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VFW Youth Shoot nearly doubles in size

• 4TH ANNUAL EVENT GROWS SIGNIFICANTLY

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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On Saturday, the Veterans Memorial Club in Baker City was host to the fourth annual Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Youth Shoot, with a significant increase in participation, up from last year's 43

youths, to 70 this year.

The age groups represented were 10-11, 12-13, and 14-15.

Most of the volunteers returned once again for a successful shoot this year, including Danny Sword, of Sword's Lawn Care, VFW Memorial Club bartender Karen Wilson, Alan Elsberry, who exceed along with Wilson, Ray Berryman, Chad Williams, Joe Brooks, Wayne Bloom, Duncan Pierce, and Alita Arendell.

This year's event had a more streamlined approach, said Berryman, who volunteered as one of the basement range coaches, because there were so many participants.

He said that each participant was granted three initial practice shots at a target, with either a range-supplied, open sight .22 caliber rifle, or one the participant supplied.

After that, each participant fired 10 shots from the prone position, in

contrast to last year, when each participant fired from the prone, kneeling, and off-hand positions.

Major sponsors for the event included the VFW, Steve Ritch Environmental and Construction, Inc., Sword's Lawn Care, the Sword family, Rusty Little, and Kevin Logsdon of York's Covered Wagon Grocery & Sporting Goods.

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Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Top shooter Ethan Jensen holds his prize, a .17 Super Mag.

Christmas tree team makes Main Street merry



Photo courtesy of Jeff Nelson, HBC, Inc.

Baker City's Main Street Christmas tree was loaded onto a truck provided by Superior Towing. The process involved volunteers and staff from OTEC and multiple City departments.

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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Jeff Nelson of Historic Baker City, Inc. (HBC) said that last Saturday morning's cutting of the Main Street Christmas tree happened on "a perfect day."

With crisp air and bright blue skies, Nelson gave praise and "many thanks for all of the coordination" to The Baker City Police Department (BCPD), Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op (OTEC) and the Public Works crew from The City of Baker City.

The volunteers from OTEC included Jeff Anderson, Anthony Bailey, Gene Nelson, Don Olson, and Ned Ratterman. Lara Petitioner-Stokes, OTEC

Communications Director, helped coordinate the effort.

Helping with the transportation route were Sgt. Mike Regan, Lt. Dustin Newman, Officer Rand Weaver and Reserve Commander Jerry Boyd.

Donn Christy, owner, and Sean Conley, from Superior Towing also helped. Christy said, "We basically assisted with the loading, unloading, and transporting of the tree. Sean also helped during the transportation across town by guiding me under power lines with our pilot car. I can't say enough about Baker City Police for their escort to downtown. I really appreciated their help as well."

SEE CHRISTMAS TREE PAGE 8



Photo courtesy of Jeff Nelson, HBC, Inc.

Above, crews begin the process of cutting the tree from its former location on Lund Lane.

Pot odor issue on hold, Augenfeld resigns

• CITY COUNCIL ALSO ADDRESSES DOUBLE SEWER/WATER ISSUE FOR LANGRELL'S NEIGHBOR VANDENBOS

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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A beautiful and much-needed blanket of fresh snow covered the rooftops visible from City Hall Tuesday as the regularly scheduled City Council meeting convened.

Mayor Mosier called the meeting to order and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation. All councilors were present with the exception of Mack Augenfeld.

Mosier said, "I should note that Councilor Augenfeld called me today, and unfortunately because of health reasons, he will have to step down from Council." She gave the Council a moment to digest what she had said.

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 10

City, Police Chief file suit response

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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On November 21, attorney Robert E. Franz, Jr. out of Springfield filed the initial legal response on behalf of the City of Baker City, ten "Doe Officers," and Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner. The response addresses the federal lawsuit filed last month by reporter Brian Addison, formerly of Baker City.

Addison's suit centers around three claims: (1) Retaliation for First Amendment Conduct (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (2) Tortious Interference with Economic Relations; and (3) Defamation, stemming back to an opinion piece he authored, which ran in *The Record-Courier* newspaper in 2008. Addison states the piece, which was critical of local police, triggered retaliatory actions that violated his civil rights over the course of several years.

The defense's response agrees with only the basic facts outlined in Addison's suit, such as the employment dates and job titles, etc. Past that, the document states, "... at this time, defendants deny each and every allegation."

The response goes on to address each claim separately, and asks for a full dismissal of the suit against all individuals listed, yet not the City, due to a provision of the Oregon Tort Claims Act.

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 8

	Friday	Mostly sunny and cool, highs in the upper 20s. Lows at 10 degrees or below at night.
	Saturday	Mostly sunny and cool. Highs in the upper 20s. Partly cloudy and a little warmer at night. Lows in the lower to mid teens.
	Sunday	Mostly sunny with continued cool. Highs near 30. Partly cloudy at night. Lows in the mid teens.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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