

SMELL TEST

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Mr. Harvey, despite your statements at meetings you have attended in other counties at which you have shown the Baker County Wildfire video and provided advice and hailed your success in Baker County with Coordination, you have, in fact, misrepresented to those audiences your statements saying "you have the full support of 17,000 people in Baker County."

You won the election, but if you recall, the number of voters who cast their ballot for you was thousands less than the roughly total number of 17,000 citizens in Baker County.

We are not "your" people. However, you, are currently our County Commission Chairman, accountable to all 17,000 of us. (Speaking of recall.....)

On yet another note, citizens and the media became acutely aware of such inappropriate decision making when the video trailer entitled "Baker County Wildfire" was shown at a Regular County Commission session in March. Yes, it was included on the meeting agenda and also displayed the name of the presenter, who happened to be Bill's wife, Lorrie.

Two Commissioners and one candidate for Position #1 appeared on the video trailer. Commissioner Bennett stated he was not acting as a County Commissioner in the video, but as a rancher and one of many citizens whose property and home were immediately threatened by the devastating wildfire. Commissioner Harvey also appeared on the video and was wearing a shirt with a beautifully embroidered Baker County logo and words "County Commissioner" on it. Wife Lorrie shared with those in attendance, the idea for the video had come up in September during a conversation with Fred Kelly Grant and a few others. She also shared that a copy had been sent to Representative Bentz and that copies would also be mailed to the "west side" so they would know how their decisions about forest management affect us here in Baker County.

Commissioner Harvey and Lorrie stated that it was not a Baker County video and that it had been paid for with private funds. She also said that she wanted to show the video to the Commission (which frankly, was a little odd given 2/3 of the Commission had participated in it). But, we all politely played along.

Following the showing, a citizen questioned how it was not a Baker County video when it featured two Commissioners and one candidate for whom the Commission Chairman has openly supported. When Mr. Harvey emphatically repeated it was not a Baker County video, the person asked if that was the case, then why was he wearing a Baker County shirt?

That made Bill mad.

Lorrie stated the whole video would become available April 1. However, there has been no additional mention of the movie or its availability since its showing at the Commission meeting.

If the purpose of the video (which was very well produced, minus a notable misspelling in one of the most prominent captions), was to reach decision makers and affect change, then perhaps a more appropriate title of the video could have been "Eastern Oregon Wildfire." After all, many of our neighboring counties were ravished by the wildfires.

Instead of including all Baker County citizens and other stakeholders, Commissioner Harvey opted to include only a very limited number of individuals and organizations (which by utter coincidence, are in alignment with his personal views). And despite Mr. Harvey's assertions the federal government has no authority whatsoever regarding matters concerning public lands, the videos may have had a much better chance of reaching the decision makers and potentially affecting real change had a Washington D.C. zip code been used instead of one beginning with "97." (or if Bill wouldn't have pissed so many of them off.)

An even more recent example, was the surprise addition to the agenda made by the Chairman at the beginning of the April 6, 2016 Regular Session. No mention of the "American Stewards of Liberty" coalition appeared on the revised agenda for the meeting which was distributed via email on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 4:05 p.m.

At that Commission meeting, Harvey recommended to fellow commissioners, who have equal authority and equal voting power to the Chairman, to approve a \$1,000 expenditure to join the coalition. He expressed his opinion regarding the advantages to Baker County, especially since legal services would be available with membership. He said that joining the coalition would provide a great service to Baker County in "dealing with a multitude of ever present issues driven by the BLM, U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies."

What Chairman Harvey didn't mention at the meeting, but has inferred or directly communicated on multiple occasions including in posts to his official Bill Harvey County Commissioner Facebook page (which was started several months prior to him winning the general election and was taken down earlier this month), is that because the U.S. Forest Service does not accept his interpretation of Coordination, that he would "join others" in suing the Federal Government.

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Mutual Improvement Club Holds April Meeting

Submitted by Dotty Miles



Photo by Gina Perkins

Club members had fun teasing Dotty just a bit...she arrived EARLY to April's meeting at Marjory Peck's. It must have been in anticipation of the delicious rootbeer floats for dessert!

The April meeting of the Mutual Improvement Club was held at the home of Marjory Peck with Viola Perkins and Carol Proebstel as co-hostesses.

The Cookbook Committee reported they were working hard and had made progress towards their December 2016 deadline. Lisa Lauch, a graphic artist who volunteered to help produce a cookbook we can be proud of, attended the meeting and worked with the Committee.

