

VIDEO continued from page 1

Lorrie said that Hart had traveled to Baker County and "visited with everyone." She said that several more people are on the full length documentary which is about 30 minutes in length and will be available April 1.

Audience member, Brenda Holly, voiced several concerns regarding the video. She said the website on which the link to the video can be found: www.bakercountwildfire.org contains two tabs, one of which Holly stated asks that donations be made to Rock Creek Enterprises (a private business owned by Bill and Lorrie Harvey). Lorrie clarified that was for the book on Coordination she had compiled and was only to cover the costs of printing the book which she does in their office. Lorrie stated they do not make any profit on the Coordination book.

"It seems like a conflict. I think you're setting yourself up for some real challenges," stated Holly. "Did everyone in the video give their permission?" she asked.

Lorrie stated she didn't make the video but could only assume so because it was professionally done.

"What about the pilot with the wing number 850 on the plane?" Holly asked. "That could be directly traced right back to him. Does he know he's part of this?"

Holly continued, "I think there are some conflicts of interest and perhaps ethics violations."

Lorrie answered, "If you feel the second tab stating the book is available is a problem, I'll have Scott take it off."

Audience member Steve Fiddler then asked, "Who wrote the [Coordination] book?"

Lorrie explained she had compiled information from individuals including Fred Kelly Grant so that people would have one resource

to learn about Coordination. She said she produced the book, but didn't write it.

Fiddler replied, "I would have to agree, there's at least a perception of a conflict of interest."

Bill Harvey stated, "It's a private website, private money and the County's not involved."

"You say it's not part of the [County] government, but we've got two County Commissioners in the video and one of them is wearing a County shirt," replied Holly.

Following the meeting, more than one person asked if it wasn't a Baker County video, why was it included as a part of official County business and why is "Baker County" included in the name when several counties in Eastern Oregon were severely impacted by the wildfires? Others made comments about misspellings in the video including the word, "stifling" and others said they perceived some of the verbiage to be awkward.

Individuals besides the two commissioners who are seen and speak in the video promo are rancher Dennis Kiely and Kody Justus, Republican candidate for County Commissioner. Justus spoke emotionally about what it's like losing cattle in a fire. It is not known if the dispatchers or deputies who are heard speaking on the video are aware they are in it or if permission was given.

Commissioner Mark Bennett weighed in saying, "My wife and I were just awarded a stewardship award. I don't think I was ever there as a Commissioner. It's because we had an emotional tie."

Holly also expressed concerns about the fact the website leads people to organizations like the American Lands Council and Kris Anne Hall's Liberty First website, which Holly said both have a certain political agenda.

Wanda Ballard who is an active member of Forest Access for All stated she was insulted by such comments and questions being raised. Her husband, Tork, said, "I don't understand what conflict there is. The money came from private citizens."

Dave Hunsaker expressed that he thought the County would have been better served if the video would have been simply informative instead of an indictment to beat people over the head.

"If people take this movie as criticism, then so be it. It's a matter of fact," said Art Sappington.

The tab referencing the Coordination book and asking for donations was removed from the website apparently immediately following Wednesday's Commission meeting. Anyone interested in seeing the video preview which is entitled "Baker County Wildlife Documentary promo" or the website can visit: www.baker-countywildfire.org.

Citizen Participation Portion: Representative of McCarty Helicopters Questions Commissioners

Jolene Linstrom asked the Commissioners if they intended to write letters to the neighbors whom investigators had spoken with to alert them the lawsuit had been settled and that McCarty had been operating within the letter of the law. She also stated they were happy to have the lawsuit behind them but asked Commissioner Harvey why the County is still prolonging the matter by not paying the \$306,000 awarded by the judge and why they were continuing to have the County attorney fight it.

"I asked for clarification from the judge," stated Harvey.

"The only one benefiting at this point are the attorneys," stated Linstrom.

Comments about Sheriff's Race

Ed Hardt stated, "I just found out the Sheriff's run-off is not going to be decided in the primary." Hardt expressed concern about the 200 signatures which had been gathered by candidate for Sheriff, John Hoopes saying they were "null and void."

"It's crazy," stated Hardt.

