the power to veto anything the state tries to do with its newly acquired federal lands.

"Amen to that Brother!" Chase said.

"With the way the state legislature is going right now I would be desperately scared if this thing

went to the state. They could do anything to it. I have a hard time turning everything over to the state legislature without the counties having at least some say in how things go," Chase said.

Dielman broke in again, stating that a specific clause in the resolution grants the counties a veto and what Chase was describing was not. Chase then said the resolution does not contain the word veto, but instead, it says there must be a concurrence.

"What's the practical difference, Chuck?" Dielman pursued.

"Well, it's like if they wanted to come up here into Baker County and turn everything that was public lands into wilderness. The county could come and say no you can't because we need those natural resources to survive," Chase answered.

"We would deal with the state the way we're dealing with the feds, trying to convince them to do it our way," Dielman said, attempting to summarize Chases's example, and to which Chase answered, "That's right!"

Chase continued, "It's got to be a working relationship. We can't just have the state coming in and telling us, ok, this is a natural resource withdrawal and you can't do anything. It would have to be a working relationship with the state and the counties together."

Art Sappington was the last of the audience to speak. He said that a lot of the data used by the federal agencies is absolutely made up, and there is no scientific foundation for it. He recommended the counties write and submit official letters of challenge for specific scientific studies, demanding to see the data behind them.

Following the meeting, Sappington approached Hunsaker, challenging him to put forth the documentation he referenced during the meeting. Hunsaker remained calm and even-toned as he explained court cases and legislation which had created barriers to the transfer of Public Lands to local governments. Sappington kept pressing the matter, appearing to lose his temper, regarding a Memorandum of Law he said he had submitted to the courts.

"It's not opinion because I presented that to the court so it's a statute and it will uphold in the court!" Sappington stated.

Hunsaker replied, "The Supreme Court held that only the Federal Government only can manage the public lands."

Sappington raised his voice and stepped toward Hunsaker, demanding that he go get the court case information documenting what Hunsaker had just referenced. After of being yelled at and ordered to prove his facts, Hunsaker finally turned away and began a new conversation after Sappington ignored his requests to step back out of his personal space.

Plans to return federal land to local government are merely hypothetical at this point and the financial repercussions are unknown. Questions regarding how the county would manage wildfire and how much money would be required to battle potential environmental lawsuits which government agencies incur on a continual basis, are among those which have yet to be addressed.



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BAKER COUNTY NEWSPAPER

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Published every Thursday at Haines, Ore.  
Office located at 914 Front Street, Telephone (541) 856-3615. Periodicals "Postage Paid at Baker City, OR 97814."

Subscriptions and Postmaster: Send Address Changes to P.O. Box 70, Baker City, Oregon 97814-0070.

Subscription Rates: \$39 per year in area, \$44 per year out of area.

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Thursday, June 11, 2015