The Club will be having a Yard Sale May 7, 2016 during the Community Yard Sale Day, at the corner of Cole and 2nd Street in Haines. Come and check us out! Members, bring your priced donations on Friday, May 6.

Club members will provide desserts at the Friends of Haines Steak Dinner and Auction fundraiser for the Fourth of July fireworks. It will be held at the Frontier on May 14.

It was decided to help toward purchasing a security robot for the newly formed NE Oregon SWAT team for Union, Baker, and Wallowa counties.

The renewal of the Baker County Library levy to be on the Primary election ballot was explained and supported by Dotty Miles, who passed around fact sheets about it. Bruce Nichols, candidate for Baker County Commissioner, visited and introduced himself, explained his qualifications for the office and answered questions from members.

The Mutual Improvement Club will be co-hosting a program at the Eastern Oregon Museum, with the Oregon Historical Society, called an Afternoon with Teddy Roosevelt. A renowned presenter will assume the personae of the 26th president of the United States Monday, May 9 and the Club will help with refreshments. Gina Perkins, editor and owner of the Record Courier Newspaper, gave a program on a "Mail Order Bride," the story of which appeared in the newspaper. There are many stories to be learned from family histories in our area.

Marjory and co-hostesses served root beer floats in tall soda glasses for a refreshing treat. If you would like to donate items to our yard sale or become a member of our active Club, call the Secretary at 541 377-5795.

Carson Lien Hopes to Participate in Medical Study Opportunity

Carson Lien is raising money so she may attend the National Youth Leadership Forum Medical Camp in Los Angeles this coming July. All donations will be used solely for tuition, travel, and housing. This is an extraordinary opportunity where she can pursue her passion for the medical field. This particular camp will allow her to learn about all aspects of medicine, watch a live surgery, practice suturing, interact with first year medical students, and meet people with the same interests from across the country. To see more information about this program please go to <https://www.envisionexperience.com/explore-our-programs/national-youth-leadership-forum-medicine>

Carson and her mom, Sarah, have established a "Go Fund Me" page which can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/2uykvvnk>. Anyone wishing to contribute to this amazing opportunity for Carson can contribute through the online site or by contacting her grandparents, Larry and Judy Griffin at 541-856-3623.

Carson's mom praises both her daughters for their courage and strength as their dad, Dirk continues his recovery from a serious brain bleed. She says Carson's resolve has only grown to have a career in the medical field and has been right at the center of his care at the hospital and now in the rehabilitation process. The girls have been spending much of every weekend in Boise with their dad and encouraging him as he recovers. The community's thoughts and prayers continue to be with Dirk and his entire family as he continues his recovery process.

Join Us for Our Open House

A special invitation is extended to the Haines and North Powder communities to attend our Open House celebrating the Record-Courier's 115th Anniversary this Sunday, May 1 from 1-4 p.m.

Been to the Deli at Sell Rite?

I'm hearing rave reviews about the opening of the deli at the Sell Rite! They keep adding new things each week so you need to stop back often. I've even heard rumors about take and bake pizzas possibly at some point...that would be great!

Sweet Mother's Day Notes on the Way

Haines Elementary Pre-School Class will be sending us their special Mother's Day notes which we will print in the paper next week. Their letters to Santa were wonderful, so I bet the notes about Mom will be great!

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Adopt a Friend!

Peep is my name, and let me say it's been a long road to Baker City towards my forever home. I was born in Texas and I think my mom and dad were drifters.

When I was very young I contracted parvo. Lucky for me a very nice couple rescued me from the street and nursed me until I got well. After I recovered I was given to a very nice couple in Baker City who have taken wonderful care of me for the last year. I am proud to say I am now quite well, fit and ready to embark on a new adventure seeking my forever family.

I am 1 1/2 yrs. old, 8 lbs., spayed and vaccinated. I heard a rumor that I am probably Chihuahua and Mini Aussie mix but no one knows for sure. I am a mystery girl. I am housebroken and have very good "inside manners". I sleep with my current family, I am not barking and I get along with most dogs and cats. I am shy and need a little time to warm up to people, but once I am your friend I am yours forever.

I hope to find a family to love that does not have small children because they make me nervous. I need a fenced yard to keep me safe and for me to play fetch in. I would love to go with you for rides in the car and walks on a leash; my two favorite things to do. I hope my new family will be patient with me at first and I will love them forever.

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