Nelson: It's a Learning Experience

By Gina Perkins

Jeff Nelson, Republican Candidate for County Commissioner Position #1 calls running for the position a learning process. He said many people have approached him over the years to run for Baker City Council.

"But I live out of town so

that's not an option," said Nelson. "Some people on the different boards I'm on encouraged me to run for County Commissioner when Tim's [Kerns] position came available."

"I've got yard signs now, but I don't have a committee. I hate to ask people to commit themselves if things turn out differently," said Nelson citing family circumstances which have arisen and demands with his position as a business adviser with Blue Mountain Community College, both of which have kept him from getting organized as quickly as he would have liked.

"I'm taking it slow, but I'm having fun," Nelson said.

He added, "I am new to the political process and I've made some mistakes. I'm a person that likes to know what I'm doing, so I figure if I run again in four years I'll have it all figured out."

He stated he does have some meet and greet events planned in April and Nelson did speak at the annual Republican Dinner held on Saturday, March 19. One of Nelson's challengers, Kody Justus, also spoke at the event. A campaign video of Justus produced by Sound Image Productions (the same company which produced the Baker County Wildfire video) was also available to be viewed at the Republican dinner.

Bruce Nichols, another challenger, purchased a ticket but was unable to attend the dinner because of a previous family commitment out of the area. Bob McKim had planned to

speak on Nichols's behalf at the event but Suzan Ellis Jones, Chairman of the Baker County Republicans who openly supports Justus, denied that request.

Nelson stated he does have a website www.jeffnelsonforcommissioner.com and Facebook page for his campaign. He invites people to visit his website to learn more about him. He may also be emailed at jeffnelson1964@gmail.com.

No Democrat or Independent candidate filed for the County Commissioner primary election. All three candidates, Nelson, Nichols and Justus are Republicans, so only registered Republicans can vote. The candidate with the most votes will advance to the general election. The last day to register to vote or change party affiliation is April 26.

Individuals can register to vote or change their party affiliation by:

--going online to <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do>

--completing a voter registration card and mailing it to 1995 Third Street #150, Baker City, OR 97814

--going in person to the Baker County Clerk's office

Those with questions may call the Baker County Clerk, Cindy Carpenter, at 541-523-8207. The deadline to register is April 26. Local ballots will be mailed April 28. Military and out of state ballots are mailed prior to that date. Primary election day is May 17, 2016. The general election is November 8, 2016.



From left: Ken Anderson, Ed Hardt, Bruce Morrison, Tork and Wanda Ballard. Front row: Kody Justus, Suzette Patterson and Art Sappington



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An angel flew by today,
Said it was going to take you away,
From all life's pain, and life's sorrow,
That on earth, there will be no tomorrow,
But your spirit will always be,
With us all, that we can see,
And the love, that you always shared,
Will always be, with those whom you cared.
You will be missed by us all,
Never again, you can we call,
Your memories will always be,
With us all, through eternity.
Our hearts ache, now that you are gone,
Knowing that you, have now gone home,
But we know you don't want us to grieve,
For again we shall see you, in eternity.

By Mae C. Garnett

Our loving mother
and grandmother,
**Ines Marie Van
Cleave**, passed away
March 10, 2016 in
Meridian, Idaho.
You will always be
in our heart and
memories.

Love, Judy Van Cleave,
Darrell Hamilton,
Kassie Owen, Nathan
Sharp, Joanna and
Red McCormick



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March 25 - 31

**BATMAN V SUPERMAN:
DAWN OF JUSTICE** PG-13

Batman takes on the man of steel, while the world wrestles with what kind of a hero it really needs.
FRI-SUN (4:00) 7:30
MON-THURS 7:00

**MY BIG FAT GREEK
WEDDING 2** PG-13

Portokalos family secret brings the characters back together for an even bigger and Greekier wedding.
FRI & SAT (4:20) 7:20 9:40
SUNDAY (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS 7:20

**DIVERGENT SERIES:
ALLEGIAN, PT. 1** PG-13

After the earth-shattering revelations of Insurgent, Tris must escape with Four beyond the wall that encircles Chicago to finally discover the shocking truth of what lies behind it.
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:00 9:35
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:10

() = Bargain Matinee